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Old Testament Literature BIB102 OB

02/21/2023

Writing Assignment #3, "The Ten Commandments"

I think the following 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" contradicts itself. As Christians we are called to learn God's will through His Word that we can find in The Holy Scripture (the Bible) and Jesus with His own words tells us in The Gospel of Matthew that He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. So, if we have faith and follow Jesus, we have to obey the Law too.

The Holy Scripture contain the Torah or Law of Moses and we can find it in the book of Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21, 6:4-9. The 10 commandments that GOD wrote in the two stones twice, because Moses broke the first stones when he saw the people of Israel worshipping a calf made of gold by Aaron his brother at the request of the people. The ten commandments can be read in the book of Exodus and Deuteronomy. After God delivered the people of Israel from Egypt, He make a covenant with them and ask them to obey His commandments. But Israeli people disobey them many times. Maybe because they were used to live the way Egyptians lived, they do not care much about the commandments and wanted to continued living as in the past. They though perhaps that a god made of gold will save them and maybe for that reason they asked Aaron in the absence of Moses to build a calf and started worshipping it.

The New Testament is full of references to the ten commandments and one of the gospels that contained the Jesus words about the commandments is Matthew 5:17-48. Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. In Matt 5:19 Jesus said "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven". Actually, Jesus did make the Law stronger. For example, in Matt 5:27-28 Jesus said "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Jesus also when asked which were the greatest commandments in Matt 22:36-40, He answered "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." By following these two commandments lead us to keep or comply the other commandments because if we really love God, ourselves and our neighbors, there is no way of breaking the other commandments.

Christians are followers of Jesus; this means that Christians are supposed to follow Jesus' teachings and life example, then Christians should be the first ones to obey the 10 commandments because followers of Jesus should lead by example. Christians are also called by Jesus in Matt 5:48, to be perfect as their heavenly father is perfect. If we leave out any rituals that different churches or sects practice around God-related celebrations and focus on the greatest commandments commanded by Jesus, the world should be different. It should be more love for each other, more respect and kindness. If we call ourselves Christians that have faith in Jesus Christ and break the commandments, then we are liars.

Summarizing, As Christians we are called to follow Jesus' teachings and His example, therefore we are also the ones who will be the first to obey the 10 commandments, and serve as an example for non-believers, or obey the two great commandments taught by Jesus, if we do so, by default we as Christians will be obeying the ten commandments given by God to the people of Israel in the books of the Old Testament. The New Testament is about Jesus Christ the redeemer of the Israeli people and by the covenant of God to Abraham, also the redeemer to all the nations until every corner of the earth. I think through faith in Jesus we can gain salvation, and a sign of the Christians' faith in Jesus is the compliance of the commandments. There is no way of transgressing the commandments and calling ourselves God's heir. Surely God is working in our hearts when we confess publicly that we believe and accept Jesus as our savior and redeemer but we need to do more than that, just by saying it without living our life according to Jesus' example is not enough. Faith and work complement each other. Not just by work are we justified but also by faith. The work has to be the fruit of our faith in Jesus.