

What Was Abolished By Christ

PETER'S TESTIMONY, “CONCERNING PAUL'S WRITINGS”

HE SAYS: “In all of his epistles, speaking in them of things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, TO THEIR DESTRUCTION.” — 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

“Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman, that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.” — 2 Tim. 2:15.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” — Prov. 14:12, and 16:25

QUESTION:

The apostle Peter who delivered that soul-stirring sermon on the day of Pentecost, 33 years later warned the church then, as well as us today, of the danger of wresting or interpreting Paul's writings to our own destruction. How could this be? What is there in Paul's writings that will destroy people if wrongly interpreted? In fact, throughout the entire Word of God, what is it that condemns people, and causes them to lose eternal life?

ANSWER:

It is SIN. "The wages of sin is death", but the gift of God is eternal life "through Jesus Christ our Lord". (Romans 6:23). In the Old Testament time there was a certain code of law written by the finger of God, on two tables of stone. (Exodus 31:18; also 32:15, 16; Deut. 10:4). If any person broke one of these Ten Commandments the offender was taken out of the camp and stoned to death. It did not make any difference which commandment, the "wages of this sin was death", for breaking of any one of them.

There was a provision made, however, that the guilty person could bring a lamb to the priest and have it killed in his place, then he would go free, but he would not be free to commit the same offense again. There was also a provision made for the person who was too poor to afford a lamb, he could bring two turtle doves (Lev 5:7) but the offence was so great in breaking this law that something had to die. A life was sacrificed. Either the sinner or the most innocent of animals, or birds, was slain. This is the "Law of Pardon", which Paul says "was added because of transgression until

the seed (Christ) should come". (Gal. 3:19). This positively was not the law of the Ten Commandments, but the law of pardon. If Paul's writings, which Peter says are hard to be understood, are wrested or twisted, in such a manner as to cause people to lightly regard the Ten Commandments, and transgress them, it means destruction, to that person. Sin is what destroys people, and we also read in the New Testament that "sin is the transgression of the law". (1 John 3:4). Now, dear reader, let us pay heed to the Spirit's warning through Peter, and "rightly divide Paul's writings", for many unlearned and unstable teachers are at this time, wresting them to the destruction of thousands of people.

QUESTION:

But we are told in the New Testament that "the law is our school-master, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith, and when faith comes we are no longer under a school-master".

ANSWER:

This statement is in the same chapter, and just a few verses following the text by Paul quoted above. Paul says this law was "added because of transgression". It is therefore this same added law that brought us to Christ, compared to the school-master. It is not the Ten Commandments spoken of here. Note carefully that this law was added because of something. What was it? It was "added because of transgression". Consequently there was something transgressed before this law came. Paul says: "Where there is no law, there is no transgression". (Rom. 4:15). Hence, in order to be transgression there had to be a law to transgress.

This was the ten commandment law. It fits in with the story perfectly. Then the pardon law, the school-master, or the added law, with the lamb a type of Christ, brought the offender to justification, and freedom. He was let go, and not stoned, but he had no license to repeat the same offense. He was under the grace (or favour of God) through the blood of the offering, just the same as we are now delivered from the penalty of the law, by the blood of Christ, and are under grace, and no longer under the condemnation of the ten commandment law.

QUESTION:

I have heard many people say that we are now saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by keeping the law, and that the law was made void, and nailed to the cross. What do you think about this?

ANSWER:

It matters not, dear one, what I think about this. That is the trouble today people are taking what someone thinks instead of what the Lord says. I will give you Paul's summary after his discussion of the law with the Romans. He says: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid, yea, we establish the law." (Romans 3:3). The fact that we exercise faith in Jesus the Lamb of God, and are "baptized for the remission of sin", we established the law, the transgression of which was always sin in the Old Testament, and is still sin now. God never changes. When we do this to forgive sin, it shows the strength of the law, and that there is a law which if broken is sin.

QUESTION:

Is it not a fact that the New Testament teaches a dispensation of grace, instead of law, and that we are not now under law, but under grace?

ANSWER:

Yes we are in a glorious administration of GRACE, or favour. The word “grace” means favour, and the grace of God is the favour of God. In Romans 6:14 Paul says: “Ye are not under the law but under grace”. But he goes on in the next verse and asks: “What then, shall we sin”, his answer is, “God forbid”. He says: “Shall we sin then, because we are not under law but under grace?” Here in other words: “Shall we transgress the law then?” “God forbid”. He tells us also in chapter 3:20, that “by the law is the knowledge of sin”.

The expression by Paul of “being under the law”, is purposely misunderstood by those whom Peter calls “unstable” persons. Others, he says, are “unlearned”, and both classes “wrest” Paul’s writings to their own destruction.

Under the law means under the power and guilt of the law. Those who transgress the law are the ones who are under it. They stand condemned by it. They are under its penalties and judgments. When a man violates the speed law driving his car or runs through a red light stop signal, and is caught by the police, he is then under the law. The law he violated has him under its power. He is a captive under its penalties. He is not free until he pays the fine whatever that law prescribes.

We are all counted as sinners, Paul tells us, and it is by the grace, or the favour of God in sending His Son Jesus

Christ into the world, that we get grace or pardon. We have faith in His shed blood which we accept by faith and are turned lose. We are free, under grace, but can we break the law? Does this give us a right to desecrates the Sabbath or break any of the Ten Commandments, just because we have been pardoned, and released from the penalty of the law which prescribes death? Paul asks: “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid, yes we establish the law.”

— Rom. 3:21.

QUESTION:

Isn’t it a fact that Paul plainly tells us, that the law being nailed to the cross, the Sabbaths and holy days are done away?

ANSWER:

This text is found in Col. 2:14, and it reads: “Blotting out the hand writing of ordinances, that was against us, contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to his cross... let no man therefore judge you in meat, in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moons, or of the Sabbath days which are shadows of things to come, but the body is of Christ”.

Now let us carefully consider these texts with an open heart, loving Truth and not “wrest it, as many do, Paul’s writings”, of which this is part, to our own destruction. Notice, he says, this law nailed to the cross, was against (the apostles) and contrary to them. If Paul here speaks of the ten commandment law, as thousands of preachers tell you, I wonder just how many of those Ten Commandments were against the apostles and contrary to them. Are the Ten

Commandments against any good man and contrary to him? Just which commandments of the ten, do you suppose these holy apostles wanted to violate? Did they have murder in their hearts or adultery? God forbid. No indeed. The holy ten commandment law is in harmony with every good man and good woman. It is not contrary to them.

The law that was against the apostles was the Law of Moses that demanded the killing of animals, and their blood for the forgiveness of sin. Right here in Jerusalem the Jews were performing the evening and morning sacrifices, killing these animals. The apostles witnessed it daily, and it sure was against them and contrary to them, for they knew those offerings were ended, they had accepted the blood of the Lamb sent from heaven.

Two classes of men, one unstable and the other unlearned are twisting this scripture of Paul's to their own destruction and the destruction of others, as Peter warned us in 2 Peter 3: 15, 16.

QUESTION:

What does Paul mean when he says if we try to be justified by the keeping of the law, we are fallen from grace? (Gal 5:4).

ANSWER:

Paul is here speaking of the law given by Moses, and written in a book, the old law of pardon by the blood of the animal, which contained circumcision of the flesh etc. He was not speaking of the 10 commandments. For proof of this the verse just before this one, and in the same chapter reads: "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he

is a debtor to keep the whole law". This is not confusing. It is very plain which law Paul refers to and that he is not speaking of the Ten Commandments.

QUESTION:

What proof is there that two different codes of law were given during the Old Testament time?

ANSWER:

There is abundant proof. First, the fact that one particular law was written by the finger of God on tables of stone, and it says: "He added no more". (Deut. 5:22). Seven different texts tell us that this law was written by the finger of God on tables of stone, while the other law was written by Moses and written in a book. The Lord speaks of it clearly as follows: "This is the law of the burnt offering, which the Lord commanded Moses". (Leviticus 7:37). We give the two laws in contrast as follows.

The Ten Commandment Law

1. Was spoken by God. — Deut. 4:12. .

2. Was written by God on tables of stone. — Ex. 31:18.

3. Was a perfect law. — Psa. 19:7

4. Christ did not come to destroy it. — Matt. 5:17

5. He came to magnify and make it honourable. — Isa. 42:21.

6. Every jot and tittle shall

The Law of Pardon by Moses

1. *Was spoken by Moses.* — *Deut. 1:1-6*

2. *Was written by Moses in a book.* — *Deut. 31:24.*

3. *Made nothing perfect.* — *Heb. 7:19.*

4. *Was nailed to the cross.* — *Col. 2:14, 16.*

5. *He abolished it.* — *Eph. 2:15.*

6. *Was an added law, given*

stand as long as heaven and earth are here. — Matt. 5:18. *only until the seed should come.* — Gal. 3:19.

