Celine Grothe

Prof. Emanuel

Old Testament

February 18th, 2023

Written Assignment 3

In the Old Testament, we can find the Ten Commandments which were really important because if you would break one of those you would have to sacrifice for every sin. After Jesus Christ came and died for our sins in the New Testament we don´t have to sacrifice anymore we just have to pray for forgiveness because Jesus died for all of them. But how important are the Ten Commandments for us now? Do we still have to follow them? In the following, I will answer those questions and explain what I personally think.

First, I do not like to say that Christians have to do something or they do not have to do something, because in my opinion being a Christian means having a personal relationship with God. I do not have the right to tell anybody what is right as a Christian and what is wrong. This is really important for me because unfortunately I have experienced a lot that people are running around and they are just telling other what you have and have not to do as a Christina. Because of that, I will answer the question for myself personally if I think I have to follow the Ten Commandments or not?

The Ten Commandments take place in Exodus 20. In the Old Testament, it was really important to follow the Commandments because if you sin, you would have to sacrifice for every one of your sins. Today we do not have to bring sacrifices anymore because Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross. Jesus died for us because it didn´t matter how many satisfactions we would bring our sins would be too many. We can only gain our righteousness

through Jesus there is no other way. In the Old Testament Jesus was not there yet and righteousness would come through sacrificing for every sin.

I personally think God set up the 10 Commandments for a reason. He didn´t set them up to let us have less fun or just to be mean. He set those commandments up because he knows it´s not good for us if we kill someone. He knows that lying or cheating is not good for us. I like comparing God with being kind of a parent. Parents don´t forbid something to be mean they forbid it because they want to protect you. With God, it´s the same he wants to protect me and with the 10 Commandments, he does that. That´s why I personally still obey them. But I also believe that I won´t get saved and gain righteousness by just strictly following the rules because first following the rules without having a relationship with God is worthless, second we will never be able to follow the rules because we are human, and third we will only be righteous through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the key to heaven.

In the New Testament Jesus refers to the Commandments multiple times. Once a person asks him which of the Ten Commandments is the most important one , Jesus said that you should love God with all your heart, should, and mind and also love your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark. 12:28-34). With that, he did not say a specific one of the Ten Commandments but that summarizes the content of the Commandments. Jesus never intended to remove the Commandments but throughout the Bible, people started focusing on the Rules. If you start you focusing on the Rules and forget about the relationship it´s not right either. I believe you have to find the middle.

All in all, I personally like to say that being a Christin is about your relationship with God and I believe following the Ten Commandments is protecting me but I also know that I will fail at that. But through Jesus´s sacrifice, my sins will be forgiven.