6. Although the law of Moses is no longer in effect, and its ten commandments are thus not binding upon Christians today, nine of them are renewed in the New Testament. Which of them is (are) not?

7. The first four commandments reveal the jealous nature of God. For what was God jealous? Is he still a jealous God (Matthew 6:24, James 4:3-5, Luke 9:57-62)?

8. List some of today’s most popular idols.
   a. self
   b. money
   c. Catholic images
   d. things like houses, cars and boats
   e. popular acceptance
   f. false gods like Gaia and Allah

9. The Sabbath day is more than just the last day of the week, it was defined by certain practices enjoined upon the Jews. List some of them. What was the penalty for violating any of these commands? Why isn’t the Sabbath observance binding on God’s people today?

11. Why isn’t capital punishment an act of “murder”?

12. What does it mean to bear false witness?

13. To what does the New Testament compare covetousness?
Lesson 13: Review

The ten commandments rank as the world’s simplest and greatest legal code ever. In the minds of many, that code is still binding upon man today, but this series of lessons was intended to debunk that theory without casting any denigration upon the great code of Moses. In fact, the principles set down by God on Moses’s tablet are still influential today, despite the fact that the New Testament law has replaced the Old Testament as the code in force.

1. List the ten commandments.

2. What commandments was Israel violating while Moses was with God?

3. There were two parties in the Old Covenant in which Moses participated. Identify them (Exodus 19:3-7). Were the Gentiles also called to Sinai to receive the law and bind themselves to it?

4. What was Christ’s mission concerning the Law (Matthew 5:17-18)?

4. How does a covetous heart interfere with one’s discipleship (Matthew 6:24-34, 13:22; James 4:1-4)?

One who tries to serve God and money will find his affections divided and an idol sharing the throne of his heart with almighty God, until God is finally pushed away. Worry over things that God knows we need reveals cracks in our faith and leads us to make decisions which place matters of faith beneath matters of the flesh. He who receives the seed of God’s word but is a covetousness man finds it choked out by the deceitfulness of riches, causing him to be unfruitful. Those who allow their desires to overcome them go to war to obtain their wishes and find themselves cut off from God.

5. To what does Paul liken covetousness in Colossians 3:5 and Ephesians 5:5? How does Paul describe the blessings of contentment (First Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:11-13)? What advice does Paul give the rich so that they might not fall into covetousness (First Timothy 6:17-19)?

Paul compares covetousness to idolatry, because a love of things makes them a god, served and worshiped as surely as any creation of gold or wood. Contentment is great gain because it places material things in a proper perspective and allows a person to focus on the things that matter most and are eternal. Contentment allows us to do all things through Christ who strengthens us, that we might withstand the sorrows and loss of those who dwell on earthly gain. They should learn not to be proud or reliant upon their riches, but to share and do good with their blessings.

6. Identify the greedy people and what they coveted in the following passages:

a. Acts 24:24-26:

b. Acts 19:12-27:

c. Acts 16:16-19:

d. Matthew 19:16-22:

e. Matthew 26:15-16:

f. Matthew 14:1-7:

Lesson 1: The Giving of the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments rank as the world’s simplest and greatest legal code ever. In the minds of many, that code is still binding upon man today, but this series of lessons seeks to debunk that theory without casting any denigration upon the great code of Moses. In fact, the principles set down by God on Moses’s tablet are still influential today, despite the fact that the New Testament law has replaced the Old Testament as the code currently in force.

The giving of the Law of Moses might be compared to the Constitutional Conventions of the United States in the late eighteenth century. A people was being gathered in a new way and a new law was in order. With Israel, however, the law was coming from above in a way which precluded men from offering amendments or votes.

Three months after God had led Israel out of Egypt, she came to the wilderness of Sinai where the nation camped before the great mountain of that name. God introduces Moses to the concept of his covenant, about to be revealed and which required submission before blessing. The people rejoiced at this suggested arrangement and promised their undying loyalty. Preparations were made for the reception of the law set for three days later, with a special focus on consecration and reverence.

When that day dawned, God greeted Israel with thunder and lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. The sound of a trumpet announced the divine presence, reminding Israel of the greatness of her God. With the awesome sight of this great smoky mountain before them, Moses ascended it to meet God again.

