

Living in Grace, Love & Obedience

Walking in Faith and the Commandments of God

“Here is the endurance of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17



Have God's commandments and His law been done away with?

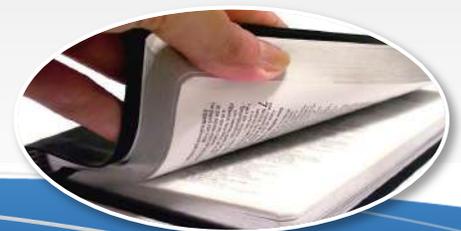
This study discusses the topic of God and His commandments. Many believers today think that His commandments have been done away with, upon the advent of Jesus Christ. But is this what the bible really teaches? If God's law (torah in Hebrew meaning instruction and direction) was 'nailed to the cross' then we should see no mention of them in the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament or in the passages that discuss the New Millennium, which comes after the Messiah's return. The question is, are you willing to test what you believe against scripture?

We hope you enjoy the following information.

Test what you believe & take the Doctrine Test by going to www.GraceLoveObey.com

Contents

- Page 2 The New Covenant, Pentecost and God's commandments
- Page 2 Do we make void the law because we have faith?
- Page 3 God's commandments in the Old and New Testaments
- Page 4 Are Sabbath & Feasts of the Lord only for Jews? What happens in the New Millennium?
- Page 5 What was 'nailed to the cross'? The truth about God and His word for you today



“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:18-19

What does the New Covenant and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit have to do with believers & God's law today?

Most believers don't know what the New Covenant entails so lets take a look at Jeremiah 31:31-34...

"Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel (we are grafted into Israel ref. Romans 11) and with the house of Judah... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

God also promised to pour out His Holy Spirit on all flesh in Joel 2:28-29, which happened in Acts 2 – Pentecost.

What many believers forget to ask is "What is the purpose of doing all this?" Here is your answer...

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take your heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." Ezekiel 36:26-27

The purpose is to have faith in Yeshua (Jesus) and obey the commandments of God from our heart so we don't continue in sin.



How are we to live our lives today? As holy, righteous and set apart? Or like the rest of the world in wickedness?

"I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But know having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life."

Romans 6:19-22



The English word 'holy' comes from the Hebrew word 'qodesh'. Strong's Concordance defines H6944 as apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness. In the Paleo Hebrew it can mean 'separating from the things behind us and walking in God's authority'. How can we be holy? By walking in God's commandments from our new heart & new nature.

Do we make void the law of God because we have faith?

Many believers have been taught that you cannot have faith in Jesus and keep the commandments of God, yet what do the scriptures teach?

"Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:31

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live in it any longer?" Romans 6:1-2

"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters." 1 Corinthians 7:19

God's Law & His Commandments in OT and NT Scriptures



Many believers have been taught that God's commandments and His law has been done away with but what does scripture say? First we have to learn what sin is. Consider this scripture...

"Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4

We know that those who profess to be believers and continue in lawlessness will have rude awakening. Consider the words of Yeshua (Jesus)...

"Many will say to Me (Jesus) in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'"

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matthew 7:22-24

The context of this is not about unbelievers but believers who did great things for God, yet they were lawless. Lawless in the Greek is anomos G459 meaning destitute of law, departing from the law, a violator of God's commandments. The root of this is G3551, nomos, meaning anything established, a law, a command, producing a state approved of God.

So what we see is that God does not want us to continue in sin, which separates us from God, just as it did Adam & Eve in the garden. God gave His law, His commandments for our benefit. Consider what He told the 'mixed multitude' (Hebrews and foreign/gentile believers) that came out of Egypt...

"You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time." Deuteronomy 4:40

God's commandments are for our benefit! Yet some believers still think that those commandments are just for the Jews. Consider the truth found in God's word...

"One law shall be for the native born and for the stranger who dwells among you." Exodus 12:49

"You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the Lord your God." Lev 24:22

"One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you." Numbers 15:16

The purpose of the commandments was to instruct those that follow God on how to love Him and our neighbors ref. Deuteronomy 6:5 which Yeshua (Jesus) reiterated in Matthew 22, Luke 10:27. You see the Messiah never came to do away with God's law and commandments but rather to take our place on the cross, allow us to be forgiven of our sins and then, as a new creature in Christ walk as He walked. Paul wrote many times how AFTER salvation our walk should be like the Messiah's. How did the Messiah walk? By walking in obedience to God's commandments regardless of whether we are Jewish or not. Consider the following...

