

REVELATION'S ISSUE THAT DIVIDES THE WORLD

As one person has put it "We are free to go to heaven in the way that God has provided; or to go to hell in any way that we choose."

A man came to Jesus and asked, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Matthew 19:16.

One would possibly assume that He would have given one of the standard answers that are so popular today.

Repent, believe, be baptized, confess, etc.

The answer Jesus gave surprises many today, for He said "Keep the commandments."

Matthew 19:17

Never has there been a time when it was permissible to transgress God's commandments, for "sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

Some today say that the keeping of God's law is no longer a requirement for Christians.

But His word says they shall stand forever. Psalms 111:7-8.

They are the very foundation of His government, a reflection of His character.

Some have said that the law did not exist until Moses received it at Mount Sinai, but that would mean that there was no sin until then for "where no law is, there is no transgression" and "sin is the transgression of the law." Romans 4:15; 1 John 3:4.

The Bible clearly states that Cain sinned by transgressing the sixth commandment. Genesis 4:7-11.

The people of Sodom were breaking all of them. Genesis 13:13.

Abraham was keeping the commandments hundreds of years before Moses. Genesis 26:5.

Joseph was tempted to break the seventh and tenth commandments. Genesis 39:9.

The children of Israel were tested to see if they would keep God's law two weeks before it was ever written on tables of stone.

How could this have been a test if they were not already aware of it?

They failed this test by breaking the fourth commandment.

The Lord wrote His law on tables of stone with His own finger. Exodus 31:18.

This is the only communication that came from God to man without a middle man.

The first four of these commandments pertain to our relationship with God, and the last six with our relationship with one another. Exodus 20:3-17.

There are three very important Bible points to remember:

1. The purpose of the law is to point out sin. Romans 3:20; 7:7.
2. Sin is defined as the transgression of the law. 1 John 3:4.
3. If there were no law there would be no sin. Romans 4:15.

Some say that Jesus did away with the law, but to accept this position is to both make Jesus a liar (Matthew 5:17-19) and to abolish sin (Romans 4:15).

He clearly stated that He did not even change as little as the dotting of an I, or the crossing of a T in His law. Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17.

There is an old song that says "give me that old time religion", but many today do not want that. They tell people "it doesn't matter what you do." "Worship God any way you want." "You don't have to worship Him the way He says." "He will accept you even in disobedience."

This is the same approach that Cain took and as with him it always leads to disaster.

If we have a "thus saith the Lord" for something and someone comes along with something different we should always stay with the word of God.

The word of God warned that the time would come when preachers would turn people from Bible truth to fables, and people would willingly choose preachers that would tell them what they want to hear. 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Because they simply had an outward form of godliness (2 Timothy 3:5) they would turn their backs on the truth, "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

Never come to believe, though, that the law can save us. The law can never save, only Jesus can save. We are "justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Romans 3:28.

However, our faith does not nullify the law, but rather establishes, or upholds it. Romans 3:31.

The relationship of faith and works is clearly revealed in James where we are told that "faith without works is dead." James 2:14-20, 26.

The things we do are simply the reflection of what we believe.

If a person is going to break one of the commandments he might as well break them all; for the wages of sin is death, whether we break one, or all of them. James 2:10.

We should live with the full realization that even though we are justified by faith we shall be judged by the law. James 2:12.

Do you really love God?

"This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3 NIV.

Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15 NKJV.

Study Helps

Romans 3:20 What is the purpose of the law?
1 John 3:4 What is sin?
Romans 4:15 Can there be sin without the law?
Genesis 4:7-11 What sin did Cain commit?
Genesis 13:13 What were the people of Sodom called?
Genesis 26:5 Did Abraham keep the commandments?
Genesis 39:9 What commandment would Joseph have broken?
Exodus 16:4 What did God test Israel for?
Exodus 16:23-28 Before the Ten Commandments were given.
Exodus 31:18 How were the commandments written?
Matthew 5:17-19 Did Jesus change the law?
Romans 3:31 Does faith abolish the law?
Revelation 14:12 Who are the faithful when Jesus comes?
Psalm 111:7, 8 How long will His commandments stand?
John 14:15, 21, 23 How do we show our love?