As the Ten commandments were revealed, the people grew even more fearful of Jehovah. The great sight before them was intended to help create godly reverence for the law Moses was bringing back, but while he tarried, the people soon forgot their oath of loyalty. Before the tablets could be dusted off, they had fallen into heathen idolatry by crafting a golden calf to worship as their deliverer. As Moses arrived with the tablets of testimony and saw what sin his brother had allowed Israel to undertake, he cast them against the mountain with anger, breaking them in pieces.

Moses punished the sinners and then received a duplicate copy of the law from God on the same mountain. The law revealed to this point contained more than just ten commandments, which were its first tenets. Many other laws were part of God’s covenant with Israel (see Exodus chapters 21-31).
Lesson 12: Thou Shalt Not Covet

Exodus 20:17 reads: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” The tenth commandment exposes the jealousy and discontentment of heart that leads people to desire what belongs to another to such an extreme that hearts are corrupted and hands are soiled with sin. Covetousness is sinful under the New Testament law of Christ as well as having been a violation of the defunct law of Moses.

1. What does greed for gain accomplish (Proverbs 1:19, 15:27)? According to Proverbs 23:4-5, why is the yearning to be rich foolishness?

2. Explain the wisdom of the following statement from Proverbs 30:8: “Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny you, And say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.”

In terms of material possessions, wisdom says that moderation is best. The poor are tempted to curse God for not blessing them better and the rich are tempted to forget who has blessed them with much. Moderation and contentment guard against both extremes and their pitfalls.

3. Why will the covetous person never be satisfied (Ecclesiastes 5:10)? Explain the significance of Matthew 6:19-21 as it touches on covetousness. In what should one’s life consist (Luke 12:13-21)?

1. Why had the children of Israel been in Egypt (Genesis 45:3-8)? Why had Israel’s comfort in Egypt been destroyed (Exodus 1:8-14)?

2. How did an Israelite like Moses gain standing among the Egyptians (Exodus 2:1-14)? How did God first appear to Moses (Exodus 3:1-12)? What mission did he give the man?

3. The strange route out of Egypt to Canaan that Israel took is justified as necessary by God for one reason. What was it (Exodus 13:17-18)?

4. The first eighteen chapters of Exodus establish the courage of Israel in undertaking the escape from Egypt at Moses’s advice, but also her fleshly weaknesses and lack of trust in God. Although war did not overcome them, what did (Exodus 16:1-3, 17:1-3)?

5. How did God want the people to regard him and his law (Exodus 19:1-9)? What was their initial reaction (Exodus 19:8, 20:18-19)? Where was the law given to Moses? Describe the atmosphere (Exodus 19:16-19).

6. How did Israel’s weakness become apparent quickly, proving that keeping even the ten commandments would prove difficult (Exodus 32:1-18)? How did the tablets get broken?
Lesson 2: Are the Ten Commandments Binding?

It will be a shocking statement to many, but the ten commandments were never given to any people on Earth other than the Israelites, beginning with the time of Moses. The ten commandments, and the entire law of Moses, were not given to Gentile nations; moreover, the New Testament of Jesus Christ actually supersedes that old law as it takes effect.

1. There were two parties in the Old Covenant in which Moses participated. Identify them (Exodus 19:3-7). Were the Gentiles also called to Sinai to receive the law and be bound to it?

2. Of all the ten commandments, the Sabbath seems to excite the most interest in controversy. Consider Exodus 31:12-18. List some clues from this passage that the ten commandments was bound only on Israel under the law of Moses.

- God told Moses to speak to the children of Israel not the world at large (verse 13).
- God called the Sabbath a sign of the covenant between him and Israel (verse 13, 17).
- The children of Israel are specifically noted in the command as opposed to Gentiles (verse 16).
- These tablets were given to Israel, who was not to convert the promised land, but conquer (verse 18).


4. Three major passages from Paul’s letters indicate that the law of Moses was taken out of effect upon the establishment of the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The first appears in Second Corinthians 3:7-11. What is meant by “the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones”?


6. At its root, false witness is a willingness to tell lies for selfish gain, self-promotion or protection. What do the following passages say about telling lies and selfishness?

a. Ephesians 4:25:

b. Philippians 2:3-4:

c. Proverbs 22:12:

d. Revelation 21:8:

7. Why is bearing false witness sinful today—because it violated the ninth commandment of the law of Moses or because it violates the New Testament of Jesus Christ?

