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Old Testament

Assignment #3

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As I consider the question of whether or not Christians today need to follow the 10 Commandments I would first want to look at where I can find the commandments. Then I would ask what Jesus or anyone in the New Testament says about them. I will also discuss the concept of salvation from the Old Testament and if they used to believe that by their works in following the 10 commandments if they were saved or not.

In the Bible the 10 Commandments are usually found in Deuteronomy and in Exodus . You can find them specifically in Exd 20 and Deut. 5. In these 2 books and chapters it highlights the 10 Commandments very clearly and at the end of Deut. 5 and the beginning of chapter 6 verse 2 the author writes, “ that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son, and your sons, son, by keeping all his statutes, and his commandments, which I commend you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.” Here the word clearly states that his people are to keep these commandments and it goes on to say that it should be bound on their hand and put on their gates and door posts. It seems to me in this one chapter that these commands are very important.

With the book of Deuteronomy in the two chapters we just read I think it's clear that Christians should obey the 10 Commandments. I think this, because it is so clearly important that these commandments are followed, especially for them to live how God wants them to live. At the end of the verse states that, your days may be long. What it says to me is that if you follow these commands, then the days of your life would be long because you are living how the creator created you to live. So yes, I do think Christians should obey the 10 Commandments. Not only is it the way we should live, it is also how we set the example for other nonbelievers, and how we are separated from the world by God. I think this is probably one of the most important things because God's law is perfect because God cannot do anything imperfectly. So if the law is perfect then we ourselves everyday are imperfect because we were unable to follow the law.

In the New testament, Jesus talks about the commandments a number of times. But the time I would like to mention is in John 14 verse 15 where it says, "If you love me, you will keep my Commandments". Right here Jesus is so clear with his message, Yes his own life is proof of God's grace and mercy, but that does not mean we forget about the perfect law. Many times Jesus said, "If you know me then you know my father, who is in heaven." One is not the other on its own. They have no difference in what is right and what is wrong. That is why Jesus was the perfect lamb and if we are to follow Jesus then we are to follow his commandments as well.

seems to me that the old testament concept of salvation was salvation by Works. We see this because many times the Pharisees and the religious people of that time made such huge efforts to follow the law, and if they did not, blood sacrifice was required to keep them clean or keep them on the right side of God. So yes, I do think that people in the old testament believe that their salvation was dependent on them obeying the 10 Commandments. And if they didn't obey the 10 Commandments, then they were doomed or shunned by the community, or made

unclean in the eyes of God and the eyes of man. In Leviticus chapter 11, verse 45 through 47 it says, “ for I am the Lord, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. This is the law about beast and bird, and every living creature that moves through the waters, and every creature that swims on the ground, to make a distinction between the clean, and the unclean in between the living creature that may be eaten in the living creature that may not be eaten.”. To be clear there were things that you could even eat that were clean and unclean and if you were made unclean you were called to leave the community until you had appropriately cleaned yourself through a purification ritual.

For me after all of this I do think it is very important to follow the 10 Commandments. It's important, because not only did Jesus say to follow the commandments if you love him, but also, God gave these commandments, and God does not do anything without reason. So, if God gave these commandments, I do believe that the creator created us to live the best way possible through these commandments. But because we are a fallen people in the process of being fully reconciled to God, we do not always follow these commandments perfectly, but because of what Jesus Christ died on the cross, there is now no shame or condemnation in Christ Jesus and we have been made holy and righteous through him.