

THE LAWS OF THE LORD

Lesson Aim: Understand the purposes of the LORD in giving His laws to us.

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 LORD brought His people to Mt Sinai where He offered them His laws, which they needed to accept to become His nation. They agreed to obey His laws, which became the constitution of their nation. They soon learned that they were unable to obey His laws and were guilty before Him. The law was given "that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom 3:19).

Why did the LORD give Israel His laws?

1. To reveal His holiness - Ex 19:3-20; Deut 5:1-29 . The preparation needed for receiving the LORD's laws and the words of His laws show the absolute holiness of His nature.
2. To restrain sinners from sinful actions - Lev 18-20
3. To expose the nature of sin - Rom 7:8-13
4. To give sinners the knowledge of sin - Rom 3:20
5. To make the sinner see his guiltiness before Him (the LORD) - Rom 3:19
6. To lead sinners to Christ for salvation from sin - Gal 3:24

What do the Ten Commandments tell us about God?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"You shall have no other gods before me."

"You shall not make . . . any graven image" (of me).

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain."

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

"Honor your father and your mother."

"You shall not kill. (murder) "

"You shall not commit adultery."

"You shall not steal."

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

"You shall not covet."

THE NATURE OF THE LORD

God is one

God is spiritual .

God is holy.

God gives rest

God shares His authority.

God is life.

God has faithful love

God owns all things

God is truth

God is gracious

(Use this chart to give you the answers to question #1 in the Student Lesson.)

What is the great commandment in the law? Mt 22:34-40

This is the question that a lawyer, skilled in the Mosaic law, asked Jesus in order to tempt Him. There were 613 laws and the religious leaders classified them as major laws or minor laws. Now, which of the

major laws was the greatest law? The lawyer presumably expected Jesus to name the first commandment: "You shall have no other gods before me." If He did, how could He claim to be the Son of God and one with the Father (Jn 10:30-31, 36-39)? Jesus' answer surprised him when He gave him the commandment to love the LORD your God with all your being (Mt 22:37; Deut 6:5) and said, "This is the first and great commandment (Mt 22:38). Then Jesus gave him the second great commandment that is like the first: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:39; Lev 19:18). On these two commandments hang all of the commandments (Mt 22:40). The first four of the Ten Commandments relate to our love for God and the next six relate to our love for our neighbor.

Do Christians sin when they do not keep the law of the Sabbath day? 20:8-11; Col 2:16-17

The Sabbath day signified a day of rest and is a sign between the LORD and Israel (Ex 31:13-17). As God rested from His creation work on the seventh day, so Israel was to rest from its work on the seventh day. It was a sign of the spiritual rest that Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, would provide for the salvation of all sinners that put their faith in His death and resurrection to reconcile them to God. Israel was to set this day apart for rest to remind them of the rest that God promised to give them. This promise of rest was not fulfilled when they entered Canaan, because David spoke of a day of rest that was still future (Ps 95:8-11; Heb 4:1-11). Now that true believers have entered that rest, they are not obligated to keep the Sabbath day. It was a shadow or a type of the rest that they have received in reality when they trusted Christ for salvation (Col 2:16-17). Christians worship God on the first day of the week because it was on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the grave to give us rest (Jn 20:19-23). It was also on the first day of the week that the Holy Spirit filled the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 41). The fruit of the Spirit is peace (Gal 5:22). That is the best kind of rest -- peace with God and peace with people. Paul met with the believers in Troas for seven days and it was on the first day of the week when the disciples broke bread (observed the Lord's Supper). On that day they heard Paul preach a long sermon to them (Acts 20:6-11). So the early church no longer kept the seventh day (Sabbath day) for worship of the Lord, but kept the first day of the week. It is well for us to do the same.