

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD

Larry R. Ping II

I have noticed a recent trend among some members of the Lord's body involving the idea of obedience to the Law of God. They say to talk of and preach about the need for obedience is to teach we are attempting to earn a home in Heaven, negating the grace of God. Of course, to deny we are saved by grace is to reject obvious New Testament teaching (Eph. 2:5,8; Tit. 2:11-12). However, to relegate the keeping of God's Law as something unimportant is an insult to God and His Word.

Let us first establish there is a Law today to which I owe my allegiance and obedience. I know there is law today because...

1) Where There Is No Law, There Is No Sin. Paul attested to this fact in Rom. 4:15 when penning “for where no law is, there is no transgression.” For example, I could not be pulled over by the police for speeding if there was no law against it. Those who teach there is no law today must by necessity also

admit there is no sin today. Who would teach such?

2) The Bible Talks About The Law Of Christ.

Paul made it a point to teach that we are not without law today, but that we are subject to and “under the law to Christ” (I Cor. 9:21). Later, he wrote, “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). If there is no law today, then what is the law of Christ?

3) The Bible Talks About The Law Of Liberty.

James iterated, “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (Jam. 1:25). Later he said, “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty” (Jam. 2:12). Speaking of freedom from sin, Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). If there is no law today, then what is the law of liberty?

To teach there is no law today is to espouse that which is utterly false. In order to do so would require one to “wrest...scriptures” (II Pet. 3:16) and handle “the word of God deceitfully” (II Cor. 4:2).

To know there is a law today to which we owe our commitment and compliance is one thing. We must also be teaching about the need to be keeping it too. To “keep” God's Law is to know it and obey it. To preach about the need for obedience to God and His Word is, in no way teaching merit-based salvation, as some say it is. Salvation is not an issue concerning grace or obedience. It is an issue involving both grace and obedience, as well as a number of other things.

There are numerous verses and passages indicating our need to keep God's Word. Here are a few of them worthy of our attention and consideration. These would be great verses to commit to memory and recall later. (cont.)

KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD (*cont.*)

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1) Psalm 25:10. “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.”

2) Psalm 37:34. “Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.”

3) Psalm 78:7. “That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

4) Psalm 119:2-4. “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!”

5) Psalm 119:33-34. “Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law...”

6) Psalm 119:100-101. “I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.”

7) Psalm 119:134-136. “Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.”

8) Psalm 119:145-146. “I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes. I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.”

9) Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

10) John 14:15. “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

11) John 14:23. “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

12) Revelation 14:12. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

13) Revelation 22:9. “Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.”

14) Hebrews 5:8-9. “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”

One would have to work hard to misunderstand the above passages. Let us each strive to know and keep God’s Law. Ask this: What happens to those who do not obey God?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm