



LESSON #19 - THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

The expression “**keep the commandments of God**” is used in **three places** in the book of Revelation: **Revelation 12:17; 14:12** and **22:14**

Revelation 14:12: “[in contrast to those who worship the beast and his image and receive the mark]: Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Revelation 22:14: “Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

It does not say that they **believe** in the commandments or **have** the commandments or **teach** the commandments or **preach** them but they **keep them**.

So I guess if you teach that **no one can keep** them you are making **God a liar!**

Revelation 12:17: “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Which commandments are the ones that Satan hates?

In **order to understand** Satan’s hatred for the commandments and the people who keep them, it is necessary to **pay a visit to heaven, before this world was even created**. Here is where sin began.

Ezekiel 28:16: “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.”

Satan has **sinned from the beginning**

I John 3:8: “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

Notice that sin is transgression of the law and therefore he must have **broken the law**.
I John 3:4: *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."*

He traded lies in heaven (I don't buy it; you can't sell me that one)

Ezekiel 28:16: *"By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones."*

Ezekiel 22:9: *"In you are men who slander to cause bloodshed; in you are those who eat on the mountains; in your midst they commit lewdness."*

Leviticus 19:16: *"You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord."*

John 8:44: *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*

Revelation 12:3: *"His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."*

Isaiah 9:15, 16: *"The elder and honorable, he is the head; the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail."¹⁶ For the leaders of this people cause them to err and those who are led by them are destroyed."*

The third of the stars were a third of the angels that he convinced to rebel against God

Revelation 12:9: *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

*"Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide." **Patriots and Prophets**, p. 37*

*"He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence." **The Great Controversy**, p. 499*

He led Eve to disobey God's command where in principle were contained **all the Ten Commandments**. Satan used the **first post-modern argument** in human history. You can be your **own source of ethics** without depending on **God's definition**

Genesis 3:1-5: *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And **he said** to the woman, '**Has God indeed said,** 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden" ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **God has said,** 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.**" ⁵ For **God knows** that in the day you eat of it your **eyes will be opened** and you will be like God, **knowing good and evil.**"*

Who defines good and evil? The law defines good and evil. God is the absolute definer of good and evil

Can we be sure that the expression "keep the commandments" spoken of here refers to the **Ten Commandments**?

Told the **rich young ruler to keep the Commandments** and then quoted the **last six**

Matthew 19:17-22: *"So He said to him: "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments.**" ¹⁸ He said to Him, "**Which ones?**" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and your mother,' and: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things **I have kept from my youth.** What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor** and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."*

They kept the Sabbath (the fourth) according to the commandment

Luke 23:56: *"Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath **according to the commandment.**"*

The **commandment of God** is a reference to the fifth commandment

Mark 7:9, 10: *"He said to them, "All too well you reject the **commandment of God,** that you may **keep** your tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'*

The word commandment is a reference to the tenth commandment

Romans 7:7-12: *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.¹² Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”*

Paul says we must keep the commandments of God

I Corinthians 7:19: *“Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.”*

Are the words “law” and “commandments” used interchangeably?

Exodus 16:28: *“And the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?”*

Exodus 24:12: *“Then the Lord said to Moses: “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.”*

God wrote the **Ten Commandments** but in Deuteronomy we are told that God gave them a **fiery law** so commandments and law are interchangeable

Deuteronomy 4:13: *“So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the **Ten Commandments**; and **He wrote them** on two tablets of stone.”*

Deuteronomy 33:2: *“The Lord came from Sinai and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran and He came with ten thousands of saints; from **His right hand** came a **fiery law** for them.”*

Romans 7:7-12: *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.¹² Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”*

Romans 13:8-10: "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.⁹ For the **commandments**, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other **commandment**, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

How did **Jesus feel** about the commandments?

John 14:15, 16: "If you love Me keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."

John 15:10: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "

1 John 2:3-4: "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

I John 5:3: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

The **antichrist hates** them because the **little horn** changes them and he is called the man of sin and lawlessness and sin is the transgression of the law. In the Roman Catholic Catechisms, the second commandment is deleted and the tenth is divided in two. Notice that the little horn thinks he can change the law for **1260 years** and then God raises up a **remnant of her seed** who keeps them immediately after the 1260 years (**Revelation 12:14-17**).

II Thessalonians 2:3-8: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."

Daniel 7:25: "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time."

Revelation 12:13, 14, 17: *“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. . . ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

Keeping the commandments is in antithesis with the third angel’s message so keeping the commandments must be the opposite of receiving the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:11-12: *“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*

Commandment keepers versus commandment breakers: those inside (law keepers) the city and those outside the city (law breakers: **Revelation 22:14, 15**

Revelation 22:14, 15: *“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”*

Revelation 21:7-8: *“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

How do the saints keep the commandments?

Revelation 14:1 says they have the **name in the forehead**. The name represents the **character** and the character of God is revealed in **His law**. They **follow** the lamb wherever He goes, **no lie** in our mouths, **without spot** before the throne of God. This is **not legalistic keeping** of the commandments. Writing **His law** means that he **writes his character** and we **love righteousness** and **hate iniquity** and the law is in our hearts (**Psalms 40:6-8**).

Revelation 14:1: *“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.”*

*“In biblical thought a name is not a mere label of identification; it is an expression of the essential nature of its bearer. A man’s name reveals his character. Adam was able to give names to the beasts and birds (**Genesis. 2:20**) because, as Milton says, he understood their nature.”*

Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, volume 3, p. 500-501

Genesis 27:36: *"And Esau said: "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!"*

I Samuel 25:25: *"Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him!"*

Exodus 33:18-19 *"And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*

Ezekiel 36:26-27: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."*

Psalms 40:6-8: *"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me"⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."*

Jeremiah 31:31-33: *"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days, says the Lord, I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

It does no good to have them posted in courtrooms if they are not engraved on the heart. Righteousness comes from inside out and not from outside in. Force creates martyrs or hypocrites. An on-going big debate exists as to whether or not this is a Christian nation. It sure doesn't look like it.