"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters!" 1 Corinthians 7:19

Yet many believers think that we are free from God's commandments. Yet the New Testament states differently...

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3

"This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. That is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it." 2 John 1:6

While this may seem strange to many believers are they taught that the law has been done away with? Are there any rewards for obeying God's commandments as a by-product of our relationship with the Father, after salvation? Yes there is after the Messiah's return. Let us look at the book of Revelation...

"Here is patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus." Rev 14:12

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." Rev 22:14

We see those that are saved by grace and keep the commandments have the right to the tree of life. Those that are lawless will not. The question is "Are you going to walk in God's Grace, Love and Obedience or not?"

Are the Sabbaths and Feasts of the Lord only for the Jews? What happens in the New Millennium?

Many believers have been taught that the Sabbath and Feasts of the Lord are only for the Jews of the Old Testament. And that when Yeshua (Jesus) died on the cross He did away with all that, especially if you're foreigner/gentile believer. But is this actually the case? Are the Sabbaths and Feasts Jewish or are they someone else's? Consider the following...

"Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: 'The Feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'" Leviticus 23:1-3

Here we clearly see that the Feasts of the Lord are His, not the Jews. Remember that there was a 'mixed multitude' that came out of Egypt that consisted of Hebrews and gentile believers. But what about the Sabbaths? Are they Jewish? Let us look at the following scriptures...

"Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:3

Now many at this time will say "But those things were only for the people of the old testament – they are not for believers today!" I was taught that too but let us look at the passages that talk about the New Millennium; and see if the Feasts and Sabbaths of the Lord are observed by any foreign/gentile believers...

"Also the sons of the foreigner, who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants – everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant – even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer... For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, 'Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him.'" Isaiah 56:6-8

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain." Zechariah 14:16-17

These New Millennial passages show that gentile believes and all mankind will observe the Sabbaths and Feasts of the Lord. Also read Ezekiel 20:12 & 20, Isaiah 66:23, Ezekiel 46:1-4, 46:12.



The Enemy's Strategy!

The scripture states that the Enemy, Satan/Lucifer, job is to drag as many people to hell with him as possible. But how does he do this? How does he get believers to fall away from the faith? Scripture states that in the last days/end times there will be a great falling away. So what is his strategy? Let us look at the following verse...

"He (the enemy) shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change the times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time." Daniel 7:25

Most believers focus on trying to figure out what time, times and half a times means but neglect the most important part! Where the enemy tries to get believers to forget God's appointed times (Sabbaths, Feasts, etc.) and to change the law of God. If the enemy can get believers to think the law/commandments of God are not to be observed anymore then he has accomplished his mission; which is to make believers live a life as if there were no commandments to follow i.e. lawlessness!

Its unfortunate that so many have, and even more refuse to even consider obeying God's commandments from the heart, but please consider this...

"One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." Proverbs 28:9.

So what's "Nailed to the Cross" in Colossians 2:13-15?

Many believers are taught that Colossians 2:13-15 removes any responsibility to walk in the Commandments of God. If the commandments were done away with we would see prophecies stating such but we do not. Still many hold to the belief that the commandments were nailed to the cross along with our sin. But is that actually the case? In all the other scriptures we have gone over it's clear His commandments have not been done away but are actually observed by all mankind. It's no wonder why the scripture states this about the New Millennium...

"Many nations shall come and say 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:3

If the law was done away with then why do we see it going forth to the world in the New Millennium? Simple it has not been done away with. Yet many still say God's commandments have been 'nailed to the cross'. But is that true? Let us look at the Greek and see.

The phrase "handwriting of ordinances/requirements" is cheirographon dogma. Cheirographon means 'a handwritten note in which one acknowledges a debt that has to be returned/repaid at an appointed time'. Dogma means doctrines, decrees and ordinances, that God gave His people (Hebrews and foreigners). So the question we must ask is this... "Are the commandments of God, His decrees and doctrines 'against us'? After salvation, No. Scripture shows His commandments are for our benefit. One, so that we do not continue in sin (continue in breaking God's commandments). Two, so it will go well with us and our children forever. The only time God's law is against us is when we are unbelievers, before salvation by grace through faith and not by works that any should boast.

