

WHY THE LAW OF MOSES IS STILL VALID AND IN FORCE TODAY

By Duane A. Linn

Mt 5:17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Mt 5:18 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.

The Law of Moses is the Law of the living. It is called, “the schoolmaster that brings us to Christ” Galatians 3:24.

It is the physical and spiritual embodiment of what it means to “love God and love your neighbor”

Mt 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mt 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Mt 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

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

Which are exemplified and validated in the opening Scripture of this sermon. Matthew 5:17-18

The Scriptures are woven seamlessly together, like Christ’s garment, or Robe. John 19:23

The Law and Grace are united’ as you cannot have one without the other.

Samuel Bolton, a Puritan Divine that sat on the body that comprised the Westminster Assembly, wrote a work titled, “The True Bounds of Christian Freedom” a book, which I STRONGLY RECOMMEND be read by every single person that names the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To quote Dr. Gerald Mick, Editor of the Digital Puritan Press, in his excerpt for the Digital Puritan Quarterly magazine Volume 3, book 4, (Chapter 3, Chastisements For Sin), he says of Bolton, “Samuel Bolton was a member of the Westminster Assembly and pastored three parishes in London before eventually becoming Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University. What follows is taken from The True Bounds of Christian Freedom, a book written as a polemic against antinomianism. As such, it reveals the role of the law in the life of faith”.

The portion I wish to read for this sermon comes from Chapter 2, “The Moral Law a Rule of Obedience”

Query I: Are Christians freed from the moral law as a rule of obedience?

. [OBJ:] "In answer to this query as it is propounded, we must confess that we are not without some places of Scripture which declare the law to be abrogated, nor without some again that speak of it as yet in force. We will give you a taste of some of them; and shall begin with those that seem to speak of the abrogation of the law. Jeremiah 31. 31-33: 'Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.' Romans 7. 1-3: 'Know ye not, brethren (for I speak to them that know the law), how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.' That the apostle here speaks of the moral law is evident from the seventh verse; and that believers are freed from it, see the sixth verse and others. See also Rom. 6. 14: 'For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace'; Gal. 3. 19, 'The law was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come'; Gal. 4.4-5, 'God [OBJ:] sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons'; Rom. 8. 2, 'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death'; Gal. 5.18, 'But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law'; Rom. 10.4, 'For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth'; 1Tim. 1. 8-10, 'The law is good if a man use it lawfully, knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man', etc. There seems therefore to be a great deal of strength in the Scripture to prove the abrogation of the law, that we are dead to the law, freed from the law, no more under the law. These Scriptures we shall have to deal with afterwards. For the present, I only quote them, to let it be seen with what strength the Scriptures seem to hold out for the first opinion, that is, for the abrogation of the law. On the other hand, there are some Scriptures which seem to hold up the law, and which say that the law is still in force: I say, some which seem to support the obligation, as the others the abrogation, of it. Thus there is Rom. 3. 31: 'Do We then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.' This seems contrary to the former; the verses previously given seem to speak of the abrogation, this of the establishment, the obligation, of the law. So also Matt. 5. 17-18: '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.' Upon these varieties of texts, men have grounded their varieties of opinions for the abrogation of, or the obligation of, the law. There is no question but

the Scripture speaks truth in both; they are the words of truth; and though they seem here to be as the accusers of Christ, never a one speaking like the other, yet if we are able to find out the meaning, we shall find them like Nathan and Bathsheba, both speaking the same things”.

I will leave it to you to go to my website, www.sermonaudio.com/digitalpuritan to listen to the chapter to get the entire chapter (the entire book has been narrated for your consumption, as well), as to continue on reading the chapter will be cumbersome to the point I am attempting to convey in this sermon here preached.

The point being here, that the Moral Law is indeed still in force, is exemplified in the giving of the two tables of the Law; or, “The Ten Commandments”. (More on this when I expound John 14:15 later in the sermon)

Moving on into the 2nd Book of Moses, The Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, we read...

Ex 20:1 ¶ And God spake all these words, saying,

Ex 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Ex 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Ex 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Ex 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Ex 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Ex 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Ex 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Ex 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Ex 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Ex 20:12 ¶ Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ex 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Ex 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Ex 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Ex 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Ex 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

These commandments are not arbitrary. The 2 tables of the Law are not a wish list for God's people to pick and choose from as to what to obey and what to ignore... they are complete and perfect. They are not open to interpretation and no one on Earth has the Authority to set this one here and drop this one there at their whim.

They are the Orders of the LORD OUR GOD for us to obey.

The next section of Scripture I wish to expound, is John 14:15.

I have done this on social media many times but have not, to my recollection anyway, done this in a sermon.

I will read the verse again to set the context. To further the connection between this verse in John and the Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20, I will begin at verse 6.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Joh 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Joh 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Joh 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

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.

Joh 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Joh 14:12 ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Joh 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Joh 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

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

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The Lord Jesus continues in verse 20...

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

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.

The Commandments the Lord Jesus speak of, are the second table of the Law (Commandments 5-10)

Turn to Matthew Chapter 19, please... for those of you who are following along at home.

Mt 19:16 ¶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

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 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Mt 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mt 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Mt 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Turn to Mark Chapter 10, please...

Mr 10:17 ¶ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mr 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

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.

Mr 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Mr 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And again to Luke Chapter 10...

Lu 10:25 ¶ And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Lu 10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

Lu 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Lu 10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

So as you should be able to plainly see, the Law, that is, the Moral Law, is indeed still applicable in the Church of Jesus Christ in this day.

I will finish this portion of the sermon repeating some Scripture from earlier on...

Mt 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mt 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Mt 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

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

The Law is something that should be adored by the Christian; loved and cherished. For the Law is the Word of God Himself. How is it that a person can call themselves a Christian and yet be an antinomian and deliberately hate the Law?

A brother in the Lord, Captain Jake Lawrence, an Army Chaplain, said in his sermon on Exodus 20 this about loving God and who does not love him (I paraphrase) :If you claim to love God and yet ignore His Commandments, you really hate him”. Hate being the opposite of love. Not love less, but hate.

“If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments” The opposite of this would be, “How can you love Me if you don’t keep my Commandments?

The Apostle John speaks of how this is as well.

1Jo 2:3 ¶ And hereby we do know that we know him (knowing with approbation, or love), 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 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1Jo 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Next week, Lord willing, I will continue on in this very vein and discuss how we, as Christians should love God’s Law and not count it as burdensome.

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father,

I thank you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for thy Law. It shows us that you love us and desire that we should be like unto you in all our ways.

I am grateful for the time you gave us today to hear your Word.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen