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Old Testament Literature

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Get Saved and Stay Saved : Obey The Ten Commandments

When I consider the statement, "There is no need for Christians to obey the Law (Ten Commandments) anymore because we cannot gain our righteousness through it, but only through faith in Christ", I completely disagree. Firstly, following his commandments is a way to show our love for God. In 1 John 5:3 John writes "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not burdensome." In John 14:15 Jesus states, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." So, how can we say we love him if we choose to disobey and attempt to abolish his law. Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us that we should get rid of the commandments, that was an idea that came years after that was pinned on Apostle Paul. 1 Peter 2:21 where Peter states, "For this you have called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." This brings me to my next point which is that we cannot say that if we claim to be followers of Christ and doing our best to align ourselves in his path, we must do as he did and keep his commandments.

In the New Testament the Ten Commandments came up quite a few times. There was an argument over the commandments but not it being the path to salvation. The argument was about the importance of maintaining the commandments after receiving salvation from God. Paul addresses this argument in Hebrew 6 while addressing the Christian community about maintaining the commandments and refrain from participating in their old sins. He states, "4It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who

have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. (Hebrews 6:4-6)”

The Old Testament concept of salvation was exactly like the New Testament’s. They believed that they were saved through the grace from and their belief in God and the coming Messiah alone made the righteous. Paul uses Abraham as an example to speak on this matter in Romans 4. He states, “¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Rom 4:19-26)” Their faith in him alone that gave them their salvation.

The Old Testaments believers understood that it was God’s grace and their belief in him that gave them their salvation. The Ten Commandments were later introduced as a guideline to maintain that salvation by providing them with rules that made them aware and hold them accountable for their sins against God. Another example that Paul gives to us comes from a story of David. He states,” ⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶David says the same thing when he speaks of

the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them. (Rom 4:4-8)” This proves my theory that it was not their commitments to following the commandments that gave them their salvation but by their faith alone. However, they also understood that staying saved required work and discipline which is where the Ten Commandments come in.

Works Cited

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