8. Read Matthew 15:16-20. Why is it especially significant that bearing false witness is said to proceed from the heart of a man?

9. What did John tell the soldiers to do as fruits of repentance (Luke 3:7-14)? What then is true of a Christian today who tells lies?

10. List some common ways in which people tell “little white lies” today.

   a.

   b.
5. In what tense—past, present or future—does Paul call that ministry in stone? Of the ministry of death or ministry of the Spirit, which is declared superior?

6. How did Paul describe the Old Testament in Second Corinthians 3:11? Writing before the fall of Jerusalem and its temple, how is it described in Hebrews 8:13?


8. What has Christ done with the Old Testament, which served to divide Jew from Gentile (Ephesians 2:14-18)?

9. Under the law of Moses, only Israel was considered the people of God. Who are the people of God today (Ephesians 2:19-22, cf. Romans 2:28-29)?

10. What does fleshly circumcision signify today (Romans 2:28-29, cf. Galatians 5:6)? What form of circumcision brings one into God’s family today (Colossians 2:11-15)?

11. What did Christ do with the handwriting of requirements (the old law)? How does the priesthood of Christ prove the law has changed (Hebrews 7:11-13)?

Lesson II: Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

Exodus 20:16 reads: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” False witness is rooted in lying and antipathy toward others but is expressed directly when called to speak under oath. A system of civil justice is dependent upon the general honesty of the citizenry and society itself is terribly harmed when trust does not reign. False witness is an assault on Christ’s “golden rule” about doing unto others as you have them do to you.

1. False witness like this can occur outside the courtroom (Exodus 23:1-3). How might we be guilty of circulating false reports in everyday life (Proverbs 10:18)? Some people justify dishonesty in legal matters if it benefits a needy person. Is false witness ever justified (cf. Leviticus 19:15)?

2. List five areas in which one could bear false witness (Leviticus 6:1-7).
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 
   e. 

3. What two parties are offended by false witnessing? What was the penalty for a convicted false witness? How was God often involved in cases of false witness (Leviticus 19:11-12)?

4. How many witnesses were required to establish a matter (Deuteronomy 19:15-21)? What penalty was due a false witness in a case in which a man was criminally accused?
4. What is the effect on our society because of theft?

Theft increases distrust and dishonesty and leads to the premature deaths of thousands of people every year, both innocent victims and their assailants. Theft fills prison cells, where guilty people succeed in living off the innocent as guests of the taxpayer. Theft brings shame on parents and guilt on souls.

5. In times of economic downturn, situation ethicists argue that a certain amount of stealing is justifiable. Stealing bread is rationalized as a crime of necessity. Does the commentary on the seventh commandment found in Proverbs 6:30-31 justify theft under certain circumstances?

No, this commentary states that although people may empathize with the thief’s motivation, the law of restitution cannot be circumvented. The theft is still criminal and sinful.

6. Judas Iscariot is perhaps the most famous traitor in history, but many do not realize that he was also a thief. Describe his thievery (John 12:1-6).

Judas Iscariot went so far as to steal from the treasury of Jesus and his disciples, allowing the others to think that he was busy spending money on the poor. In John 12, he expresses outrage that Mary would “waste” expensive oil of spikenard by anointing Jesus with it, using charity as an excuse.

7. How can a love of money lead disciples to betrayal (Titus 1:12-16)?

Disciples may profess their faith in the mouth, but deny Jesus by laziness and gluttony.

8. What do the following passages say about those who bemoan thugs who rob banks and mug innocent people, but themselves will cheat on their taxes, steal cable television or violate copyright laws?

a. Matthew 23:14:

b. Romans 2:21-24:

c. First Corinthians 6:9-10:

Lesson 3: Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods

Exodus 20:2-3 reads: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.” The foundation of God’s covenant with Israel was his exclusive right to their worship and his future blessing was dependent upon their faithfulness to this tenet. Indeed, Israel’s demise many years later is clearly blamed on violating this commandment.

1. Upon what great blessing did God base his claim to Israel’s exclusive and eternal praise as the ten commandments began to be given (Exodus 20:2)? Describe the Israelites’ condition before this blessing (Exodus 1:8-16, 3:7).

