

HOLINESS OF THE LORD

Lesson Aim To know what the LORD's standard is for holiness.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: The law of the LORD is holy, but it cannot make us holy, because every law must be kept to be holy. Since no one has kept all of its commands, we are unholy and guilty sinners (Rom 3:19-20). The only way to be holy is to repent of our sins and trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ to remove our sins. Since the LORD is holy, we must be holy to live with Him, "as He which has called you is holy, so you be holy in all manner of conduct" (1 Pet 1:15).

Do the laws of the Old Testament apply to Christians? 23:1-9

Christians often question the degree to which the Old Testament law applies to them. The priests' ritual was prophetic of Christ's work which He fulfilled at His first coming. The sacrifices were tokens in lieu of Christ's perfect sacrifice (Heb 10:11-14). Christ Himself summarized His own relationship to the law when He said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Mt 5:17). While the ceremonial aspects of the law were replaced by the perfect sacrifice of Christ, and the civil laws apply to a theocratic government, the moral and ethical standards are universal and timeless in their application, such as those expressed in Ex. 23:1-9 These show us some ways that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Lev 19:18).

What are Christians to do with the laws regarding the Sabbath? 23:10-13

This was explained in last week's lesson. The Sabbath symbolized the believer's rest in Christ. The Sabbath was only a sign between the LORD and Israel because Christ, our rest, would come from Israel (31:12-17). Since Christ is our real rest, Sabbath rest is no longer required (Col 2:16).

Why do Christians need to know the laws about the Jewish festivals? 23:14-19

The Passover is fulfilled in Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). Pentecost was fulfilled when the Spirit came to indwell all believers and begin the building of Christ's church (Acts 2). The Feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled when it is celebrated in Christ's Millennial Kingdom as the marriage supper of the Lamb (Zech 14:16-19; Mt 25:1-13; Rev 19:7-9).

What do Christians learn from the law to have victory over the world? 23:20-33

Four principles from the law will give Christians victory over love for the world. (1) Respectfully obey the Lord - 23:20-23. (2) Destroy all worldly gods in your life and worship only the Lord - 23:24-26. Whatever excites you more than the Lord is a god in your life. Get rid of it. (3) Believe the Lord is able to give you victory over the world's gods - 23:27-31. (4) Be separated from all ungodliness in the world - 23:32-33.

What do Christians learn from the ratification of the Old Covenant? 24:1-8

The Old Covenant was ratified by listening to the words of the LORD (24:1-3); then by agreeing to the words of the LORD (24:3b); and finally, by sprinkling half of the blood of the sacrifice on the altar and the other half on the people (24:4-8). The New Covenant is ratified for each believer that hears the Gospel, agrees with it and applies the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross to cleanse him from his sins (1 Jn 1:7). "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb 9:22).

How did Israelite leaders see God when no one can see Him and live (Ex 33:20)? 24:9-18

We cannot see God's face and live, but Israel's leaders saw a part of God and lived. Moses saw the back of God and lived. Others saw Him as an Angel, as a Man (Gen 18:1-2), or in a vision (Isa 6:1).

What do Christians learn from the Israelites about giving and about doing His work? 25:1-40

The Israelites voluntarily gave gifts for the tabernacle from what the Egyptians gave them. Christians need to give voluntarily and cheerfully for God's work from what He has given them (2 Cor. 9:7). Moses used their gifts to build the tabernacle and its furniture as the LORD had told him in the mountain. Christians are to build Christ's church(es) as He has revealed to His disciples and to the apostle Paul.

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