

# Be Not Deceived

## By Pastor Art Watkins

### Part 5

#### Sinai

Be not deceived by the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai. There are three main deceptions that people have about the Law today;

- (1) There are those who say we must keep the law to be saved.
- (2) There are those who say there are no laws under grace.
- (3) There are those who say the law will be resurrected in the future and God will require men to keep it to be saved including animal sacrifices.

First, this false idea that a man must keep the law along with believing to be saved today is nothing new. One of the first heresies in the New Testament church was the heresy that gentiles had to keep the law along with believing to be saved. Acts 15 says:

In verse 1: ***And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.***

In verse 5 it says: ***But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, (gentiles) and to command them to keep the law of Moses.***

In Acts 13-14 God sent Paul to preach the gospel of grace to uncircumcised gentiles and to offer them salvation by grace through faith without works. Many believed, but as soon as the Pharisees heard it they said faith is not enough; they had to become Jewish proselytes and keep the law also to be saved.

We still have the same problem today. There are people who believe in Christ, but they do not believe that faith alone in Christ is sufficient to save them. The majority of religious people today believe that salvation is by faith and works just like the Pharisees in Acts 15. They are still ignorant of the changes that took place by and at the cross. They are still ignorant of the revelations God gave to Peter and Paul in regards to the law and circumcision nearly 2000 years ago.

In Acts 15:6-7 it says: ***And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how***

***that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.***

A meeting was held in Acts 15 to settle this issue once for all. Peter was first to speak at this meeting between the apostles and what he said verified what Paul had been preaching among the gentiles. His speech defended Paul's ministry and gospel. It was God's will for him to speak first because he was the chief among the apostles and because God had given him a revelation about the gentiles similar to Paul's. In Acts 10, God revealed to Peter in a vision that gentiles were no longer common or unclean, but God would save them without circumcision or keeping the law. Peter learned these things when God saved Cornelius in Acts 10. We can see the hand of God in all this. Peter learned in Acts 10 what Paul was sent to preach to the gentiles later in Acts 13-14, which was the main issue of this meeting in Acts 15. Everything Peter said verified what Paul was preaching among the gentiles. He took Paul's side of the dispute.

#### **Peter's Statements Verified Paul**

Peter said in Acts 15:

***8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them (gentiles) witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;***

***9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.***

***10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?***

***11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we (Jews) shall be saved, even as they.(Gentiles)***

(a) The issue in Acts 15 was the salvation of uncircumcised gentiles under Paul's ministry in Acts 13-14. This is what caused the dispute between the Pharisees and the apostles. But Peter reminded them that God had sent him to uncircumcised gentiles years before this meeting to preach the gospel to them in Acts 10. Peter went to the gentiles before Paul and they all knew this, for they glorified the Lord for granting repentance to the gentiles in Acts 11:18.

If God had already sent Peter to preach to uncircumcised gentiles and if the Jews in Judea glorified the Lord for granting the gentiles repentance in Acts 11, then how could they contend with Paul for going and preaching to them? People have short memories and that is why Peter reminded them of this fact.

(b) Peter said that God gave uncircumcised gentiles the Holy Ghost in Acts 10 even as he did the Jews. Receiving the Holy Ghost is the same as salvation in the New Testament. It was a sign that God had accepted the person to whom he gave the Spirit. See Romans 8:9.

Peter and the Jews who were with him knew that God gave the Holy Ghost to Cornelius. Why? Because God gave him the gift to speak in tongues to persuade Peter and the Jews they had received the Holy Ghost, just like the Jews. See Acts 10:45

This shows us again that what happened in Acts 10 was done in view of Acts 15. God foreknew that the issue of gentile salvation would cause trouble in the church, so he gave Cornelius the gift of tongues to prove to the Jews that uncircumcised gentiles had received the Holy Ghost even as they and that God had accepted them as well as the Jews. See Acts 11:17

(c) According to the gospel Paul preached among the gentiles, there was no difference anymore between the Jews and the gentiles. This caused contention and debate among the apostles, but then Peter got up and said the same thing. He said God; ***put no difference between us and them.*** This was a radical departure from what the apostles had believed and preached for years before this. There were major differences between the circumcised Jews and uncircumcised gentiles prior to this time, but here Peter says those differences no longer exist. He learned it in Acts 10 and it was exactly what Paul preached later in Acts 13-14. How could they condemn Paul for saying there was no difference between the Jews and gentiles, when Peter said the same thing? See Romans 10:13

