


 "I used to be a Bible teacher."

TC's Thoughts for Discussion

www.DYPK.org

What? Did the 10 Commandments really go away? Here's why I ask: I keep hearing from disciples of John Calvin that "We're no longer under the Law; we're under Grace! The law was only for Jews!" (They still haven't discovered the critical fact that a very small percentage of Hebrews were/are "Jews."^ Some of'em get really, really red-faced in response to any sensible challenge to that memorized talking point. Curiously, many of'em display the 10 Commandments yard signs in front of their houses. Okay, so here's the real scoop on why sensible challenges to that Calvinist^ claim are much needed and very appropriate:

^Visit www.DYPK.org/the-dots for more on who the Jews were/are. Read Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 to learn what Jesus thinks about people who claim to be Jews but are not.

Visit www.DYPK.org/salvation to understand the two extremes of salvation theology.

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself and the unique essence of His nature to people. His message, there, can be boiled down to this: "Here are the boundaries for your thinking and your behavior (the 10 Commandments). Stay within these boundaries to enjoy my blessings and my protection. Step one foot outside and you're on your own. But if you do wander outside, just step back inside with plans to stay. Then you can, again, enjoy my protection and my blessings."

Here's a another version of that: In the Old Testament, God repeatedly demonstrated what sin is and why it will always yield pain, some short-term but mostly long-term. Lots of fun now and it feels really good, too, but it's gonna hurt you and those you love forever!

You can safely conclude that "sin" is not long list of bad things He'll punish us for doing or thinking. It's just that He knows everything about our human nature (the sin nature): He knows that obeying the 10 Commandments will keep us out of trouble with our friends and our families and our employers...and even with our enemies most of the time. He knows that not obeying them will inevitably cause lots of pain and unnecessary stress for us and for the others with whom we interact. For those who're focused on uncommon personal fulfillment, the 10 Commandments is the best-ever short list of rules for accomplishing that.

The 10 Commandments are also a valuable gift to civilized folk who wish to organize themselves for long-term societal success, maximum productivity and relative harmony. By patterning their governments after that model, societies can even manage – and sometimes control – the behavior of those who're determined not to hold themselves accountable to any set of rules.

Did Jesus change any of that with his New Testament message? This should answer that question: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 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." —Jesus, at Matthew 5:17,18

Here's some of what DID change with the New Testament that we still enjoy today:

- 1) We no longer have to sacrifice animals to gain forgiveness for our sinning. That's because Jesus (a.k.a. the perfect Lamb of God) became our forever sacrifice at His crucifixion.
- 2) We are no longer required or permitted to confess our sins to priests or any other human being in order to get forgiveness. That's because Jesus became our high priest upon His resurrection. We must go directly to Him with our confessions and our repentances.
- 3) Jesus serves, today, as our advocate. That's like a defense attorney. Satan is our accuser; i.e.: the prosecutor. When our defense attorney comes to believe that we're truly repentant, He petitions The Father to gain our forgiveness. That's unmerited favor, or grace.
- 4) Jesus vetoed every one of the hundreds (maybe thousands) of new "laws" that the Old Testament scribes and Pharisees had added. (Many O.T. Scribes and N.T. Pharisees were not Jews, but imposters: www.DYPK.org/the-dots.)

No. The 10 Commandments didn't go away. You've heard those die-hard Calvinist talking points, too. But I'll bet you're smart enough to have figured all this out even before I saw fit to write about it...

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: To participate in Bible discussions about articles like this one – or to just read and enjoy them – join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

