



ANCHORED TO TRUTH

FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

LESSON 4: THE LAW

Reading:

- ☐ Exodus 20:2-17
- ☐ Matthew 5:17-18
- ☐ Matthew 22:37-40
- ☐ Romans 3:19-20
- ☐ Romans 3:23
- ☐ Hebrews 10:1-18

Anchor Verse: *Attempt to memorize the following verse.*

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20.

Introductions:

Have you ever done something you were not proud of and couldn't explain why you did it?
Have you ever found comfort in comparing yourself to others?

God's law reflects God's character and is often likened to a mirror. Just as we can look into a mirror and see the dirt that covers our face, looking at the law of God, found in the Old Testament, allows us to see the ever-present sin in our lives. It reflects God's holiness and our unholiness.

[F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

In a world where we often compare ourselves to others, God's law shows us that His standards are not measured against those around us but against God Himself. This realization is condemning and without intervention from God, we would be crushed under His law. The doctrine of God's law is foundational to the Christian faith.

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God's Perfect Law:

God gave the Ten Commandment (a covenant between God and His people) to Moses and the Israelites along with ceremonial laws, which included dietary laws, festivals, the Sabbath, and the sacrificial law. The ceremonial laws and the instructions given to the Israelites regarding sacrifices represented a deep connection to God's holiness and the reality of sin. When a person laid their hands on the animal prior to sacrifice, they were symbolically transferring their guilt and acknowledging the gravity of sin, which demands a price. This act of sacrifice was not just about the offering itself but about recognizing the need for reparation of our sins against God.



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The idea of animal sacrifice may seem distant and even unsettling in today's world, yet it serves as a profound reminder of our inherent need for redemption. This historical practice beautifully foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for our salvation.

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10

What commandment is the hardest to follow and why? Do you think any of the commandments are more important than any others?

The first half of the Ten Commandments instruct us how we love God, while the second half instruct us how we love others. In Matthew, Jesus implies this when He is asked what is the greatest commandment in the Law and answers, all of it.

Jesus replied: "‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus Sighting:

Jesus did not come to do away with the law. Jesus came to perfectly follow the law and to make it possible for us to seek to follow God's law.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." Matthew 5:17-18

Reflection:

Read Psalm 119. How does God's Word challenge and/or influence how you view God's law?

Next Lesson:

What hope do I have?