

God's Eternal Law

A Revelation of His Character
and Our Loyalty to Him

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The Greatest Commandments

Our relationship to God

- “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Our relationship to fellow humans

- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:36-40

The more specific Ten Commandments (paraphrased)

1. No other gods
2. No graven images to bow down to
3. No taking of the LORD's name in vain
4. **REMEMBER the 7th day Sabbath to keep it holy, for in 6 days the LORD [Jehovah] created the heavens and the earth...**
5. Honor your father and mother
6. No wanton murder
7. No sexual immorality
8. No stealing
9. No bearing false witness
10. No coveting

1. Thou shalt have **no other gods** before me.
2. 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; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. 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.

4. **Remember** the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: **But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God:** in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth,** the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

God's Law – in the past

(from E.G. White's writings)

- Existed in heaven from eternity
- Is kept by angels and unfallen beings on other planets. (Wouldn't that include the Sabbath?)
- Was rebelled against by Satan
- Was written onto Adam and Eve's hearts when they were created
- Is written on tables of stone located in the Ark of the Covenant in heaven. The Sabbath commandment radiates with a special glow.

The color blue is a reminder of God's covering law

- The children of Israel were to sew a blue ribbon into the hem of their clothing to remind them of God's law. Numbers 15:38-41, White, *Testimonies Vol. 1*, p. 524
- The blue of our atmosphere represents and reminds us of God's law that protects us.
- The white of the clouds symbolizes Christ's white robe of righteousness that covers us.

The law of God existed **before** man was created

- Adam and Eve, at their creation, had a knowledge of the law of God. It was printed on their hearts, and they understood its claims upon them. **The law of God existed before man was created. It was adapted to the condition of holy beings; even angels were governed by it.** After the fall, the principles of righteousness were unchanged. Nothing was taken from the law; not one of its holy precepts could be improved. And **as it has existed from the beginning, so will it continue to exist throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.**

White, Amazing Grace, page 131

The angels kept the Sabbath in heaven **before** it was made known to man

- ¹⁷ And He gave us [the angels] a great sign, the Sabbath day, that we should work six days, but keep Sabbath on the seventh day from all work. ¹⁸ And all the angels of the presence, and all the angels of sanctification, these two great classes – **He hath bidden us to keep the Sabbath with Him in heaven and on earth.**
- ²⁸ And every one who observes it and keeps Sabbath thereon from all his work, will be holy and blessed throughout all days like unto us.
- ³⁰ ... on this **we kept Sabbath in the heavens before it was made known to any flesh to keep Sabbath thereon on the earth.**

Book of the Law and the Testimony (Jubilees) 2:17,18,28,30

God's holy law spans from everlasting to everlasting and is the foundation of His government

- **God's holy law is as unchangeable as his throne, and is from everlasting to everlasting.** {White, *Review & Herald*, April 15, 1890 par. 12}
- Satan was the first rebel. He is the great leader of all rebellions. **He rebelled against the laws of God's government, framed by God himself,** which were afterward written with his own finger upon tables of stone. {White, *Review & Herald*, September 16, 1862 par. 2}
- ...the great rebel, who has ever been at war with **the law of God which is the foundation of his government in heaven and on earth.** {White, *Signs of the Times*, March 7, 1878 par. 12}

The Law of God and the Sabbath span all eternity

- I was shown that the **law of God** would stand fast forever, and exist in the new **earth to all eternity**. At the **creation**, when **the foundations of the earth** were laid, the sons of God looked with admiration upon the work of the Creator, and all the heavenly host shouted for joy. ... I saw that the **Sabbath** would never be done away; but **the redeemed saints, and all the angelic host**, will observe it in honor of the great Creator **to all eternity**.
- *White, Spiritual Gifts, Vol 1, p. 113*

"Elder Bates was keeping the **Sabbath**, and urged its importance. I did not feel its importance, and thought that Elder Bates erred in dwelling upon the fourth commandment more than upon the other nine. But the Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. **The temple of God was opened in heaven, and I was shown the ark of God covered with the mercy-seat. Two angels stood one at either end of the ark, with their wings spread over the mercy-seat, and their faces turned toward it. ...**

This my accompanying angel informed me represented **all the heavenly host looking with reverential awe toward the law of God which had been written by the finger of God**. Jesus raised the cover of the ark, and I beheld the tables of stone on which the ten commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the fourth commandment in the very center of the ten precepts, with **a soft halo of light encircling it.** Said the angel, 'It is the only one of the ten which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein.

White, Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 75

Through Christ's grace, we must become holy in character. A covenant made from eternity

- Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the covenant was made that **all who were obedient**, all who should through the abundant **grace** provided, **become holy in character**, and without blame before God, **by appropriating that grace**, should be children of God. This covenant, **made from eternity**, was given to Abraham hundreds of years before Christ came. With what interest and what intensity did Christ in humanity study the human race to see if they would avail themselves of the provision offered.

White, Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 54

- The **law** of the ten commandments, given in awful grandeur from Sinai, can never be repealed while the **heavens** and the **earth** remain. ... Those who speak slightly of the moral code are blinded by sin, and are on the side of the great rebel, who has ever been at war with the **law of God** which is the **foundation** of his government in **heaven** and on **earth**. **When God issues a proclamation that men are guiltless if they cease to love him, to reverence his name, and to keep holy his Sabbath-**then, and not till then will the **law of God** be **abrogated** [*done away with*].
- God requires of his subjects obedience, not to nine-tenths of the **law**, but to every one of the ten precepts. ... we must yield willing obedience to all the precepts of Jehovah if we would be true commandment-keepers...
White, *Signs of the Times*, March 7, 1878

God's Law – in the new earth

- Written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:33, 34)
- Will be kept throughout eternity (Isa. 66:22,23)
- Evil will not rise a second time (Nahum 1:9)
- One pulse beats throughout the universe (Great Controversy p. 678)
 - Pulse of harmony and gladness
 - Pulse of the weekly Sabbath

One pulse of harmony

- The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. **One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation.** From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.

White, Great Controversy, p. 678

The Pulse or Cycle of the Sabbath

- For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one **sabbath** to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 66:22, 23

God's Law – in the present

- Is a sign of our surrender to God
- Is designed for our happiness
- Obedience to it is a condition to receive God's blessing and the seal of God
- Transgression of the law is sin
- **Reform!** Do not sin by asking for forgiveness, then doing the same thing again. "Go and sin no more!"

God's Law – in the near future

- Will be a test of loyalty, obedience and who you serve.
- The Sabbath will be the primary test (GC chap 39, Revelation)
 1. God's true followers will be reformed and sealed.
 2. Formerly unknown calamities will occur – balls of fire will destroy many cities, wrecking havoc on coastal cities and shipping as well.
 3. Satan will appear and claim to change the worship day to Sunday and require all the world to keep Sunday. (GC p. 624)

God's Law – in the near future

4. You will need to show evidence of agreeing to keep Sunday holy in order to buy or sell. This is very clever and will deceive many SDAs. It is NOT the breaking of the Sabbath; it is the agreeing to keep Sunday holy (by choice or necessity) that is the receiving of the Mark of the Beast, thus showing disloyalty to God.
5. Unless one of the 144,000, those who refuse to accept the Mark of the Beast will be martyred until the number God has specified is complete. Do not shirk from the ultimate sacrifice. Rev. 20:4, 6:9
6. The Plagues will be poured out on the wicked and deceived.
7. Jesus will return to take His people to Heaven.

The law of God is the foundation of reform

- God's remnant people, standing **before** the world as reformers, are to show that **the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform** and that the **Sabbath** of the fourth commandment is to stand as a **memorial of creation**, a constant reminder of the power of God. In clear, distinct lines they are to present **the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue**. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him ...

White, Prophets and Kings, p. 678

To prepare, one must DO...

- **Repentance** (ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to repent of. Be specific. God will show you. Ask for forgiveness)
- **Revival** (spend time developing a relationship with God, in prayer, studying the words of the prophets and sharing what you learn with others)
- **Reformation** (live in a state of being reformed. i.e. Do not go back to your sin or do what you repented of. Embrace truth. Join with Jesus in working for the salvation of souls)

Just DO it!

(Talking and planning is not doing)

By beholding, we become changed

- **Virtual sin is still sin.** Vicariously killing, casting spells, utilizing sorcery in gaming still separates one from God.
- **Watching movies, TV shows, videos** that glorify sin soften our view of sin.
- **Idolizing celebrities, sports or comic book heroes** instead of Jesus is putting other gods before Him.
- **Listening to music** that does not show reverence for God prevents one from hearing God's still small voice. Stop the noise! Christian rock is like Christian pornography. It doesn't fit!

Cleanse the house, your bedrooms of anything that does not draw you closer to God.

Sigh and cry over the sins taking place in the world.
Ezekiel 9:4

Perfecting our characters

- Rather than focusing on perfect behavior...
- **...focus on perfect surrender to Jesus**
- and perfect obedience and behavior will follow as day follows night.

Our duty to God

- Reverence
- Awe
- Submission
- Unconditional Surrender
- Unconditional Obedience
- Join with Jesus in working for the salvation of others

Push the edge of your spiritual experience.
That is where the miracles are!

Surrender – A daily commitment

- “Take me O LORD as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me and let all my work be done in Thee. May each step I take and each word I speak bring honor and glory to You. I recommit my life to You and ask that You send the Holy Spirit to walk with me. If I take a wrong step, correct me and put me back on the right path. May Thy will be done. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”

Adapted from White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 125, and the daily prayer of Joe Crews, founder of Amazing Facts.

I Surrender All

- All to Jesus I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

I Surrender All

- All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

I Surrender All

- All to Jesus I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

I Surrender All

- All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

I Surrender All

- All to Jesus I surrender;
Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory, to His Name!

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.