Some will quote Colossians 2:8 which says "Beware lest anyone cheat you through vain philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to

Christ." They quote this to support their claim that things like the Sabbath and feasts are no longer applicable today. But did they ever search the scriptures to see if God's commandments were ever referred to as 'vain philosophy' or 'empty deceit'? Let us look at some scriptures...

"You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth." Psalm 119:151

"He who says, 'I know Him (Jesus)' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him." Titus 1:14

"My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness." Psalm 119:172

"The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways." Deuteronomy 28:9

"Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Romans 7:12

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 1 John 5:2-3

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14

There are many more scriptures but you get the point. Its clear that obeying God's commandments is not of vain and empty deceit. What is empty are the commandments and traditions of men, which Yeshua (Jesus) rebuked the Pharisees as we see here...

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:8-10.

So what was “Nailed to the Cross”? Part 2

When we look at scripture we see that obedience to God's commandments are not empty words. Consider the following...

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 5:6

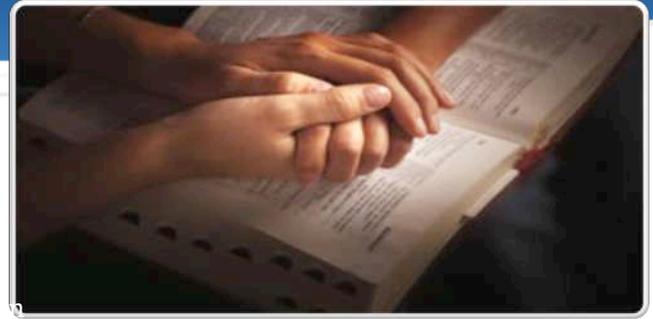
What most believers don't understand is God writing His commandments on our hearts and minds and pouring out His Holy Spirit on all flesh was for the purpose of obeying His commandments from the heart.

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh; that they may walk in My statutes, and keep My ordinances, and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 11:19-20

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

The life, death and resurrection of the Messiah brings salvation by grace through faith once we repent, believe, confess and follow Him. His sacrifice as the lamb of God brings us back into relationship with the Father. When we are in right relationship with the Father we live our lives as Paul, the apostle to the gentiles taught...

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in



human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.” Romans 6:15-19

Here we see a letter from Paul to the Roman/gentile believers that obedience to God's commandments brings freedom from sin. However many don't understand that our salvation through the Messiah does not negate or do away with the law, it only removes the sin, the debt and penalty for disobedience.

For example, if I drive 50mph in a 25mph zone and I get stopped by a policeman, he gives me a ticket and on that ticket is the ordinance which I broke. I sign the ticket acknowledging that fact. When I get to court the Judge requires that the fine and penalty be paid. Unfortunately you're broke – that means jail time. However someone stands up and pays your fine. According to the court you're free to go. However that freedom, the man who paid your fine, does not negate the law. If you drove 50mph in that same 25mph zone you will get another ticket even though you were set free. So you see when Yeshua (Jesus) paid our fine and took our punishment upon Himself to set us free, we are not set free to continue in sin that grace may abound as Paul said in Romans 6:1-4

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Continued in part 3...

So what was “Nailed to the Cross” part 3

Despite all this there are many believers who misuse Colossians to do away with God's commandments such as the Sabbath and Feasts of the Lord (which we have seen previously were not done away with as we see them observed by all mankind in the New Millennium).

Many will quote Colossians 2:16-17 “Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

Many use this one verse to say that believers do not have to observe the Sabbath or feasts – what they do not understand is the background of Colossia. Colossia was a pagan town full of temples to numerous false gods. Colossia was known as a place of debauchery and immorality due to the vast number of temple prostitutes. The Gnostics were a group of people that tried to influence the believers there to not observe the Sabbaths, Feasts or God's dietary instructions. The Gnostics practiced abstinence from anything physical because they thought they brought evil upon a person. They believed the more things of the flesh were avoided the closer to God one would get. Paul's response was to inform them to not let these pagans influence them to not observe the things God commanded in his word.

