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Christians and The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments were given to Israel by God in order to set His people aside, to guide them in identifying right and wrong deeds and to set a foundation in which love of God and others should be prioritized for the promotion of peace in this life and salvation in the after life. The Ten Commandments are broken up into two groups, the first four commandments deals with our relationship with God and the last six commandments deals with our relationships with other people. The commandments reveal the Holy character of God . Because God saved Israel from captivity in Egypt, He held a claim over the land and its people and imposed His authority to express His will for them through these commandments.

I believe Christians should obey the Ten Commandments. The reason why is because Jesus did not set them aside, He fulfilled them and as faithful Christians we should follow in His footsteps for He lived in the image of God and everything that is sacred and holy in His terms. The Ten Commandments express God's heart and character, as Christians we must realize that these laws are to be obeyed because they show us what God is like. In Christian faith we are often praying and seeking help from God by asking Him to help us deal with turbulence in life and by guiding us to follow a path that is righteous in His eyes. The Ten Commandments gives us specific guidance to what is righteous therefore ignoring or neglecting our need of them would go against our faith as faithful followers of God.

The Ten Commandments are definitely upheld in the New Testament scriptures. Jesus referenced them during His sermon on the Mount by stating, “ Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you , until heaven and earth disappear , not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen , will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Mat 5: 17-18) . Jesus made his intentions clear to his disciples emphasizing His priority in following the Law and the expectation of His people to follow in His foot steps. In The New Testament (Mar 10: 17- 19) a man ran up to Jesus and asks Him what can he do in order to inherit eternal life, to which Jesus responds by saying “ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” The point Jesus made by responding to the man was that the answer to his question was obeying the commandments, that is the only way to inherit eternal life.

The concept of salvation in the Old Testament is that it is attained by grace, through faith in Christ alone. The means of salvation relied in having trust in God’s provision which involved sending Jesus so that the world would be saved through Him . The Old Testament prophets portrayed Jesus in “The Suffering and Glory of the Servant” (Isa 52:13- 53:12) and as the Messiah (Jer 23: 5-6) . In the Old Testament, prophets believed that salvation came through awaiting and obeying God’s provision.

People in the Old Testament did believe that obeying the Ten Commandments would lead them to salvation. The Ten Commandments were initially introduced to us in Exodus 20 when God spoke of them and the authority He had over Israelites because He saved them from slavery in Egypt. In addition Moses reflected on them when he summarized the experiences

Israel endured in the wilderness, (Deu 5:6 -21). Reference to The Ten Commandments are spread out through various scriptures in the Old Testament. Most of these scriptures reflect on commandments in order to give explanation on what was considered righteous to God. In Deuteronomy Moses stated, “ Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.” (Deu 5: 1-2) . The point of reflecting on scriptures is to prove that the commandments in the Old Testament were sacred law and set forth guidelines to those seeking salvation.