7. The one who breaks the least commandment will be the least, and gathered out of the tares Matt 5:19 and 13:30 7. Speaking of the law of Moses, we as one *read*: “*We gave no such commandment that ye should keep the law.*” — *Acts 15:1, 24.*

8. Was a law of liberty and two of the 10 commandments given. — James 2:10-12. 8. *Was a yoke of bondage, and against and contrary to the apostles.* — Gal. 5:1; Col. 2:14, 16.

9. Is spiritual, holy, just and good— Romans 7:12. 9. *Was a shadow of things to come.* — Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:17.

10. Not the hearers are justified, but only the doers of this law. — Rom. 2:13. 10. *Those trying to be justified by this law are fallen from grace.* — Gal. 5:4.

11. The carnal mind is not subject to this law and cannot be without the Spirit. Rom.8:5-7. 11. *This law was carnal, contained a carnal Commandment.* — Heb. 7:16.

12. Contains the commandments of God. (Rev 14:12). Is the faith of the remnant church. (Rev. 12:17). Those who keep it, eat of the tree of life. — Rev. 22:14. 12. *The law of commandments contained in ordinances.* (Eph. 2:15). *Is a shadow of good things to come.* (Heb 10:1). *Was disannulled for the weakness thereof.* — Heb. 7:18.

QUESTION:

The Ten Commandments are the old covenant, and doesn't Paul teach us that the old covenant is done away, and we are now under the new covenant?

ANSWER:

Where is the scripture that says any law is a covenant? A law is not a covenant. Look up the word in the dictionary. The first definition to a covenant is: “An agreement between two or more persons”. It is an agreement, and the terms of the agreement are spoken of as the words of the covenant. The words of the covenant, are not the covenant any more than the door of a house is the house.

Remember that a covenant is an agreement between two or more parties. Now you go back and read carefully Exodus 19th and 20th chapters. There you find the agreement, chapter 19. The terms of that agreement were on God’s part that He would bless and perpetuate Israel as a great and mighty nation and as a royal people to remain unto him a special treasure. This was His part of the agreement. The people, or Israel’s part of the agreement was to obey His voice and to keep all of His commandments. In Verses 7 and 8, we find that Moses called all the elders together and put before their faces this proposition. They all agreed to it, to these words of the covenant.

Now here is your covenant and it is an agreement just as the definition of the word “covenant” is given in your dictionary. This is what is known as the Old Covenant, and coming over to Hebrews 8:13 we read: “In that he saith an Old Covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and WAXETH old is ready to vanish away.” Look at the top of your Bible and you will find that this was the year 64 A.D. And, what do we find? Here this old covenant had not yet vanished away 64 A.D., but was waxing old, and ready to do so.

But these men who are wresting Paul's writings to their own destruction, some of whom are unlearned while others are unstable (preaching for a salary only) will tell you that it ended 33 A.D., and was nailed to the cross and that it was the Ten Commandments. Now who is right, these unstable twisters of Paul's writings or the clear statement of Paul himself, that this old covenant had not yet ended the year 64 A.D., but was READY to vanish away?

Now here it is, God's agreement to bless Israel and make of her a mighty people and a perpetual nation, was His part of the covenant. He kept it to this time, but the disobedience of Israel had sorely tried His mercy and grace. He was about to destroy the nation, and bring an end to his part of the agreement, and just six years after Paul made this statement, the Romans under Titus besieged Jerusalem. It is said that a million Jews perished, the temple was destroyed, and the long dispersion commenced. Yes His agreement with them ended. In Paul's day it was waxing old and ready to come to an end. This covenant of which the Ten Commandments were Israel's part, ended 70 A.D. and not 33 A.D. But do you think that just because Israel failed in keeping these commandments, that God abolished them through His Son? No, the very fact that God brought this great calamity upon Israel for breaking these commandments is proof of their strength and binding force.

Note that the new covenant is made with only the house of Judah and Israel. (Heb. 8:10). Compare this with Ezek. 36:24 to 28.

God who never changes, but who is the same yesterday, today and forever, without respect to person, still regards these commandments, just the same as when He

wrote them with his own finger on tables of stone, and delivered them to His servant Moses.