(d) Paul preached salvation by faith alone in Christ to the gentiles. In Acts 13-14 he said God opened the door of faith to them. The opposite of faith is works. Paul preached salvation by faith alone without works and Peter said the same thing. He said God; ***purified the hearts of the gentiles by faith.***

(e) According to the gospel Paul preached among the gentiles, God saved gentiles by faith alone without the works of the law. Peter agreed with him in verse 10. He said: ***Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*** In other words Peter said; why do you command the gentiles to keep the law, if we Jews can't even keep it? Why ask them to carry a burden, that we can't even carry ourselves? This shows us what Peter learned about the law in Acts 10.

(f) The gospel Paul preached among the gentiles is called the gospel of grace, for the simple reason that grace is the method by which God saves sinners. Grace is the free unmerited and unearned favor of God bestowed upon sinners who neither earn it, nor deserve it. In salvation by grace God saves and keeps us saved by faith alone without works.

In verse 11 Peter agrees with Paul's gospel of grace for he said; **But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved even as they.**

This verse tells us plainly that Cornelius was saved by grace and not works and so were the Jews. Anyone who says that Peter and Paul preached two different gospels at the same time is sadly mistaken. What Peter said about grace in Acts 15:11, is what Paul said about it in Eph.2:8-9.

Summing up what Peter said; He like Paul had been sent to an uncircumcised gentile and that he was saved by grace through faith without keeping the law and that God gave him the Holy Ghost just like the Jews without becoming a Jewish proselyte and I will add before he was baptized. (Acts 10:47) This is exactly what Paul had preached to the gentiles in Acts 13-14 and throughout his ministry.

Later after the meeting in Acts 15 a dispute rose up between Peter and Paul that is recorded in Galatians 2. The Spirit of God recorded a conversation between Peter and Paul about gentiles and the law. In the conversation Paul makes it clear that both he and Peter were justified by faith and not by the works of the law and so were the gentiles. Peter seems to have forgotten this truth or was afraid to take a stand for it and so Paul reminded him of it: It says in Galatians 2:14-16: ***But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We (Peter and Paul) who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we (Peter and Paul) have believed in Jesus Christ, that we (Peter and Paul) might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

(2) **Some believers are deceived into believing that because God abolished the Law of Moses that there are no laws binding on believers under grace.**

But what saith the scriptures? Compare the following verses and read carefully what Paul says about law and laws under grace in his epistles.

Ephesians 2:15 says; ***Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;***

Compare this with:

Romans 13:8-10 says: ***Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.***

It seems to be a contradiction in these verses. In Ephesians, Paul says the law is abolished, but in Romans he says we should keep it and obey it. Did Paul contradict himself?

In Romans 6:14-15 he said: ***for ye are not under the law, but under grace*** two times, but in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 he said: ***we are not without law to God, but under the law to Christ.***

We know Paul did not lie, but how do you explain this seeming contradiction? In Romans he says we are not under the law, but in 1 Corinthians he says we are.

In Romans 7:22 he wrote; ***For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*** In verse 25 he wrote: ***I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God.***

Paul rebuked the Galatians for serving the law (Gal. 4:9-10) but in these verses he delighted in the law of God and served it himself. How do we answer these seeming contradictions?

The answer is; The law Paul said we should keep in Romans 13, which he said he served and obeyed in Romans 7, is called the Law of God, whereas the law that was abolished in Ephesians 2:14-16 is the Law of Moses.

The Law abolished in Ephesians 2:14-16 were the laws and ordinances God gave to Moses on Sinai concerning such things as: animal sacrifices, feast days, holy days, dietary laws, temple worship and the priesthood.

The Law of God is the moral commandments of God that have been in force from the beginning of time and will never be abolished. They are the 9 moral laws of the 10 commandments. The law concerning the Sabbath day was a sign between Israel and God, (See Exd. 31:14-17) but the other 9 are binding on all men in all ages.

The law of God is the law Paul said was holy, just, good and spiritual in Romans 7:12, 14.

It is the law he said we are under in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21, Galatians 6:2.

It's the law he served and delighted in according to Romans 7:22, 25.

It's the law that Christ said would never be destroyed and the one he kept and fulfilled in Matthew 5:17-18.

