

Can the Ten Commandments Save You? By Joshua Stucki, Callao Christian Church

Many people say, “I believe in God and the Ten Commandments. I’m a good person. Isn’t that good enough?”

Let’s see what the Bible says about the Ten Commandments:

James 2:10 says, “He who fails in but one point of the law is guilty in breaking all of it.” And Romans 7:6 says, “We are now released from the law – that which held us captive – so that we may serve in the new way of promise instead of the old way of the written code.” See below how everyone is guilty of breaking the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5:

Every person has lied and been jealous from time to time (breaking the 9th and 10th commandments). Some have stolen, committed adultery (breaking the 7th and 8th commandments). Virtually all of humanity at some point in time has disobeyed their parents (breaking the 5th commandment). Many other examples could be provided, but only one is needed.

And again, what does James 2:10 say? If we break one commandment, we’re guilty of breaking all of them. Now why is that?

In 2 Corinthians 3:7, Paul calls the Ten Commandments (quoted as “tablets of stone” – the Ten Commandments were the only part of the law written on stone) a “ministration of death.” Paul repeats in Galatians 3:16 that no one is saved by the Ten Commandments or any part of the law, but only through faithfulness to Jesus Christ. His resurrection is the sole source of our salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The truth is that the Ten Commandments were never meant to save anyone (Romans 3:20). They were designed to show us we could not live up to God’s perfect standards but something better was made available

(Galatians 3:24). The law of God, given to Moses, could only ultimately provide death and judgment (Hebrews 10:1-4). A new covenant was necessary to bring us forgiveness of sin and hope for eternal life, so God provided this through Jesus! (Hebrews 5:9)

Hebrews 8:6 tells us that God has established a better covenant based on better promises. During the time of the law and the Ten Commandments, Jeremiah (31:31-34) prophesied that God would send a new covenant replacing the old. Jesus said He fulfilled the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17) and He is now our Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9).

Without Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we would still be in our sins and our faith would be useless (1 Corinthians 15:14). Therefore, it is not the Ten Commandments that saves us at all; in fact, it only condemns us. It is only Jesus (Acts 4:12) who saves us by His grace through faithfulness to Him (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The beautiful truth in all this is that your life will not be measured up to the Ten Commandments in judgment; if you are in Christ, your sins are wiped away (Acts 3:19) and you are clothed in Christ (Galatians 3:27). Why live for the ministration of death that only condemns (i.e. the Ten Commandments with the Old Testament law), when Jesus offers you eternal life by the price of His life, and not your own?

Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Why be burdened again by law that only weighs you down, condemns you, and gives you no hope? (Galatians 5:1) Jesus gives a clear plan of salvation: Believe (John 6:29), Repent (Matthew 4:17), Confess (Matthew 10:32), be Baptized (Matthew 28:19), and be Faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). The early church practiced this unto their salvation, and the same plan is available for all today. Embrace Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:2), and obey Him for your salvation today! (John 14:23)