

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

33

THE GOD OF LOVE WHO CANNOT CHANGE

How peaceful and secure it would be if our society would stop changing its standards and laws to the point where we now see so much unrest and insecurity in every quarter. Once, most men and women could look forward to secure work, a home and family, but now these things have become a fragile vapour that may be lost at the stroke of pen. Many may sigh -- "If only I knew what to do to be safe!" The reason we have lost the earthly blessing -- is because we have broken the heavenly covenant (Isa.24:4,5).

We often fail to recognise the peace and security found in Jesus Christ; He does not change, what He says, He will do. God's Word is as secure and as invariable as the Law Giver, this is what makes it safe and why it will instil confidence and security (Mal.2:6; James 1:17). Those who trust in Jesus, gain that trust, because they have a chart and compass which gives them direction and confidence; they know that what they are doing is the right

course (Prov.3;1-12,21-26). The *chart* is God's directional map, *His Word*; the *compass* enables us to navigate that map and is the guidance of the *Holy Spirit*.

There are some "Christians" who believe that God has removed His Law; in this, they make their religion more unstable than the societies in which they live. God counsels us to trust in His Word, not the opinions of men, for, as in our previous lesson we discovered God's Law to be as unchangeable, as strong and as loving as He is, so in this lesson we shall see further clear and practical reasons for the absolute immutability of the Law that is the character of God and of those who follow Him.

IF THERE IS A SINNER, THERE IS A LAW!

1. How does the Bible describe the spiritual condition of fallen man?

a) Before the cross: 2Chronicles 6:36 _____

b) After the cross: Romans 3:9-18,23 _____

Note: This is a very sobering account of how we appear before a righteous God, but praise Him, we do not have to continue in the practice of sin; Christ can turn that around and give us a character identical to His own perfect righteousness (1John 1:9).

2. What has man done that has branded him a sinner?

1John 3:4 _____

Note: Here lies God's definition of sin -- sin is the breaking of the Ten Commandments!

3. If the Law of God should no longer apply, what then would be the status of man, where all are presently classified as sinners?

Romans 5:13 _____

Note: *Where there is no law, there is no sin.* A fair conclusion from this would lead one to believe that as sin certainly does exist in the world, God's Law must also exist in order for it to have been broken!

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

The presence of sin indicates that the Law has been violated. Here is a clue as to one of the functions of the law...

4. The Law, itself, cannot save us, but it can do something else. What is it?

Romans 3:20. By the law is _____

5. On this occasion, how does Paul describe his experience with the Law of God and what example does he use to illustrate it?

Romans 7:7 _____

Notes: Paul is saying that he would not have known it was wrong to do certain things if there was not a law to point out right and wrong. Paul saw the Law of God as holy, just and good and when he compared himself against it, the guilt would have crushed out his life (vv.8-12). Shortly, we shall see how Paul handled this problem. It is also worth noting that *Paul would not have felt guilty over a law that had been nullified by the death of his Saviour.*

6. We know that the law shows us to be guilty of sin. What other phrase is used to express this condemnation of the sinner?

Romans 3:19 _____

Note: "Under the Law" is an abbreviation of the full term "under the condemnation of the Law". Romans 8:1 says, that there is *no condemnation* to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but *after the Spirit*. Galatians 5:18 then states, that if ye are *led of the Spirit*, ye are *not under the Law*.

7. As the Law condemns the sinner, another essential part of its function takes affect. What is this other work of the Law and what characteristic name is applied to this function?

Galatians 3:24,25 _____

Note: A schoolmaster is one who teaches. The law of God, therefore, teaches us that we are sinners, violators of that which maintains life. The law, having shown me that I am destined for death, motivates me to seek a Saviour that I may again have life. And what a wonderful Saviour is Jesus, sent by a merciful heavenly Father, that we may no longer be under the condemnation of His beautiful law.

8. How did Paul identify himself with sinners and how did he see the work of Jesus in that respect?

1Timothy 1:15 _____

Note: The Law was indeed a schoolmaster, showing Paul the enormity of his sin and leading him to see that his only hope was through the saving power of Jesus.

