

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Week **one**

Sermon notes // 6:30pm

Titus 3:1-15 // 'Can we break the law?'

// Once the good news is **believed**

// The good news should **be lived**

A LOOK AT THE NEW TESTAMENT

// Read Titus 3:1-15

Three times in this passage, Paul mentions the importance of 'doing good' (v1, 8, 14). Why do you think they might need reminding of this? What about us?

From this passage, what does 'doing good' look like in practice? (see especially verses 1-2, 8, 14)

// Verse 1-8

Is 'doing good' something that comes naturally to us? (v3)

In verse 3, Paul describes two sides to this problem we have – the things we do, and the things done to us. In other words we are both guilty and victims of sin. Which do you tend to emphasise more in your own life?

What is the solution to this? How? (v4-7)

What does 'doing good' NOT achieve? (v5)

In other words, following God's law – like the 10 Commandments – is not enough to save us. Therefore, what is the relationship between the 'trustworthy saying' and 'doing what is good' (v8)? Why do they go hand in hand?

// Verse 9-15

Because following God's law is not effective in saving us, what should we avoid doing?

Can you think of any examples of how people might be involved in 'foolish controversies and arguments and quarrels about the law' today?

Why do you think Paul is so severe in his treatment of those people who over-emphasise certain aspects of the law?

In verse 14, Paul talks of 'devoting' yourself to doing good. What practical steps can you do to devote yourself to doing good in the light of the gospel?

study notes
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WAY IN

*Reflection: Take a moment to think about what **one thing** you would like God to do over the coming weeks as you look at the 10 Commandments. You may like to write it down, or draw it. Take some time to pray about this (either on your own or as a group).*

Your friend asks you “What’s the point of the 10 Commandments, then?” What would you say?

Do you think we should place more emphasis on living the 10 Commandments than we currently do? Why/ why not?

What do you think our culture thinks of the 10 Commandments?

A LOOK AT EXODUS

// Read Exodus 20:1-2

Before God spoke the 10 Commandments he reminds the people of one vital truth: He has rescued them out of slavery in Egypt. They needed to remember that God had already rescued them and the Commandments were to show them how to live in this new relationship. We need to remember this too: our relationship with God starts and continues on the firm foundation of God’s undeserved favour, his grace.

// Read Exodus 19:3-7

What two things had God already done for the people? (verse 4). What do you find surprising about the words God uses here?

On what basis did God do this? Was it because the people of Israel were any better than other people?

How does Deuteronomy 7:7-9 cast more light on the way God works?

As we read this today we know that our enemy is not Egypt! What is it that God has rescued us from and why has he done it?

God gives a new identity to the people he has rescued (verse 6). They are to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Being ‘priests’ meant that they would stand in the gap and in some way represent God to the people and the people to God. How do you think we can do this today?

As well as being involved in the world they were to be different (holy). Why did this matter? In what ways can you be different today? Make a list of these on a large piece of paper and pray for one another that God would enable you to be different.

WHAT IS THE ‘LAW’?

People often refer to the 10 Commandments as being part of ‘God’s law’ in the Old Testament – particularly laid out in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy. But what does the phrase ‘God’s law’ mean?

In the original language that it was written in – Hebrew – the word ‘law’ is Torah. It basically means ‘instruction’. This is quite different from the way in which we might commonly use the word ‘law’ in our society today. In other words, God’s law is similar to the way a parent might instruct their child to live well, rather than a set of rules to restrict their life. In the same way that a good parent will provide a helpful framework for their child’s life – which includes teaching what is right & wrong; what the consequences are of certain actions; and how they should relate to other people – so too does God do the same for his children. This is all done for the benefit of the child, to protect them and help them to flourish.