

What It Means To Be Saved

SIN - LAWS - and - SAVING GRACE

Recently a person confronted me with the argument that we were no longer required to keep the "old Covenant" laws of God. I asked for the scripture he found that in and he replied that I should already know. He never did give me the scripture and after we parted I decided to do a study on the subject. Even I agreed that we cannot earn, or be saved, by our works. Taking into consideration that many people would agree with him, I determined to know just what the scriptures did say about this subject. Feel free to look up any surrounding scriptures. Then in spite of what my comments may imply the reader is left to his own conclusion. The question is, does grace do away with God's ten commandments? Keep in mind, there was no New Testament at the time these newer scriptures were written. We need to lay a foundation connecting sin, God's laws, and grace. What is the Bible's definition of SIN?

1Jo 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, (who is) Jesus Christ the righteous:

1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Since Jesus and the apostles taught out of the Old Testament we know the Law was not referring to teachings from the New Testament. So, what law was being discussed? They have to be those found in the Old Testament. This is plain language. When we break the commandments of God found in the Old Testament we sin!

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

This is Jesus speaking: so what is the definition of sin? Paul answers:

Ro 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had Said, Thou shalt not covet.

Paul refers to one of the ten commandments, showing what laws is being discussed.

Ro 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Ro 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Ro 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Paul explains that now that sin has been revealed to us, through the law, all people who ever lived was, and is, under the death penalty, until they repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Can one believe in Jesus and not believe what He says? Of course not! Jesus said:

Joh 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Joh 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

Joh 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

Joh 16:8 And when he (I) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Paul asks:

Ro 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; Ro 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Ro 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Ro 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Ro 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Ro 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Paul asks the question: are we free to break God's law? And he says:

Ro 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Remember what Jesus said? Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Ro 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Ro 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Ro 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Ro 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Does this sound like we are now given permission to continue breaking the commandments of God?

Ro 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

This was my friend's defense, "we are no longer under the law but under Grace and therefore not obligated to keep the old covenant law."

Ro 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Ro 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Ro 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Ro 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Ro 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Ro 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul explains that now that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for any who would believe Him their past sins would be forgiven. As long as they strove to keep God's law they would be forgiven sins committed by going through Jesus, the high priest. This is the purpose of Grace. He goes on to explain that even though we might sin we have an advocate with God. It may be impossible to keep God's laws perfectly, but now the death penalty is no longer an eternal death sentence as long as we resist sinning. Our attitude has to be one of obedience to God's laws. We have to be submissive to the Holy Spirit.

Ro 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Ro 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Ro 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Ro 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Ro 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Ro 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Ro 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Ro 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Ro 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

1Co 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1Co 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

1Co 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

Remember what the definition of sin is? 1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Co 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Ga 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Ga 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Believe what? It has to be what Jesus taught about sin, while teaching from the Old Testament.

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted (tested) like as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Heb 10:18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jo 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Jo 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

To be “born of God” will not happen until one is resurrected just as Jesus became “the first of many brethren” at His resurrection. He was the first to be “born” a son, and believers will be “the many brethren”.

Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1Jo 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

Now we will go to the topic of being “saved”.

Joh 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

Joh 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Joh 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

The judging will come later. This time Jesus came only to make possible for repentant people to resurrect to eternal life. That was His mission.

Ac 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Saved from what? Not our temporary physical death, but from eternal death, through grace, as Paul described in other scriptures. We are not “saved” now, but will be saved from an eternal death in a future resurrection.

Ac 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ac 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Ac 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Ac 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (See also Acts 2:38) Ro 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Ro 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Ro 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ro 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Here is just one of the prophecies that has not yet been fulfilled.

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are (to be) saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (Believe what?) 1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 7:16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

We know that no human can “save” another. Paul is showing that some may be influenced or encouraged to follow a believer’s example.

1Co 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1Co 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

1Co 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

1Ti 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Jas 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

Jas 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Who is the 'Law Giver' that James speaks of here? And why is the word "law" even mentioned if the law has been done away with? Has James forgot that Jesus has done away with the law?

1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

What is the difference between the "righteous" and the "ungodly"? Has not one repented of breaking God's laws? Are not the "ungodly" those who yield to breaking God's laws?

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

What kind of "works" is Jesus interested in?

17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

And any Bible student knows all the prophecies in the Bible have a long way to go before they are all fulfilled. Jesus did fulfill some very important prophecies, but many are still unfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

This is a great warning, and a promise. Jesus is not referring to the New Testament commandments since the New Testament had not been written. However, He was referring to "commandments". These commandments were to be found in the Old Testament. Now I hear someone say, "Those old covenant laws were nailed to the cross, now we are living by grace alone"! Some will argue that because we no longer offer sacrifices, go through a priest, or be circumcised, that proves that we are not required to keep the laws of the Old Testament. It simply means that Jesus became the sacrifice, became the high Priest, and expects His believers to be spiritually circumcised by the heart. These same people will say, "but we are not saved by our works, only by grace".

Jn 6:27 Labour (work) not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
28 ¶ Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?
29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

If this is not enough to convince anyone that God still commands us to strive to keep His commandments then read on.

Mt 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Mt 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mr 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Lu 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Joh 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Ac 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1Jo 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1Jo 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1Jo 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1Jo 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2Jo 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

I didn't list any of the Old Testament commandments, which would be too much, but I am convinced that Jesus' commandments are the same as those found there. I doubt very much that He changed those commandments since he said: Joh 14:10 "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works". If the Father was in Jesus and doing the works, doesn't it make sense that He also was speaking through Jesus when He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments"? There is no mention of keeping only a few of the commandments. Is

it not safe to say not only should they be kept by the letter but also by the attitude? We end this study with the words of John as he looks into the future by the revelation of God.

Re 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Re 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Re 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.