It's the law God commanded us to keep in Romans 13:8-10.

It's the law written in the hearts of men in Romans 2:14-16.

No one will ever be free from the law of God. No one will ever be free from the commandment that says;

\*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

\*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: 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;

\*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

\*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Eph. 6:1-5)

\*Thou shalt not kill.

\*Thou shalt not commit adultery.

\*Thou shalt not steal.

\*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

\*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's. (Exodus 20)

These Laws were in force long before God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the first book of the Bible God said in Genesis 26:5 concerning Abraham; ***Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.***

This was said to Abraham 100's of years before Moses went up on Mt. Sinai. The Law of God has from the beginning of the world been in force and will always be in force. No one has ever or will ever be free from the moral law of God contained in the 9 commandments. It is the duty of all God's creatures to obey this law. The creature is subject to his creator and is bound to keep his law. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says: ***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.***

Arthur W. Pink said this about the Law of God: ***Has human nature so improved, is man so much better than he was three thousand years ago, that he no longer stands in need of the Divine law? If the covenant people of old were required to have such statutes are the Gentiles of today any less self-sufficient? Are men now so little prone to idolatry that they need not the divine command; thou shalt have no other gods before me? Has the enmity of the carnal mind been so refined that it is no longer timely to say; thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain? Are the children of the 21 century A.D. so devoted to their parents that it is unnecessary to say to them; honour thy father and mother? Is human life now held in such reverence that it is idle to say thou shalt not kill? Has the marriage relationship come to be so sacredly regarded that thou shalt not commit adultery is an insult? And is there now so much honesty in the world that it is a waste of breath to remind men that God says thou shalt not steal? Rather is it not true that in the light of present conditions these commandments need to be thundered forth from every pulpit in the land?***

All that I can say to this is AMEN and AMEN. Let no man deceive you, the moral laws of God were not abolished when the Laws of Sinai were. The Law of God has and will always be binding on all men of all ages. No one has ever or will ever have freedom from these laws. They are not and will never be abolished.

**(3) There are those who say the law will be resurrected in the future and God will require men to keep it to be saved including animal sacrifices.**

There are those who teach that even though we are not under the law and are not saved by keeping the law today, they teach in the coming so called "tribulation" God will resurrect the Law of Moses again and put men under it and even require them to keep the law along with believing to be saved. Many of them even teach that God will require men to offer animal sacrifices for sins again in the coming kingdom of God.

I have this little comic book written by Pete "cash register" Ruckman an extreme hyper dispensationalist and he actually says in the so called "coming tribulation" a man will have to keep the 10 commandments, keep the Golden Rule, give his money to the poor, get baptized, take up a cross, hold out to the end of the tribulation to be saved. He says that in the coming tribulation, salvation will not be by grace as it today.

According to Ruckman and many hyper dispensationalists like him, men will be saved by faith and works and part of the works will be keeping the law. His so called proof text of this are verses like Revelation 14:12 which says concerning the saints in the future:

**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

And Revelation 12:17 which says; **And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

To some people, verses like these are proof that in the coming "tribulation" men will be required to keep the law along with believing in Christ to be saved. It's true the saints of God in the future will not only believe on Christ, but will keep the commandments of the law, but it's also true that Paul the apostle of the gentiles, who preached the gospel of grace, kept the commandments after he believed on Christ and told us to do likewise.

In 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 he said: **we are not without law to God, but under the law to Christ.**

In Romans 7:22 he wrote; **For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.**

In Romans 7:25 he wrote: **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God.**

Paul the apostle of the gentiles who preached the gospel of grace kept the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ after he was saved and told us to keep them also in Romans 13.

In Romans 13:8-10 he said: ***Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.***

Paul and the saints he wrote to are just like the saints in Revelation 12 and 14. He kept the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. But the commandments they will keep in the future and the ones we keep now, are the commandments of the law of God and not the laws and commandments of Moses. Those laws and ordinances were abolished by the cross according to Ephesians 2:14-15. The commandments they will keep are the ones we keep and they are the 9 moral commandments of the 10. No one in the past, present or future will ever be free from those 9 moral commandments. But even though Paul kept the commandments of the law of God, he did not keep them to be saved. Why? Because he preached the cross for salvation and no one can preach the cross and the law for salvation at the same time. In Galatians 2:21 Paul wrote: ***I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*** No one can preach the law and the cross for salvation at the same time, for if righteousness comes by keeping the law, then Christ died in vain. Paul kept the commandments of the law of God and told the saints to do so, but it's obvious from this verse it was not for salvation.