2. Describe the impression that the Red Sea crossing must have created in the minds of the Hebrews (Exodus 14:1-31).

It must have been harrowing to walk through the parted Red Sea, staring at walls of water on the left hand and the right all the way through the passage. The spray from the sea would dampen the pilgrims in a sort of baptism of Moses (First Corinthians 10:1-4). Watching the Egyptians approach, only to be destroyed by those same converging waters surely impressed the people of God with his care and power to deliver.

3. In giving this first commandment, was God acting jealously (cf. Exodus 34:10-16)? What step did God command to help Israel avoid putting other gods ahead of him (Exodus 34:12-15)?
4. How do the scriptures describe the following gods of Canaan?
   - Molech (Leviticus 18:21, Jeremiah 32:35):
     This fire god of the Ammonites had a calf face and hands stretched forth to receive human burnt offerings.
   - Ashtoreth (Judges 10:6, First Samuel 7:3-4):
     This principal goddess of the Phoenicians, also known as Ishtar, was an object of sexually immoral worship.

5. Is the first commandment still binding on us today, as a tenet of the Law of Moses? Why or why not? If not, may we now have other gods before Jehovah?
   No, it is not binding on us today, for the law of Moses has been taken out of the way as the covenant of Christ has taken effect (Colossians 2). We still may not have other gods before Jehovah because the New Testament disapproves.

6. What other gods did Paul and Barnabas encounter in Lystra (Acts 14:8-13)? How did they handle the problem (Acts 14:14-18)?
   Paul and Barnabas encountered the worship of the Greek mythological gods, Zeus and Hermes, as their abilities and eloquence were confused with those of the myths. The preachers told the idolaters to consider the providential testimony of God and repent of their false religion to serve the only true and living God. Paul was accused of preaching foreign gods because the Athenians only recognized myths. Paul pointed to the one they called the “unknown God” as the only true and living God.

7. Nowadays, a move to tolerate all religions and celebrate everyone’s god has gained steam. Can Christians participate in this movement by refraining from teaching adherents of other gods (First Corinthians 8:5-6)? Why or why not?
   Christians must recognize that there is only one true God and that we do people a favor by introducing them to him and guiding them toward repenting of their false religions and accepting Jehovah.

8. Name some “other gods” which men are tempted to serve in this day. How can we make “Self” an other god (Luke 9:57-62)?
   Allah, Gaia, Self, Buddha. We treat God with less priority than self-service, attributing all our success to self and applying our gifts to self-service before the divine is considered. God comes lower on our budgets of time, money and energy because we are lovers of ourselves. We become discouraged or long for the days and ways of sin and look back like Lot’s wife instead of pressing ahead to heaven.

9. Which is the first commandment of all, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ (Mark 12:28-30)?

Lesson 10: Thou Shalt Not Steal

Exodus 20:15 reads: “You shall not steal.” Property rights are an important facet of the American democracy and system of self-government by the people and this sentiment dates back to the seventh commandment of the law of Moses. Stealing violates personal property rights and leads to anarchy within society. Although the seventh commandment was done away with as part of the Old Testament law of Moses, the prohibition against stealing is renewed under the New Testament law of Christ.

1. Moses enlarges upon the seventh commandment, dealing with hypothetical cases of theft (Exodus 22:1-13). What was the restitution when a rustler was caught? How was a property owner who killed an intruder during the act punished (verse 2)? Was a property owner guiltless who later hunted down an intruder and killed him (verse 3)? Is this an example of stealing in verse 5? Why? How could something like this happen today? What care should be exercised when holding another’s property for safe keeping (verses 7-13)?

2. Leviticus 19:13 condemns those who cheat their neighbors. Understanding that our neighbors are more than just those people who live on our street, how is it possible to cheat your neighbor today?

3. Consider Joshua chapter seven. Why was God so angry with Israel that he allowed them to lose the battle of Ai? Did Achan confess his sin willingly? What did he call the root of his crime? What effect did Achan’s crime have on Israel (Joshua 7:25)? What was his punishment?
5. What did Bathsheba do that led to the adultery (Second Samuel 11:1-17). What mistake did David make when he saw her for the first time? How did David initially attempt to cover up his sin? Why did it fail? How did David attempt a cover-up a second time? Why did it fail? How did David finally succeed in keeping Uriah ignorant of his sin?