9. Romans 7:15-23 has been interpreted to be the exclamation of a man irreversibly ensnared by his sin. How does Paul discredit that interpretation, as he describes his only chance of salvation?

Romans 7:24,25 _____

Note: Who shall deliver me from the sinful weaknesses of this body? --- I thank God, for Jesus can; and He will if we ask (Rom.10:13. See also: John 1:12; Philip.4:13; 2Tim.4:18; Jude 24; Matt.1:21).

Later, in his epistle to the Corinthians, Paul again mentions his human weakness, except, this time, he is glad for the opportunity it gives him to experience the power of God in his life; this is, to the effect that he sees the victories gained in the battle with sin, through Jesus, in contrast to the battles he had previously been losing, without Jesus (2Cor.12:9,10; 1Cor.15:57).

10. In Romans 7:24,25, Paul uses the terms "mind" and "flesh" to distinguish the conflict between obedience and disobedience to the Law of God. What does he mean by this "division" of the mind?

Romans 7:25,22,23; 8:1,2 _____

Note: Paul recognises that there is a conflict that rages in the mind of every man. On one hand there is the tendency toward sin, the lust

of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are carnal attitudes that naturally yield to sin (1John 2:15-17; James 1:14,15). On the other hand, the mind that is surrendered to Christ chooses righteousness, because the Spirit of God has changed his thinking (2Cor.5:17). How to break the hold of the compulsions of the flesh and silence the war within, is the battle that every Christian faces.

Christ can change our attitude toward sin, the battle is won the moment we turn our lives over to Him. There is only a conflict within while we still try to excuse some cherished indulgence -- the "*will I, or won't I do it?*" syndrome *ceases* when Jesus is in control. The answer to the "will I, or won't I" question, for the follower of Christ, will always be -- "*I will do as Jesus would have me do.*" (1John 2:6; Eph.4:22-24). With this kind of surrender, there is no conflict in the mind and Jesus' disciple is at peace (John 12:31; 14:27; Isa.26:3,4). With every victory, we overcome the world, grow in faith and receive the mind that is more and more like the mind of Christ (1John 5:4,5; 2:14-17; Rev.3:4,5).

The heart of God is grieved that so many "Christians" do not progress past the experience of Romans 7:15-23; these deceived souls console themselves with the thought that they cannot conquer their own lust, that sin is inevitable even for the "followers" of the righteous Son of God! To these sin loving "Christians", Jesus will have to say -- "*I never knew you, you never called on me.*" (Matt.7:21-23; Rom.10:13). The man who said that he was chief of sinners, also says -- "*we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.*" (Rom.8:35-39).

So far, we have seen that the Law has two functions: --- to expose, or reveal to the sinner, where he has transgressed the Law of life --- and to point such a one to the Saviour, the only One who can **remove** the sin from the sinner and restore his life. There is another function --- the law is upheld as the standard of righteousness and the criterion of judgement...

11. Remembering that sin is the transgression of the Law, what is the evidence that the power of Christ is working in the life of the committed Christian, to save him from his sin?

1John 2:3-6 _____

Note: The evidence will be a longing to please God and a willing submission of obedience to the word of God (1John 3:19,22; John 8:31; Ps.40:8; Rom.6:17,18). This is the standard to which every creature of the universe will live and interrelate with other creatures.

While in this life, on this earth, the dedicated follower of Christ may have moments of stumbling, yet his heart is not given over to Satan. His course will ever be onward and upward, as he learns how not to sin. With every victory he becomes more like his beloved Saviour and builds a greater disdain for sin (please see lesson 7).

12. For the purposes of God's reckoning, there are only two classes of people in the world. What are they doing that puts them into these two categories?

1Petet 2:6-9 Class a) _____

Class b) _____

Note: There are those who are obedient to His Commandments and to them Jesus is precious; then there are those who are disobedient, who find excuses for not keeping His Word and regard the Law as an imposition. It is clear that those who love and obey God will have His character and those who *do not obey, do not love Him* and will have the character of *another* spirit (John 14:15,24; 8:37-44).

Notice also the contrast between the path of the just and the stumbling of the wicked -- See Proverbs 4:18,19; John 3:19,20. If the Law had been made void at the cross this distinction that separates God's people from the disobedient and lost could not be made.

