



BROAD STREET

BANNER

January 16, 2019

BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXXIV NO. 2



From Where I Sit . . .

“Did Christ Die In Vain” Part Three

One may observe in talking to the masses that there are some who believe that all one has to do to be saved is to keep the Ten Commandments. This seems to be a sincere expression by these individuals and we speak carefully when trying to offer other ideas on the subject. If one is going to live by The Ten Commandments as a binding body of Law, they are in effect saying that people of old could be saved in, through, and by those same Ten Commandments. That isn't the case as the New Testament makes clear. To argue that it is so would make the death of Christ useless, wasted, in vain.

Granted, God's moral laws which compose the greater portion of the Ten are also reflected in the New Testament; but they are not binding on us merely because they were contained in the original Ten Commandments. God's moral nature has never changed, and His moral precepts are still right. They were always right. Stated simply, it is still wrong to lie, steal, kill, fornicate, and covet. The Lord's morality would be expected to appear in the New Testament of Christ which He brought in through His death upon the cross. One of the commandments along with hundreds of ordinances from the Old Testament, however, did not find their way into the New Testament teachings of Christ for us. The Sabbath Day observance is not repeated under the New Testament teaching for a Christian's life. As a matter of fact, as a body of Law, the entire Ten Commandments was taken away. We are under law to Christ (**1 Cor. 9:20-21**).

We cannot be saved today by going back to the Law given to Moses. In fact, Jesus died in vain if one can be saved merely by keeping the Ten Commandments and living by The Law of Moses. The fact is that the Law could not save then, and it will not save now. Jesus came to fulfill that Law and to provide redemption for those who were under that system as well as us. **Hebrews 9:15 (KJV)** ¹⁵ “**And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**” The Ten Commandment Law, the Law of God, also called the Law of Moses, was good and points us to Christ, but men could not be saved by that law because mankind never could keep all the law and ordinances perfectly. The New Covenant is based on the blood sacrifice of the perfect lamb of God, Christ Jesus. One died for all so that all might live through Him, not through Moses.

If we are still tied to a law that could not then, and cannot now save, then Jesus didn't accomplish His mission of loosing us from a law that could not save. It was a system based on animal sacrifices. The writer of Hebrews states in **Hebrews 10:1-4 (NKJV)** ¹ **For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.** ² **For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.** ³ **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.** ⁴ **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**

In **Galatians 2:21** the Apostle Paul writes, ²¹ **“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”** Judaizing teachers were intent upon binding the law of Moses upon the New Testament church. Paul accuses those who were giving heed to these teachers of turning aside to a different gospel, a perverted one (**Galatians 1:6-7**). He further affirms in **Galatians 2:16**, **“by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”** Those who would be justified by the law have **“fallen from grace”** (**Galatians 5:1,4**).

To say that the Old Testament Law is still binding, and contend that we are saved by keeping its Ten Commandments, one is making a statement that, if true, would make the death of Christ a meaningless gesture.

. . . Terry Broome