Bathsheba bathed in a place in which she could be seen. David chose to behold her beauty as she bathed, rather than forcing himself to look away. David called for Uriah and sent him to his home, in the reasonable hope that he would lie with his wife and that Uriah would just assume that the child in Bathsheba’s womb was his own. He got Uriah drunk in the expectation that he would go home to be with his wife, but Uriah stayed true to his principles and rested with the servants of the king instead. He had Joab put Uriah in a vulnerable position in the battle and then retreat from him, so that he was killed.

6. List some ways in which adultery damages society today.

Divorce, domestic abuse and even murder result as one spouse is scorned, children are invariably harmed by not being raised by both father and mother in one home, children hear justifications for adultery and are thus taught that it is understandable sometimes.

7. How did the doctrine of Christ go deeper than what was taught concerning keeping the seventh commandment (Matthew 5:27-30)?

Christ taught that merely looking on a woman in order to lust for her was tantamount to adultery in the heart, and due as much prevention as actual adultery. Anything that facilitates lust and its product, adultery, was to be deemed expendable that the soul might not be lost in hell.

8. Did Jesus continue the Mosaic divorce allowance into the New Testament (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 19:1-9)? To what ideal did he point as the hallmark of his doctrine and law on marriage?

Jesus did not continue the Mosaic allowance in the New Testament, upholding the Eden Ideal instead: one man for one woman for life.

9. What single ground is mentioned as justifying divorce and allowing the wronged party to remarry in the Lord?

The sexual immorality of one mate allows the other to put him away and remarry in the Lord.

10. Did his disciples perceive this doctrine to be stricter than under the law of Moses, about the same, or looser (see verse 10)?

It is obvious that they perceived his doctrine was stricter, for they figured it was better to live single than risk such an outcome in marriage.

Lesson 4: Thou Shalt Make No Graven Images

Exodus 20:4-6 reads: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image–any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments.” Idolatry continues to plague spiritual Israel, though often through different means.

1. Explain the jealousy of God involving worship and idolatry. Compare it to a woman’s right to be jealous over a husband’s affections (cf. James 4:4).

2. What was going on back at the camp while Moses tarried with God, receiving this and other commandments (Exodus 32:1-6)?

The Hebrews gave up on Moses ever returning and begged Aaron to make them idols to go before the nation. Aaron made them their idols, to which they attributed the Exodus escape. He then built them an altar and proclaimed a feast day for the idols, at which the people ate, drank and played.

3. List three of four attitudes or characteristics of the people (including Aaron) that led to this hasty descent into idolatry.

a. fear  e.

b. ignorance  f.

c. lack of faith  g.

d. compromise  h.

4. Read Exodus 32:7-10. How does God describe the idolaters and their actions in this passage? Where did they likely get at least part of the gold needed for this idol (Exodus 12:35-36)?
5. What punishment did God initially suggest for the idolaters? How did Moses react to the sight of this idolatry (Exodus 32:19-21)? What lesson could the Israelites have gained from the drink Moses gave them?

6. Clearly, the second commandment prohibits what Israel did that day. Is the second commandment still binding today as a part of the law of Moses? If not, is idolatry then permitted under the New Testament?

7. List two phrases in Romans 1:25 that show how God feels about idolatry.
   a. Idolatry is exchanging the truth of God for the lie.
   b. Idolatry is worshiping and serving the creature instead of the creator.

8. What was Paul’s first impression of the great, historic city of Athens (Acts 17:16)? What did he do about it?

9. How do we know that idolatry is condemned under the covenant of Christ (First Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 21:8)?

10. State simply the advice of Paul and John concerning idolatry:
    a. Paul (First Corinthians 10:14):
    b. John (First John 5:21):

11. What form of idolatry is often the most powerful in New Testament times (Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5, Matthew 6:19-24)? Explain.

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Lesson 9: Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery

Exodus 20:14 reads: “You shall not commit adultery.” God’s marriage regulations began in the Garden of Eden, but were cast aside not long after. Even the most spiritual of people in the Old Testament can be found with plural wives, concubines, prostitutes and in other immoral activity. When Jesus came, however, all the moral confusion surrounding human sexuality was put in perspective and the Eden Ideal was lifted up once more. The seventh commandment is no longer binding upon mankind, but the doctrine of Christ renews the divine mandate concerning adultery.

1. What was the penalty for violating the seventh commandment (Leviticus 20:10)? If the ten commandments are still binding, is the penalty binding?