13. God's people will have the character of Christ. What is the Redeemer doing to achieve that?

Hebrews 8:10 _____

Note: It can be seen that the plan of God is to place His Law into the hearts of His people. What does this produce? -- Saints out of sinners, or, in other words, a converted people with the character of Jesus!! It follows, that God is not removing the Law that the rebellious people have violated, but rather He is removing the rebellion out of those people who will submit to His refining Spirit. God is replacing the spirit of rebellion with a loving and willing obedience, that the soul, thus born again, may live in harmony with the Law that governs all of creation (Eze.36:25-27).

14. As the Law of God is the standard for the mindset of each inhabitant of the universe, what will be the standard by which all men will be judged before they may be given a place in Christ's kingdom?
John 12:47,48; James 2:12 _____

15. What metaphor is used in Scripture to represent the Word of God?
Hebrews 4:12 _____

Note: God's Word will judge all men and as a sword, will cut down the wicked; having refused the grace of God that would enable them to keep the Law, they will not measure up to its standard and will stand guilty before the righteous Judge (Rev.19:15; Isa.11:3,4; Heb.10:29).

16. When Jesus refers to "the word that I have spoken" (Q17), what word, or words, is He referring to?
Exodus 20:1-17 _____

Note: "The breath of His lips", "the sword of His mouth", "the rod of His mouth", are graphical metaphors for God's Word and its authority. They are Words that He has SPOKEN Himself. As it is the Word of God that judges the earth, how can we conceive of it being made void at the cross?

God took it upon Himself to deliver His Holy Law in person. He did not use any human medium to convey the Ten Commandments to

mankind, all Israel heard it directly from God (vv.18-22). The rest of Scripture was written using the human instrument. Even the words of Christ, while He was on earth, were written by the hands of men.

However, it should be understood that these scribes of God were under the direction of the Holy Spirit and did not simply pen their own concepts (2Pet.1:19-21).

These writings of Scripture, as distinct from that part of Scripture written by God, personally, are not diminished in any way from being the Word of God, for these writings explain, illustrate and expand on the Law, which was given to Moses at Sinai and to Adam and Eve at the beginning (2Tim.3:15-17). Notice that Jesus referred to these Writings as the Scriptures (Luke 24:27,32; John 5:39).

17. Rather than perceiving the Law to be negative and condemnatory, the true believer and follower of Jesus Christ will have a totally different attitude towards it. What is that attitude?

1John 5:3; Matthew 11:30 _____

Compare Psalm 40:8 _____

18. While the law condemns the practising sinner (Rom.3:19), how does it relate to the soul that has surrendered to Jesus and is filled with His Spirit?

Romans 8:1 _____

Galatians 5:18-23 _____

1Timothy 1:9 _____

Note: The works of the flesh are condemned by the Law, conversely, there is no law against the works of the Spirit. As the soul grows in the character of Jesus, then living in agreement with the Law of God becomes the character of the soul; observing it becomes the habit of life. Such a blessed soul would sooner die than commit a wrong act. While he will have his daily warfare against Satan, the Law, to him, is his way of life. He does not ever think of it as a restraint, or as a

legalistic magistrate ready to condemn him. He loves the Law and delights to do it because he loves his Saviour and wants to please Him. The Law is not against him, it is working for him to protect him (Deut.6:24,25; Prov.29:18b).

19. After examining himself and the Law of God, what is Paul's conclusion about the Law?

Romans 7:12 _____

Note: This is the same revelation God gave to Moses and to David -- See Deut.6:24,25; Ps.19:7-11.

Laws are made for the protection of all concerned; no law abiding citizen would agree that we should rescind the laws of the land that prohibit murder, theft, assault, etc., or remove the penalties that deter would-be violators. On the other hand, those who would seek to advantage themselves at the expense of others, would welcome the removal of that which hinders their wicked practices. On what grounds could we justify removing a law that is holy, just and good, and is for our protection? The Law that protects the righteous will condemn the wicked. The reason why men hate the Law of God is because they love sin and they do not want to be reminded that they will ere long face the judgement and the inevitable penalty for sin -- death.