There are more than fifty different covenants spoken of in the Old Testament, and why be bewildered about them and try to make out that the old covenant ending, destroyed the Ten Commandments? The reason is evidently explained by Paul in the following scripture, where he found too many people seeking to please the flesh, and money to satisfy the urge of the natural man for things temporal instead of the things of the spirit. He says: "For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. BECAUSE the carnal mind is ENMITY against GOD, for it is NOT subject to the LAW OF GOD, neither indeed CAN BE". — Romans 8:5, 6, 7.

Note, - Paul is not speaking about the law of animal sacrifices here, nor either of blood offerings, for he strongly condemned that law, consequently he was referring to the Ten Commandment law, so often referred to the same way in many scriptures. Here we have persons who are not seeking after the Spirit of Life (Luke 11:11-14), but instead they are seeking after the ways to please the flesh, being against the law of God. This is exactly what we find today among thousands of professed ministers and teachers, who are wresting Paul's writings to their own destruction. They are making law breakers and Sabbath desecrators. It is the law breakers that fill the penitentiaries and insane asylums to the overflowing in every country.

Dear reader, will you not join with us, in this Reformation, to get people to seeking for the Spirit of God,

and then back in harmony with heaven, and with one another observing all of God's Ten Commandments, because they are regenerated by the Spirit of the living God. We do not advocate the keeping of the commandments to get saved, but we do positively know that all who are in a saved condition through the operation of the Spirit in their lives will keep the commandments including the Sabbath day, after the light comes to them, which God said would be a sign between Him and Israel forever. — Exodus 31:16, 17.

All who are of faith are adopted children into the nation and family of Israel. Read Gal. 3:7 and also 3:26-29. The process of this adoption is through the acceptance of Jesus Christ (YAHSHUA). Note Col. 2:11-12, and Romans 2:28, 29, and also Romans the 11th Chapter.

THE ORIGIN AND CHARACTER OF SUNDAY

It is not our intention in this article to unsettle any of God's children on what is truth, or bring undue unhappiness to such as are happy and enjoying their religious beliefs; but as true happiness only comes to "the man whom God correcteth" (Job 5: 17) and who does not get "weary of his correction" (Prov. 3:11), therefore let us ever be ready to receive correction, "for whom the Lord loveth He corrected" (Prov. 3:12).

SEMIRAMIS

Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod, became a great queen and in order that the people would love her, she told them that she would take possession of the moon after she died just as her husband Nimrod had taken possession of the sun.

Semiramis never married after the death of Nimrod but a few years after her husband Nimrod's death she gave birth to a son on the 25th day of December. This son they called Tammuz. This great queen Semiramis claimed that the spirit of the sun, her husband, was the father of Tammuz.

TAMMUZ

Tammuz was considered the son of the sun. The first letter of his name T was ever afterwards considered as the symbol of the sun.

Sun worshipers sacrificed their human offerings to the sun god, upon a wooden cross, the initial letter T of the name Tammuz.

Tammuz was a great hunter like his supposed father Nimrod. But while yet quite young he was killed by a wild boar, in the spring of the year. This caused much weeping throughout the whole country. The forty days before the time of the celebration for the moon were set apart as days of weeping for Tammuz. Especially did the women take the lead in this weeping for Tammuz during these forty days now called "Lent" among the Christians.

SUN WORSHIP

The origin and character of sun-worship was, is, and always will be pagan. By whatever name or under whatever form the sun was worshipped, there was always a female divinity associated with it. As the sun was the great god, the supreme lord, and as he exerted his most glorious powers in

reproduction, it was held to be the most acceptable worship for his devotees so to employ themselves and their powers. Consequently, prostitution was the chief characteristic of all sun-worship wherever found.

When God established His worship with the children of Israel in the very midst of the sun-worshipping nations round about, He required of them to make the door of their Temple always toward the east, in order that all who worshiped the Lord would in so doing turn their backs upon the sun and its worship; and that whoever joined in the worship of the sun had first to turn his back upon the Lord. But even though the Lord was so careful in His dealing with His children, yet Israel did apostatize from Him, turn their backs upon the Temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they did worship the sun toward the east. — Ezek. 8:16.

Sunday came from this sun-worship and was dedicated to the sun god. It was on this day that the worst sun-worship features were practiced. The origin and character of Sunday like sun-worship was, is and always will be pagan. No matter how this child of paganism is dressed up so to make it look Christian, it is pagan in both origin and character. Sunday is the wild, solar holiday of all pagan times.

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