

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 1



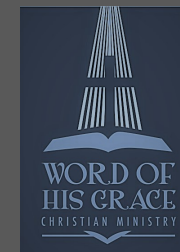
Word of His Grace Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

Compiled by Pastor Angel.
Please submit any friendly questions to:

wordofhisgracecm@gmail.com

Note: These guides are not meant to be exhaustive. Also, other than our logo below, we do not own the rights to any background or inserted pictures.



Purpose of the Law

Lesson #20

pg. 2



The *Ten Commandments* are commonly referred to as the moral law, which God gave to Moses. What is the purpose of the law? How are Christians to relate to the law? Are we capable of giving God perfect obedience? Let us once again turn to the pages of Scripture and find the answers together.

When do we first hear of the Ten Commandments?

“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the *LORD* thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Exodus 20:1-2). See also (Deuteronomy 5:6-21).

What do the Ten Commandments say?

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (v3)
2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” (v4-6)
3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain” (v7)
4. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (v8-11)
5. “Honour thy father and thy mother” (v12)

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 3



GUILTY!
As Charged

6. “Thou shalt not kill” (v13)
7. “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (v14)
8. “Thou shalt not steal” (v15)
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (v16)
10. “Thou shalt not covet” (v17).

What is the purpose of the Law?

“Moreover the law entered, that the *offence* might *abound*. But where sin *abounded*, grace did much more *abound*” (Romans 5:20).

“For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the *law*, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto *death*” (Romans 7:5).

“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*” (Romans 3:20).

NOTE: The Law gives us knowledge of sin whereby we are all guilty. The Law demands perfect righteousness or goodness and as such, it stirs within us all, a realization of our sinful nature. Therefore, the Law declares all guilty of sin and haven fallen short of God’s righteousness.

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 4

FOR ALL
HAVE SINNED

What is the definition of sin?

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for *sin* is the transgression of the *law*” (1 John 3:4).

Is man capable of keeping the law?

“For *all* have *sinned*, and come *short* of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“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” (Romans 5:12).

“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is *present* with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 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” (Romans 7:21-23).

NOTE: Mankind inherited a sinful nature through disobedience to God. All have sinned, therefore all stand guilty before a Holy God.

Is the Law itself bad?

“Wherefore the *law* is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and *good*” (Romans 7:12).

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 5



CHRIST
— OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS —

“For we know that the law is *good*: but *I am* carnal, sold under sin” (Romans 7:14).

NOTE: The issue is not the law, the issue is man’s fallen nature. Mankind is incapable of giving God perfect righteousness, which is why the Law declares all guilty before God.

How did God remedy or fix the problem between our sinfulness and righteousness?

“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” (Romans 8:3).

“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by *one*; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the *gift of righteousness* shall reign in life by *one*, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).

NOTE: God did for man what man could not do for himself. Jesus, the Christ lived the perfect life in our place. He imputes (*credits to us*) His righteousness as a gift, to those who place their trust in Him. Because of Jesus, believers are declared righteous by faith and are free from condemnation.

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 6

JESUS PAID IT ALL
ALL TO HIM I OWE

GODS411.ORG

“There is therefore now no *condemnation* to them which are *in* Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the *Spirit*” (Romans 8:1).

Where do believers now stand in relationship to Christ?

“For Christ is the end of the law for *righteousness* to every one that *believeth*” (Romans 10:4).

“Hereby know we that we *dwell in him*, and he in us, because he hath given us of his *Spirit*” (1 John 4:13).

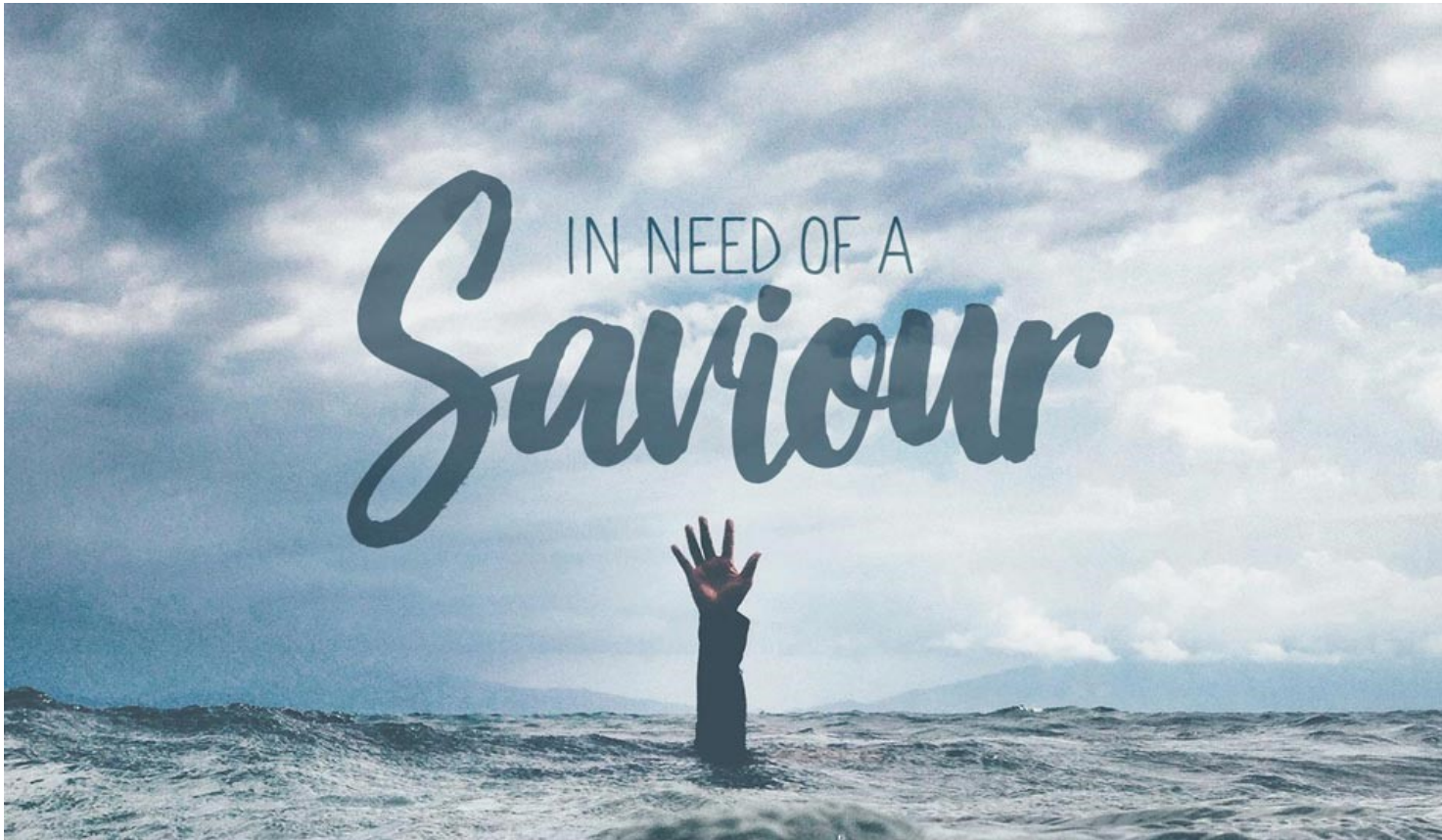
“But now we are *delivered from* the *law*, that being dead wherein we *were* held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the *letter*” (Romans 7:6).

“But if ye be led of the *Spirit*, ye are not under the *law*” (Galatians 5:18).

NOTE: Believers are not focused on the letter of the law, which cannot save. Instead, believers are focused on Christ by faith, who has already saved us, and we now walk in the Spirit.

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the *love* of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the *Holy Ghost* which is given unto *us*” (Romans 5:5).

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 7



NOTE: The Ten Commandments remain in effect to point out sin; however, our relationship is not with the law, it is with *Jesus Christ*. It is Christ's love for us that compels us to love and follow Him.

In terms of the law, there are two common errors many make today:

- 1) Many mistakenly assume Christians can achieve moral perfection in this life, this is incorrect. So long as we live in this world, we will continue to wrestle with the flesh and temptation.
- 2) Many also assume that we can live in willful, open disobedience, and still claim to be living under God's grace. This is a fatal presumption. God's grace is given so that we might follow Him, not to live in open, habitual sin.