WHY THE LAW COULD NOT BE REPEALED

20. What does God tell us concerning the results of sin?

Romans 6:23 _____

Compare Ezekiel 18:20a _____

Note: All men are well acquainted with death. David, the second king of Israel, said, "I go the way of all men". When Adam and Eve sinned they transgressed the laws of their being, they stepped outside of the principles that enable them to live in agreement with the physical realm of creation, or nature, and they started to die.

The violation of the laws of our being have been continued by every man since that time; not only are we destroying ourselves, but we are destroying the ecosystem and the sustaining elements of the very planet on which we live. In this, every generation has had the same motivation -- selfish gain. Without the intervention of Jesus, left to itself, the inhabitants of this world will completely die out and that includes Satan and his evil angels (Isa.51:6).

Using this world as a model, it is not hard to understand that if this self destroying cancer, sin, were to infect the rest of the universe, it would be only a matter of time before the whole of creation would decay into total and absolute self destruction. Here we see the physiological effects of sin -- the physical deterioration of our bodies and of the things around us -- we die!

Clearly, God cannot make void the very Law that, if obeyed, would prevent the end of all life.

"The wages of sin is death", death is a physical result of sin, but there is another dimension to this quote from Romans 6, it also refers to death as a PENALTY for sin.

21. While God is a God of *mercy*, He is also a God of *justice*. What has He decreed will be forthcoming as a part of our choice to sin?

Isaiah 13:11a; 2Thessalonians 1:7-9 _____

Note: The love of God has extended to man a very generous probation in which he may choose either to follow Him, or to practice his sin.

However, probations end, then every man that has not been cleansed by the blood of Jesus will suffer the just penalty for his unholy deeds (Jude 15,16; 2Cor.5:10; Deut.30:19; Jer.23:5).

22. What follows the punishment for sin?

Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14,15 _____

Note: For the unrepentant sinner and the false Christian, the punishment for sin will be a torment and pain proportional to the

extent of the sin and will end in total destruction, or cessation of life (Luke 12:47,48; 13:28; Ps.37:10,20; Eze.28:19).

The expression in Revelation that the wicked will be cast live into the lake of fire where they shall be tormented day and night for ever does NOT mean eternal life in hell. "Tormented" means "painful affliction or suffering", "day and night" means "continuous until the *just* penalty is complete" and "for ever" means that the "final death is eternal death". The subject of the reward of the wicked and of the millennium (1000 years) will be treated in another lesson.

If God's Holy Law had been repealed at the death of Jesus, every unrepentant sinner could ask of God -- "On what grounds do you impose this judgement and for what violation am I to be punished?" One could be excused for thinking that the advocates of the abolished Law theory find that concept an easy way to dismiss the judgement as a non-event while they hold to their secret sins.

23. God's Law does stand, and before executing the sentence of His judgement, of what will the wicked be convinced?

Jude 15 _____

WHY JESUS HAD TO DIE TO BE OUR SAVIOUR

The reward of the wicked is very clearly set out in Scripture, as is the reward of the righteous. However, the righteous, redeemed from this earth, have also committed sins and transgressed the Law of God, yet they do not suffer and die for their sins as do the wicked for their sins. How is the penalty for the transgression of the Law met for the redeemed and the integrity of the Law maintained in the eyes of all of creation?

24. What did the heavenly Father do with the sins of every repentant sinner?

Isaiah 53:6,10 _____

Note: When man sinned, God was faced with only three options -- Let the sinner decay and die -- destroy him -- or remove the sin from the heart of the sinner and provide a substitutionary death.

25. What did Jesus willingly do for you and for me?

Isaiah 53:4,5,11,12 _____

Romans 5:6-8 _____

2Corinthians 5:21 _____

Note: Jesus was the *offering, or sacrifice*, for the sins of all who would partake of the GIFT of life (Isa.53:10). Our transgressions were placed upon Him and God regarded Him as the sinner, dealing with Him as though He was the *actual person who committed the sins* for which He died. The result of this supreme act of love, is that, in the judgement, the repentant sinner, surrendered to Christ, will be seen as having received (been imputed with) the righteousness of Christ, he will be counted as *just* (justified, as though he had never sinned).

If the Law was to be removed by the death of Jesus, why did He have to take the violations of that Law upon Himself that the redeemed will not have to die for their sin? The greatest testimony for the immutability of the Divine Law, is the death of the Son of God to meet the penalty for the transgression of that Law.

26. When the blood and sacrifice of Jesus pays the ransom for the sins of the sinner, does that apply to every sinner? If not, to whom in particular does this infinite blessing apply?

Romans 2:13 _____

1John 1:7 _____

Note: This statement in God's word does NOT exclude anyone from the chance of obtaining everlasting life, it simply qualifies those who have chosen to turn from sin, and by the power of God, to do what He says and keep His Commandments. To hear and not do, is to receive the light, but to walk in darkness (Matt.6:23).

The death of Jesus pays the penalty for the sins of every sinner who will accept the conditions of pardon. If the Law could be removed to save the sinner, Jesus would not have had to die, there would be no Law that demanded the life of its transgressor. Jesus died to be our substitute in death, because *the Divine Law could not be altered!*

ARE WE SAVED BY KEEPING THE LAW?

There are three parts to the mechanism of salvation through Jesus -- firstly, His death as the substitute for the repentant sinner -- secondly, He teaches us His ways by His Word -- thirdly, He supplies the power to enable the sinner to overcome the otherwise unbreakable hold of sin.

If we could be saved by keeping the Law, there would be no need of a Saviour. Suppose we were to keep the Law impeccably, from this moment on, there will always be our past sins to rise up and condemn us, we *could not* stand justified before God, and the penalty for the broken Law would still need to be met.

27. If the Law was able to save the sinner, by the sinner turning from his sin and keeping that Law, what would be the result?

Galatians 3:21 _____

Note: The only way that fallen man will see everlasting life is if he becomes righteous, however, keeping the Law will not make him righteous. Only Jesus can change the heart; the converted sinner does not keep the Law because it makes him righteous, he keeps it because Christ has made him righteous and keeping the Law of God is the way righteous people behave.

28. What is the condition of the man that believes he is saved because he keeps the Law?

Galatians 5:4 _____

Note: This man is not being made righteous by Jesus, he is seeking his own righteousness, a righteousness which is of the Law (Rom.10:3; Philip.3:9). An example of this may be seen in the rich young ruler (Luke 18:9-14; 18-25).

29. If we are not saved because we keep the Commandments, how then are we saved?

Galatians 2:16 _____

Note: No man is justified, or made righteous by the works of the Law, we are made righteous by the "faith of Jesus".

30. What is meant by the term -- righteousness by the faith of Jesus? This question may best be answered in two parts --

a) What do righteous people do, which is evidence of their righteous state of mind, a state of mind brought about by the indwelling of "Christ our righteousness"?

Deuteronomy 6:24,25 _____

1Peter 1:22,23 _____

b) What word in Scripture is used to connect "obedience" with the behaviour of the Christian?

Romans 1:5; 16:26 _____

Revelation 14:12 _____

Note: Those who have the "faith of Jesus" have the righteousness of Christ. They keep the Commandments because that is the way Jesus acts, they walk as He walked (review lesson 4).

In contradistinction to "righteousness by the faith of Jesus", there is "righteousness which is of the Law". This is the feeling of righteousness a man has when he thinks he is doing well while he knows that he is not living as closely to the Law as he should (Rom.10:3; Philip.3:9).

Such man-made piety comes from comparing ourselves with others, or from our own concept of righteousness; it does not come from

comparing ourselves with the spotless character of Jesus (Luke 18:9-14; Matt.5:20; 2Cor.10:12,13). The man who is self-righteous does not have the love of Christ or the love of true holy living.

The fact that the sinner cannot be saved by keeping the Law, does NOT discredit the Law, it simply emphasises his need of a Saviour.

31. The man who seeks to be justified by Christ and continues to indulge one or more sin(s) makes himself a:--

Galatians 2:17,18 _____

Note: A transgressor is one who transgresses (breaks) the Law of God. This man has no part of Christ, for the Saviour is not the minister of the sinner's evil works (1Cor.6:15-17). All who name the name of Christ will depart from iniquity (2Tim.2:19). The Christian who builds again the sinful practices he had destroyed from the old life becomes a transgressor with the open sinner and will likewise perish (Eze.18:24).