The second part that many misunderstand is the part which says “which are a shadow of things to come but the substance is of Christ”. Many say that since the Sabbaths, feasts and dietary instructions are shadows that means we no longer do them because Jesus did them for us. However in the New Millennium passages show the Sabbaths, Feasts and dietary instructions are still followed. Consider the following verses...

“Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants – **everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath**... even them I will bring to My

holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer... for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Isaiah 56:6-7.

This passage is about the still future, New Millennium. Lets look at the feasts in the New Millennium...

“Then it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings and drink offering at **the feasts**, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel...” Ezekiel 45:17.

What about the dietary instructions? Consider this New Millennium scripture...

“Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, **eating swine's flesh** and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together,’ says the Lord.” Isaiah 66:17

All these and other passages are talking about the New Millennium proving the Sabbaths, Feasts, etc. have not been done away with. If one continues to reject God's law then they must conclude the Isaiah, Ezekiel and others are false prophets – yet we know this is not the case. Either God's word is true or it is not. If our beliefs are in conflict with scripture its our beliefs that have to change. Thus we need to change and believe what is true. But why do so many think God's law has been done away with? Simple, they don't see the context of Paul's writings. Some apply to unbelievers who try to wrongly justify themselves to God by obeying God's law (works salvation) versus how believers after salvation by grace are supposed to live & act – to not continue in sin. Peter discussed this very thing in 2 Peter 3:15-17...

“... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with

What was “Nailed to the Cross” part 4

The problem with many believers today is that they don't study God's word in context. Rather they have a pick-&-chose theology that is based on a handful of verses that are picked out of context to support a belief or doctrine different than what the bible teaches. These same also ignore the passages that support the law & commandments of God. They also neglect to look at the terms of how long His commandments are good for. Consider the Sabbath. We have shown how we see the Sabbaths in the Old Testament, the New Testament and more importantly in the New Millennium. Yet also consider what the Father says on how long the Sabbath is to be observed...

“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant.” Exodus 31:16

“It is a Sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.” Leviticus 16:31

Since we are grafted into Israel according to Romans 11, we too are to observe the Sabbath forever as a perpetual covenant that never ends (especially in light of the New Millennial passages showing foreigners and all mankind are blessed for doing so).

Now this is a lot of information to digest. For many this goes against everything they have been taught in church. The problem is that much of what we have been taught has a denominational slant and/or is not found in scripture or it ignores certain things in scripture. Our duty as believers is to do what Yeshua (Jesus) said. To love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets ref. . These are not new commandments but ones that Yeshua referenced from the beginning of the bible in Deuteronomy 6 and other places.

You see Yeshua preached repent or perish ref. . He did not come up with new commandments as many think. Consider the following. Yeshua also talked about murder and that ‘you should not hate your brother in your heart’ ref. Matthew 5:21-22, 19:19, Mark 12:31, etc. Many think this is one of the new commandments

that He came up with but in all reality He was just quoting Leviticus 19:17-18 which states...

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

You see the Messiah did not bring about new commandments; He rebuked people for ignoring God's commandments. Unfortunately many added to God's word and make up their own commandments and traditions of men. Matter of fact Yeshua (Jesus) said He did not speak His own words or do things by His own authority...

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.” John 14:10

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.” John 14:10

Summary: we are saved by grace through faith and not of works; we are given a new heart, we are new creatures in Christ. We should no longer have the nature or want to continue in sin like we used to. Rather we are to live a life of holiness and righteousness. If we walk in heartfelt obedience to His commandments we walk in blessing. We are no longer tangled up in sin and its consequences. The great thing is when we do sin, we repent from a heart that is grieved for offending the Most High and receive forgiveness.

Now do we have to obey all the commandments all the time or we go to hell? No. We should strive to obey as a by-product of our love for God. It seems daunting but start with one, read, study and obey. Then move on to another. You don't have to eat the whole steak at once, its too overwhelming. Just take one bite at a time.

The question after that is, do we continue grieving the Holy Spirit by continually sinning or do we grow & mature in the Lord so sin does not have authority over us and we walk as set apart strangers in this strange land till the Messiah returns? The choice is yours.