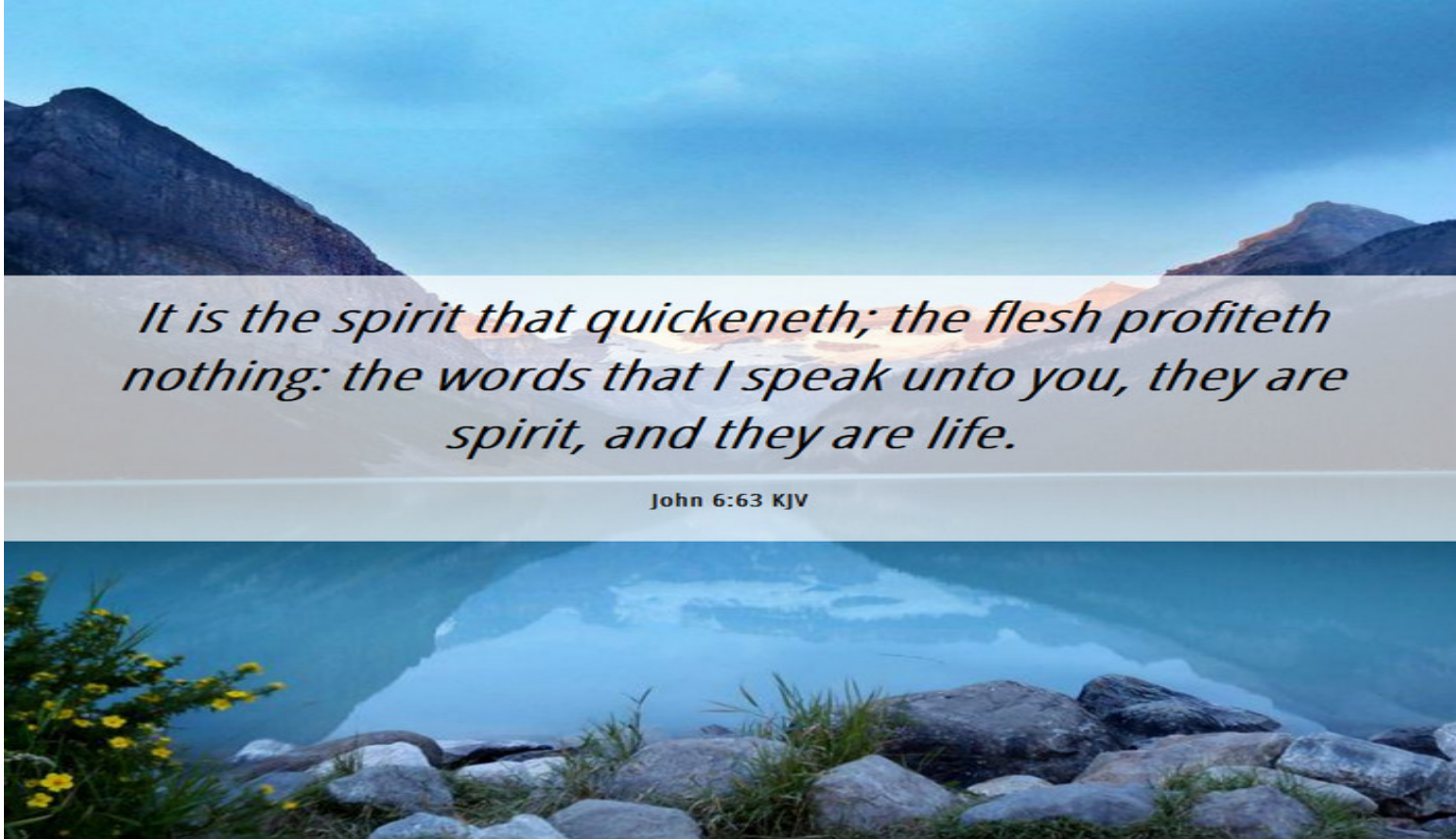
How does the Spirit help us follow Christ?

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we *love God*, and keep his commandments” (1 John 5:2).

“For this is the *love* of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore *love* is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).

Purpose of the Law
Lesson #20
pg. 8



It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63 KJV

NOTE: It is the Holy Spirit who changes the heart, see Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10. . Love is poured into our hearts, which causes us to follow Christ. God's love leads us to pursue holiness. This does not mean however; that we will be sinless.

“Here is the *patience* of the *saints*: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

NOTE: A brief reminder, there is no such thing as self-justification before God. No self-willed obedience or self-performance will ever bring one into favor with God. This has already been accomplished in *Jesus Christ*.

“If we say that we have no *sin*, we *deceive* ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).

What about Matthew 5:48, which says, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect?”

NOTE: In context, Jesus was teaching that if one wants to be righteous by the law, they must keep the whole law, not just by external observances. In other words, one must keep the spirit behind the law, which is perfection. Just as Jesus stated earlier, we need a righteousness greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees, see [Matthew 5:20](#).