32. What did Moses say was the *real* evidence for the keeping of the statutes, or Laws, of God?

Leviticus 18:5; compare Romans 10:5; 1:17 _____

Note: The man that keeps the Law out of love for Jesus and a burning desire to please Him, will make the Law his way of life, from his secret innermost thought to his most profound and exposed behaviour.

The righteousness which is of the Law, that Moses speaks of, is in contrast with a similar statement that Paul uses in Philippians 3:9. In Philippians, Paul clearly differentiates between self righteousness and the righteousness of God.

While the repentant sinner is not saved by keeping the Law, by not keeping it, he reveals that he is not repentant and is unfit to live in an environment where the Law is loved and lived -- heaven.

WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

At this stage of our study on the Law of God, it should be evident that the holy Commandments are just as applicable today as when they were delivered to man by the hand of God at Sinai. So what was nailed to the cross? In spite of the overwhelming evidence to the contrary, some have concluded that, when Jesus died on the cross, the Law died with Him!

33. What was finished, or discontinued, by the death of Jesus on the cross?

Colossians 2:14 _____

34. What does Paul mean by "handwriting of ordinances"?

Colossians 2:15-17 _____

Note: The meat offerings, drink offerings, holy days, new moon and Sabbath days were a *shadow of things to come*. What things to come? --- These rites were a part of the feast days and sanctuary services and helped to provide a model for the sacrifice of the Redeemer and the process of the atonement (Ex.25:8,9; Heb.8:5; 9:9; lesson 13). It was these ceremonial ordinances that were nailed to the cross.

The term "Sabbath" is used in Scripture to designate both the ceremonial holy days (Lev.23:26-32) and the weekly Sabbath. The Sabbath days referred to in this passage are ceremonial Sabbaths. It is the sacrificial services of the ceremonial Sabbaths that were discontinued, not the memorial of the creation Sabbath of the decalogue.

The handwriting of ordinances were the laws relating to the ceremonial services of the sanctuary, they were actually written by Moses' hand (Ex.24:4; Deut.31:24-26) and it was these that were considered to be against them; this is in direct contrast to the Ten Commandments, which were recognised to be for their good (Deut.6:24,25). It is apparent that Paul, in no way, was inferring that

the Holy Law, that is just and good, was against them and therefore nailed to the cross.

35. How did Jesus view His position in regard to the perpetuity of the Law?

Matthew 5:17 _____

36. Paraphrasing Jesus' statement concerning the permanency of the Law, He said that ...

Matthew 5:18, compare Luke 16:17...

a) Heaven and earth shall pass away before _____

b) No part of the Law shall pass away until all of it has been _____

Note: Both heaven and this earth will stand for eternity, the earth will not be removed, it will be remade (Ps.119:89; Eccl.1:4; Rev.21).

37. When Jesus said "till all be fulfilled" (Mat.5:17.18), to what was he referring that was yet to be fulfilled? The answer to this question, may be seen in Genesis 3:15. Dissecting this verse, clarify the segments given below. The following references may help.

● I will put enmity between thee (serpent) and the woman (Isa.59:15 mid; Matt.10:34-37; Jer.6:2; Rev.12:9).

● Between thy seed and her seed: (Rev.12:17)

● It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel (1John 3:8; Heb.2:14; Acts 2:31).

Note: See also Luke 24:27,44. Genesis 3:15 is the first point in Scripture where the promise of a Deliverer is recorded. That Deliverer would free all who chose to be free from the hold of Satan and He would put enmity between the powers of iniquity and the followers of righteousness. Jesus would also bring to an end (destroy), Lucifer, who is Satan, the Devil, also known as the Dragon, or serpent power. The bruising of Christ's "heel" was His death on the cross (Isa.53:10),

the bruising of Satan's "head" will be his total destruction.

"Enmity" is the spirit that exists between enemies. By this, God was saying to Adam, Eve and Satan, that Satan will not have the control over the minds of men that he expected to obtain with the fall of the holy pair (1John 2:14). God's people will not seek or enjoy the works of iniquity, nor will the wicked delight in the things of righteousness. Men love sin and cannot be free of it, but once they are converted to Jesus Christ and His ways, they hate sin and Jesus breaks the hold of the Wicked one (Gen.6:5; Luke 17:26; 2Tim.2:26; Isa.14:17; 61:1; Ps.119:113).

