

Was God's Law Changed?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the Scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied it for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

What the Bible says

The Ten Commandments are often viewed as a set of rules to follow or avoid, but are more like a love letter from God, showing His desires. As we develop the relationship God intends with Him, these commandments reflect our true wishes. When we are close to God, our motivation changes to doing things for Him and for others, as in the 'Golden Rule.' This shift happens as God's love fills us, turning the commandments from burdens into heartfelt desires.

It is our carnal nature that sees this list as a burden and resists being regulated by it, because it is selfish, prideful, and rebellious. But as we feed our spiritual nature, it desires to do the will of God and to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and love thy neighbor as thyself. Then we can see the Ten Commandments as desires we want to fulfill, not as burdens or a taskmaster we want to avoid.

Read Proverbs 3:5–6. This is the Christian goal: to live by this proverb. We will have a clearer understanding of how God created us to live together on earth, peacefully, lovingly, and in perfect harmony. When we see the Ten Commandments in this light, we can recognize that they can never be done away with or changed.

Canceling or changing the law was Satan's plan in heaven; he placed his own ideas above God's commands and tried to cancel God's law through deceptive reasoning. Satan is doing on earth what he could not do in heaven; his ideas and reasoning deceive many.

Let us take a closer look at the cross and the Garden of Gethsemane. What do we see? Why did Jesus die on the cross? To give us salvation. **Read Acts 4:12 LK. 19:9**

Why? To pay the penalty for sin. **Read Rom. 6:23**

Why? Because the penalty for sin is death, and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. **Read Heb 9:22, Col 1:14, and Eph 1:7.**

Why? God could not change any part of the moral law (the Ten Commandments). We see this evidence in God's love being manifested through Jesus. **See Mk. 14:36 Mt. 26:36-39**

In Mark 14:36, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus says that all things are possible with God and asks whether it is possible to remove the cup from Him. **Also, in Matthew 26:36-39**, we have another account of the same prayer, asking whether it was possible to take the cup from Him.

This reinforces the fact that the greatest sign the law could not be changed or done away with is Jesus' dying on the cross for humanity. He asked the Father, "If it is possible?" This makes it impossible for anyone or anything to change or abolish God's commandments. If the law could be changed, God would have changed it, and Jesus would have never died for us. If God cannot change the law, how can man or a church change it or do away with it? They can't!

If the law or the Ten Commandments were done away with or nailed to the cross, we would not find them in the New Testament books written after the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. The laws that were abolished pertained to rituals, sacrifices, offerings, ordinances, festivals, and dietary practices that symbolized and foreshadowed the coming of Jesus. They were the ceremonial laws, the "laws of Moses," fulfilled and rendered obsolete at the cross.

At the cross, we see that God cannot change the moral law (the Ten Commandments) and that God's love was displayed when Jesus came and died to fulfill the law's requirements. **Read Romans 6:23:** here we find that the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. God loves us so much that He could not walk away from His creation and leave us without giving fallen man the opportunity to have eternal life with Him.

Consequently, the difference between true and false worship hinges on keeping God's commandments. The apostles exemplify this in the New Testament on the next page.

The Ten Commandments are found in the New Testament books written after Jesus' death and resurrection. If the law had been changed or abolished, the apostles would not have included them in the New Testament.

Read Mt. 4:10 and Rev. 19:10, where we are told to worship God.

See 1 John 5:21 and Acts 17:29. We are warned about idols.

Turn to 1 Tim 6:1, which addresses the name of God and the issue of not blaspheming.

Read Mk. 2:27,28; and Heb. 4:4 These refer to the Sabbath.

See Mt. 19:19; and Eph. 6:1-3. Refers to Honoring thy father and thy mother.

Turn to Rm. 13:9; and Jm. 2:11 warns us not to kill.

Read Mt. 19:18 Do not commit adultery.

See Rm. 13:9; and Eph. 4:20 Do not steal.

Turn to Rm. 13:9 Do not bear false witness.

Read Rm. 7:7 Do not covet.

Even in the New Testament, we see that the law was not changed or abolished; the apostles continued to observe the law and the Seventh-day Sabbath after the death and resurrection of Jesus. **See Acts 13:14, 42; 16:13; 17:1-2; 18:3, 4, 11; Luke 4:16; Romans 3:31; Mark 15:42, 47; 16:3.**

This is a sample of the apostles' writings on the Ten Commandments:

Read Cor. 7:19 What matters is keeping the commandments.

Turn to Rev. 22:14. If we do not keep the Ten Commandments, we will not have access to the Tree of Life or enter the city of God.

See Mt. 15:9. False worship is to follow the teachings of man instead of God's commandments.

Read Titus 1:14 Do not be fooled by man's commandments and turn away from the truth.

Turn to Ecclesiastes 12:13: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. This is self-explanatory.

See Rev 14:12 God's faithful followers will keep His commandments.

Exodus 20:5, 8 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And **shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**