2. What is the penalty for adultery under the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:8, Ephesians 5:5)?

3. Leviticus 18 describes a number of forms of sexual immorality which were condemned under the law of Moses. List those that appear in the following verses:
   a. Leviticus 18:6-18:
   b. Leviticus 18:20:
   c. Leviticus 18:22:
   d. Leviticus 18:23:

4. What did Jesus do when the Pharisees challenged him to judge a woman caught in the very act of adultery (John 8:2-11)? Did this action show tolerance of adultery or validation of what was sin?
6. Read Matthew 5:21-26. The gospel of the kingdom which Jesus was teaching provided for an assault on the root cause of murder. Verse 22 exposes things that lead to homicide. List them.
   a. 
   b. 

7. When disputes arise between brethren, what steps does Jesus recommend in the interest of resolution, according to the following passages?
   a. Matthew 5:23-24: 
   b. Matthew 5:25: 
   c. Ephesians 4:26-27: 

8. What sin does the apostle John equate with murder (First John 3:14-15)? How would this prohibition include apathy to a troubled brother (First John 3:16-18)? What is apathy?

9. What was the penalty for murder under the Old Testament law of Moses? What is the penalty under the New Testament law of Christ (Revelation 21:8)?

10. What provision does the New Testament make so that states may execute murderers (Romans 13:1-7)?

11. Is it murder to kill a nasty spider, a tasty cow, or other animal (Genesis 1:26, Acts 10:12-13)? Is it murder to kill an elderly person with a special machine, if the person has requested that he be killed? Is any sin ever justified if both parties agree to its commission?
4. Read Matthew 5:33-37. An oath is defined as “a solemn affirmation or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed, and imprecating his vengeance, and renouncing his favor if what is affirmed is false” (Barnes Notes, Gospels, page 57). The condemnation before us in the sermon on the mount concerns the hypocrisy of the Jews in that age through which they professed to adhere strictly to the law, but had, in fact, assaulted it with the creation of loopholes. One of these loopholes involved the taking of oaths in common conversation which they did not consider to be binding. How did the Lord show the binding nature of all these oaths?
   a. swearing by heaven: It is God’s throne
   b. swearing by the earth: It is God’s footstool
   c. swearing by Jerusalem: It is the city of the great King
   d. swearing by the head: You cannot alter what God has created

5. Instead of seeking the comfort of loophole oaths, how should a person make promises (cf. James 5:12)? On what occasion did Jesus accept a judicial oath (Matthew 26:62-64)?

6. Read Matthew 23:16-22. Of what sinful and baseless oath distinction did Jesus accuse men here? Did one really escape making an oath on God’s name by swearing only on his temple or creation? Were such oaths thus non-binding?

7. What are some ways in which people use God’s name in a trifling way (Matthew 12:35-37)?

Lesson 8: Thou Shalt Not Kill

Exodus 20:13 reads: “You shall not murder.” This command seems to be the simplest of all and yet the Old Testament is filled with bloodshed. The sixth commandment did not condemn the killing of animals, for sacrifice was also commanded. Nor did it condemn killing within warfare or capital punishment. The sixth commandment condemned killing people in more common settings, and although the ten commandments are not binding upon Christians today, the prohibition against murder has actually expanded to cover its root causes as well.

1. Describe the first murder in Bible history and its cause (Genesis 4:1-12).

2. Describe the punishment for murder enacted by God in the covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:6).

3. How was negligence that led to a person’s death punished (Exodus 21:28-29, Deuteronomy 27:25)?

4. How did God recognize life in the womb as worthy legal protection (Exodus 21:22-24)? Should abortion fall into condemnation as murder under the law of Christ? Explain.

5. On what basis can we condemn the sin of murder today?
Lesson 6: Remember the Sabbath

Exodus 20:8-11 reads: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” The Sabbath was an important part of the old law and one that first century Jews clung to sentimentally and avidly. As a part of the law of Moses, however, it is no more in force today than any other part of that code. Protestantism has clouded the issue by calling Sunday the “Christian Sabbath,” which it in no way is.

1. To what group of people was the Sabbath given, according to Exodus 31:13-17? Are you a member of this group of people? How does Ephesians 2:11-12 prove that Gentiles were not made part of this covenant?

   The Sabbath command was given to fleshly Israel. Gentiles were not born into this covenant and thus were not made parties to it. Ephesians 2:11-12 shows that Gentiles were strangers to the covenant of promises and commands, which included the Sabbath.

2. Consider Exodus 31:16-17. What was the purpose of the Sabbath observance? What was to be its duration for the nation of Israel? How long was the Aaronic priesthood to endure (Exodus 40:15)? Is it still in effect today (Hebrews 7:11-13)?

   The purpose of the Sabbath observance was to create a sign between God and Israel of the covenant. It was to endure forever. The Aaronic priesthood was also to continue forever, but that time frame was limited to the duration of the covenant, affected by Israel’s unfaithfulness and God’s decision to divorce her. As the endless priesthood came to an end with the covenant, so the Sabbath came to an end the same way.

3. What was the penalty for working on the Sabbath (Exodus 35:1-3)? If the Sabbath is still binding today, would not the penalty for Sabbath-breaking also be binding?

   Death was the penalty for breaking the Sabbath. If the observance is still binding, there is no reason to believe the penalty is not as well.

4. Read Numbers 15:32-36. Was stick-gathering considered work? How do you know? Will you carry sticks or stones this Saturday?
5. Read Numbers 28:1, 9-10. What does God make a part of the Sabbath day observance here? If the Sabbath day is still in force today, how can this observance be out of effect?

God enjoins animal sacrifice upon Israel as part of her Sabbath observance. The Israelites were each to take two unblemished lambs in the their first year and two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offer, mixed with oil as a drink offering, and offer them as a special Sabbath burnt offering. If the Sabbath is still in effect, this rite must also be enjoined upon all.

6. Did Jesus observe the Sabbath according to the law or was he a violator of the law (First Peter 1:19, Hebrews 4:15, Acts 13:27-28, Second Corinthians 5:21, First John 3:5)? Why then did the Jewish leaders often object to him on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-14, 15:7-9; cf. Matthew 27:18)?

He kept the law of Moses perfectly, including the actual law regarding Sabbath observance. They were adhering to their traditions which had built up like grime around the truth of the law of Moses. Doing good was not forbidden, for healing and rescuing were not works to make a livelihood. They envied Jesus and sought to indict him any way they could.


He noted how the Jews were in the habit of tending to their animals on the Sabbath and yet they had the gall to find fault with him for healing a sick person. He also showed how they would rescue an injured animal on the Sabbath but object to rescuing an injured person.


It commands that we allow no one to judge us regarding elements of the defunct law of Moses, including the Sabbath, because they were merely shadows of the substance of Christ in which we now live. They were attempted to find and convert religious-minded Jews and no better time than the Sabbath existed for this, nor any better place than the synagogues where they gathered.

Lesson 7: Honor Thy Parents

Exodus 20:12 reads: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Israel’s heritage in Canaan became a Hebrew axiom, proving that the divine blessing was dependent upon the people’s submissiveness. The fifth commandment marks a shift from responsibilities directly toward God to those toward other people. Although the ten commandments are no longer binding upon men today, as such, the doctrine of Christ updates a person’s responsibility toward his parents for the final dispensation of time.

1. What comment upon this commandment does Moses make in Deuteronomy 27:9-16? Define “contempt.”

Moses commanded the Levites to have the people answer “Amen!” to expressions such as “Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.” Contempt is a lack of respect or willful disobedience.

2. What was the Old Testament penalty for cursing one’s parents (Exodus 21:17)? If the law is still binding, would the penalty also be binding on us today? Since the law of Moses has been taken out of the way, are children now permitted to curse and show disrespect to their parents? Explain.

The penalty for cursing one’s parents was death. If the law is still binding, the penalty must also be. Of course not. On the basis that the New Testament condemns such behavior.

3. The Pharisees of Jesus’s day did live under the law of Moses. How did they violate the fifth commandment without actually pronouncing a curse upon their parents (Matthew 15:1-9)?

They created a loophole in the law of Moses by pitting two commands against one another and needlessly sacrificing the one they disliked with a smokescreen created by feigned devotion to the other. In this case, they declared whatever part of their wealth that could have aided their parents to be “Corban,” a temple gift to God. Thus they spent their other money as they pleased, gave the usual amount to the temple, and thoroughly neglected their parents. By so doing, they hypocritically made the command of God of no effect in order to magnify their traditions and self-serving interpretations.

4. Consider the list given in Romans 1:28-32. List three sins in this passage that people of the world would consider the most heinous.

a.

b.

c.