Satan is the enemy of every man, and with his hatred of Christ, has only one purpose -- to cause as much pain to the Creator as he possibly can. This he does through the destruction of creation, afflicting the object of Christ's love, man, and leading him into rebellion against the God who created him and redeemed him (enemy Mic.7:8).

So then, as far as Christ's statement is concerned -- what has been fulfilled? Certainly the enmity between Lucifer and he that follows the Word of God (John 17:14). What of the fulfilment of the other promise of Jesus and of that which is implied by those promises -- Has Jesus yet destroyed Satan? (Eze.28:19; Rev.20:10). Has sin been ended? (Rev.22:3; Nahum 1:9). Are the redeemed followers of Christ now free of the temptations and afflictions of the devil? (Eze.28:25,26; Zech.14:11). Has the earth been made new? Are God's people now living in the new earth and has God set up His throne on this earth? (Rev.21:1-5). --- *Clearly, all has not been fulfilled and neither has the Law passed away.*

38. Another statement by Jesus that confirms His understanding that the Law was to continue after His death is found in His warning to those living at the latter end of this world's history. What is that warning and how does it confirm that the Law has not changed?

Matthew 24:20

Note: If Jesus knew that the Ten Commandments were to be abrogated at His approaching crucifixion, He would not have considered it necessary to mention the obvious difficulties of an emergency flight on the Sabbath. Christ's reference to the Sabbath (fourth Commandment) is a clear indication that He did not expect, or intend His death to diminish, or void His Law in any way.

39. What do we read in the Old Testament and find confirmed in the New Testament concerning how long the Law of God (also known as the Word of God) will last?

Psalm 119:89; 111:7,8 _____

1Peter 1:23,25 _____

40. Why will the Word of God live forever?

1Peter 1:22,23 _____

Note: The Word of God will live for ever because it is the character (name) of God placed into the minds of the saints and is the character that will pervade the kingdom of Christ for ever (John 17:8,11,12,14; Rev.3:12. Mat.22:9-14).

We have seen that what was nailed to the cross was NOT the Law that lives and abides forever, but the sacrificial services of the sanctuary that point to the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. However there is something else that dies with Jesus...

41. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Those same sins today, in one respect, can crucify Jesus afresh (Heb.6:6). So when Jesus died, what else must die with Him?

Galatians 2:20 _____

Note: This beautiful, poetic verse, from a man who understood what God wants to convey by the death of His Son, describes that the sinner in me must also die!

42. When a man is "crucified with Christ", what does this mean?

Galatians 5:24 (19-21) _____

Romans 6:2,5-12 _____

Note: When a man accepts the death of Jesus as his substitute for the penalty of his own sin, then, just as Jesus died on the cross, so in a spiritual sense, the repentant sinner, in laying his sins on Jesus, will kill, or mortify, the deeds of the flesh and cast away the contemplations of the carnal mind (Rom.8:13; Col.3:5-10). To be crucified with Christ is to be dead to sin, and raised with Him, alive in the doing of righteousness.

CONCLUSION We have seen that the law of God is the lynch pin of the universe, pull it out and the whole fabric of the society of heaven would disintegrate. It is so indispensable that God, Himself, in the form of Jesus Christ, died to defend and uphold it.

We have also seen that as the Law is a transcript of the character of God, it is also the character of the saints, God's holy people. With the Law written upon the hearts of the redeemed, in this life, they will have proved their faithfulness to God while in the midst of a crooked and a perverse generation (Philip.2:12-16). God and all creation will then know and be able to trust them to continue to live that way for ever in the paradise of God. The Law will be honoured and magnified (Isa.42:21) and love and righteousness shall reign. *To remove the Holy Law of God is to remove the salvation of man!*

Praise God and thank Him for the Law of life and the salvation granted us by His grace, through His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is not the Law that dies on the cross, but the "breaking of the Law behaviour" of the repentant sinner. "Do we make void the Law through faith? God forbid! We establish the Law." Rom.3:31.