The same is true of the future saints in Revelation 12 and 14 for they will be saved by the death and shed blood of Christ just like us. We know this is true by the man who wrote the book of Revelation who was John. John not only wrote the book of Revelation, but he wrote the book of 1 John. In 1 John he told the saints to keep the commandments of God after they believed on Christ and when you read what he wrote about the commandments in 1 John, you can see they or no one in the future will keep them to be saved.

In 1 John 2:1-4 he wrote: ***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

In the same context where John tells the saints to keep the commandments of God, he says Christ was the propitiation for their sins which is a reference to the cross where he made propitiation for our sins by the blood of his cross according to Romans 3:25.

In the previous chapter he said that the sins of the saints he wrote to were all cleansed by the blood of Christ. He said in 1:7: ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

According to John, Jesus Christ made propitiation for the sins of the saints by his blood and they were cleansed from all their sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. This means John preached the cross for salvation and if he preached the cross for salvation, he did not and could not preach the law for salvation, for the works of the law make the cross of Christ of none effect. Therefore, when he told the saints to keep the commandments of God, it was not for salvation, for that would have made the cross of Christ he preached and wrote about of none effect.

What John said about the commandments is no different than what Paul said about them. In Romans 3, Paul told the saints in Rome that Christ was the propitiation for their sins and in chapter 13 he told them to keep the commandments.

In 1 John 1 and 2 he told the saints that Christ died for their sins and made propitiation for their sins and then told them to keep the commandments of God. Neither Paul nor John told the saint to keep the commandments to be saved for they would have made the cross they preached of none effect.

What John says about the commandments in 1 John also define what he means in Revelation 12, 14. The saints in the coming tribulation will keep the commandments of God, just like those John wrote to in 1 John and just like those Paul wrote to in his epistles. But, they will not keep the commandments to be saved, for they will be saved by the death and shed

blood of Christ just like those Paul wrote to and those John wrote to in 1 John. How do we know this? Because in the book of Revelation that says the saints will keep the commandments of God in the future, it declares their faith and trust will be in the death and shed blood of Christ to save them just like us.

Revelation 1:5-6 says: ***And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.***

Revelation 5:6-10 says: ***And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***

Revelation 7:13-15 says: ***And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.***

Revelation 12:10-11 says: ***And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.***

Summing it up; the saints who will keep the commandments of God in the future, will also have total faith and trust in the death and shed blood of Christ to save them, just like the saints today. This shows us once again that the gospel in the future is the same one we believe today: Christ died and shed his blood for our sins and was raised again for our justification. And there is no way a man can preach the cross and the law for salvation at the same time, for the works of the law make the cross of none effect. And there is no way a man can preach the cross and teach men they can lose their salvation either, for it's the cross that secures our salvation. The saints in the future will be like the saints today; yes they will keep the commandments of the law of God, but not for salvation, for future saints will be saved like us today; by faith in the death and shed blood of Christ.

The teaching that God will resurrect and reinstate the Law of Moses, including animal sacrifices, in the future is just plain heresy. It was God who said the Law of Moses is:

Weak and beggarly - Gal.4:9

A yoke of bondage- Gal. 4:10, Gal.5:1, Acts 15:10

Cannot take away sin – Heb. 10:4

Makes the cross of Christ of none effect – Gal. 3:21

Cannot justify sinners – Gal. 2:16

Made no one perfect – Heb. 7:19

Full of faults – Heb. 8:7-8

Could not forgive all sin and sinners – Acts 13:38-39

A curse – Gal. 3:13

Could not give life- Gal. 3:21

Abolished – Eph. 2:14-16

Nailed to the cross – Col. 2:14

In view of what God says about the Law, it is blasphemy to say that God will resurrect the Law of Moses and reinstate animal sacrifices again, especially when Christ suffered and bled and died to abolish the law.

But yet there are extreme dispensationalists who actually teach that in Kingdom of God he will require men to keep the Law of Moses and require them to offer animal sacrifices for their sins, WITH JESUS CHRIST LOOKING AT THEM WHEN THEY DO IT !! This is religious insanity!

Be not deceived by the many heresies men teach today about the Law that God gave to Moses on Sinai.

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