

Sebastian Pedraza

David Emanuel

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Ten Commandments: Analysis of the Ten Commandments and their relevance in the scriptures

Through an in-depth analysis of The Letters of Paul and many other biblical passages, the Ten Commandments in the scriptures will be analyzed, as the importance and significance of these in the passages of the Old Testament and the perception of them in the New Testament. This will allow us to understand the concept of salvation presented in the first part of the Bible, generating a comparison with the second part of it, in order to generate a more concrete and complete concept and understanding of these Commandments as well as their importance for Christians of the past, present and the importance it will have in the future.

The analysis is based on the specific study of 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.” which appears in The Letters of Paul. In the first instance, it is necessary to be clear that the Ten Commandments appear both in Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. For many Christians, the Ten Commandments are a fundamental part of the moral teachings of the Bible as they guide how to live a moral and just life, on how to love God and love your neighbor. These in a nutshell prohibit behaviors that harm both of us as beings of God, and others. Jesus himself affirmed the importance of the Ten Commandments when he said in Matthew 22: 37-40 “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and most important

commandment. The second is similar: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.”

However, the view that Christians should not obey the Ten Commandments stems from an interpretation of certain passages in The Letters of Paul, which emphasizes that justice comes through faith in Jesus Christ and that the Law, including the Ten Commandments, was not meant to save mankind but to reveal mankind's sin. However, it is important to clarify and note that the New Testament does not present a direct rejection of the Ten Commandments but presents a somewhat different relationship between faith in Jesus Christ and the law. The New Testament also teaches that Christians are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14-15), which means that the Ten Commandments are an expression of gratitude and love for God, rather than a requirement for salvation. It is also worth noting that the New Testament teaches that the law, including the Ten Commandments, has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:14) and that the believer is not bound by the letter of the law but by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:6).

To better understand this concept of salvation and its direct relationship with the Commandments, it is necessary to identify that in the Old Testament this is understood as God's intervention in the affairs of his people to free them from danger and restore them to a correct relationship with him. The concept of salvation is closely linked to the idea of God's covenant with his people, and salvation as the deliverance of his people from his enemies and his restoration to the land he promised. This salvation is often described in terms of the coming of a savior or messiah, who will establish the kingdom of God on earth. This future salvation is accomplished in the New Testament through Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection.

In the Old Testament, the idea of salvation is linked to obedience to God's Commandments and laws, as a way of demonstrating faith in God and loyalty to him.

The Book of Leviticus, for example, states that "keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them, will live by them" (18:5). Similarly, in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells the Israelites that if you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth" (28:1). In addition, The Old Testament also presents a clear understanding that the Israelites could not fully obey God's laws and Commandments and that their salvation depends on God's grace and mercy. For example, the prophet Isaiah declares that "we are all as unclean, and all our righteousness as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). This idea of the insufficiency of human effort to achieve salvation is fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the New Testament and the message of grace.

The contextualization of the ten commandments from the analysis of the Old Testament and the New Testament allows us to identify and approach the concept more precisely, understanding that although the Ten Commandments were seen as a series of rules to follow to achieve the maximum possible benefit or reward (salvation), these can be interpreted as a series of behaviors to be followed by grace, love, and will to God rather than as an obligation. That their disobedience will lead the people to place their faith of salvation in the hands of mercy as they are further from divine grace, and that those who by will and love for the Almighty will bring salvation with them.

Bibliography:

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