

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

Volume 36 Number 4

www.southeastchurchofchrist.org

April 2021

HAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ALWAYS GOVERNED MAN?

Gene Frost

ANSWER: The ten commandments were a part of the covenant that God gave at Mount Sinai, and were written on two tablets of stones. (Deut. 4:13) Of this covenant Moses said, “The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.” (Deut. 5:3; the ten commandments are cited in verses 6 through 22.) The ancestors of the children of Israel did not have the ten commandments; the covenant was not made before Mount Sinai. (Exodus 20)

The commandments themselves show that they were given to the children of Israel at Horeb, and not before. All that God spoke out of the midst of the fire He wrote on the tables of stone. (Deut. 9:19) God said, “I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.” (Deut. 5:6) That God did not give the ten commandments to the angels in heaven, nor to man in the garden of Eden is evident. Can you imagine God telling the angels or Adam and Eve, “I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt...” ? Or can we imagine God telling the angels or first couple on earth to keep the sabbath day as a “sign between me and the children of Israel” because the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt: “wherefore (for which reason) the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day”? (Ex. 31:17, Deut. 5:15) Or can we imagine God telling the angels or Adam and Eve to “honor thy father and mother”? (Deut. 5:16) Or can we imagine God telling Adam and Eve in the beginning to “bear not false witness against thy neighbor” ? Et cetera. (Deut. 5:20, 21)

The truth of the matter is, the ten commandments are included in the one covenant given at Mt. Sinai, which covenant is done away in Christ. (Gal. 4:24, 21-31) Jesus is “the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” God promised through Jeremiah that this covenant would be given. (Jer. 31:31-22, Heb. 8:6-13) “In that he saith, A new covenant he hath made the first old,” i. e. declared or

treated as obsolete. The first “waxeth old”, i. e. is deprived of force, and authority. Jesus “taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.” (Heb. 10:9)

We are not under the first covenant (including the ten commandments). See 2 Cor. 3:6-16; Rom. 7:1-4, 6-7; Gal. 2:19-21, 3:11-25, 5:1-4; Eph. 2:13-17; Col. 2:14-17; Heb. 12:18, 27; et al. Does this mean, then, that we are not governed by law, that we may live lawlessly? No. We are now subject to Christ who has “all authority.” (Matt. 28:18, Heb. 1:1) His will is expressed in the new covenant, or law of liberty. (Gal. 6:2, 5:1) By this law we will be judged. (James 2:12, John 12:48) The fact that the will of Christ condemns murder, adultery, idolatry, etc., as did the law does not mean that the authority of the old continues. We must not murder, etc., not because the old forbade (any more than we should offer animal sacrifices because the old so orders), but because Christ forbade.

When men look to the old law, instead of to Christ for authority, it indicates that they have not fully accepted Christ. When one accepts Christ, then the veil is removed, i. e. one can see the end of that which is abolished, the end of the law which is Christ. (2 Cor. 3:12-16) The old pointed to Christ (John 5:39, Luke 24:44); it was a schoolmaster to bring Israel to Christ. (Gal. 3:24-25) When Christ came and fulfilled it then the old had served its purpose; in Christ we are not schoolmaster. And when one goes back to the old covenant for justification, after having accepted Christ (Gal. 3:26-27), he is obliged to keep it all. But any or all, if we seek to be justified by the old,

Southeast Church of Christ

35 Walnut Ct

Mogadore, OH

330-628-7432

Service Times:

Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

Christ becomes of no effect, we fall from grace. (Gal. 5:3-4)

Now let us hear Him. Moses, through whom God gave the old, himself pointed to Jesus as the One to hear. (Acts 3:22-23) Jesus has the words of eternal life (John 6:68) - - "Hear ye Him!"

From: "Bible Answers, Vol. I, pg, 145-148

THE WRITTEN WORD

Leon Mauldin

Sir Leonard Wooley said, "All the archeological evidence available seems to prove that true writing was first developed in southern Mesopotamia" This assertion is in agreement with the biblical teaching that Mesopotamia (the area included in the Tigris and Euphrates valleys) was the beginning of man's existence (though no one can pinpoint the location of the Garden of Eden). Then mankind had the new beginning occasioned by the global flood, with the ark landing in the mountains of Ararat, just north of the heads of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Gen. 6-8).

The act of writing has occupied a vital role in God's dealings with man. It is true that during the Patriarchal Age that God's communication to man was oral, and that spoken revelation to the fathers was handed down in verbal form. Beginning with Moses, God's will was also communicated by the written word. Moses wrote the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, the foundation for the rest of the Old Testament scriptures. "Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord" (Ex. 24:4, etc.). Jesus said, "For if you believed Moses you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me" (John 5:46).

With the coming of the Gospel Age, Jesus promised the apostles they would be guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). The gospel was preached orally, but the same message which was spoken by inspiration was also put in written form. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:12-13). As Paul reminded the Ephesians, "that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit" (3:3-5).

I'm so thankful we have the written word today!

From: "Biblical Insights," Vol. 15: Number 4, April 2015, back cover

THE REAL McCOY

Author unknown

The expression "It's the real McCoy" can be traced back to the 1890s, when an inventor-scientist by the name of Elijah McCoy invented an automatic lubrication device for heavy machinery. Before his discovery, all industrial machinery had to be stopped regularly to be oiled. This resulted in costly delays.

McCoy organized his own firm to market his products. When others tried to copy his invention, his company coined the phrase, "the real McCoy." Customers were assured of the real thing if they bought from McCoy.

As a church member, you have as responsibility to keep our fellowship focused on its primary mission in the world. God has called his people to be servants of others. The "real McCoy" church is a serving, ministering church. As followers of Christ, all of us are called to this mission.— {church bulletin bits, #4, pg 44}