

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# What Keeping the Ten Commandments Does for You

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Romans 7:7-25

**1** Have you ever heard this response from anyone you were sharing your faith with, “Well, I keep the Ten Commandments and live by the Golden Rule”. I have always been tempted to ask (but I don’t), “By the way, could you recite the Ten Commandments for me?” If they don’t know the Lord, they have broken the first two!

“By the way, could you find the Ten Commandments in the Bible for me?” They probably don’t even know where the Book of Exodus is, let alone the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**2** The question then becomes, “What does keeping the Ten Commandments have to do with establishing a personal relationship with God?” **3** The biblical answer is, “Absolutely nothing!” **4** Why? Because the 10 Commandments are just a summary of the Law of Moses in the Old Testament of our Bible. They became obsolete, as far as establishing a relationship with God, when Lord Jesus went to the cross. **5** Colossians, Chapter 2, verses 13 and 14 says, **When**

**you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.**

**So, if that is true, <sup>6</sup> what can the Law of Moses do for you? Just as important, what can it not do for you?**

### **I. What Could the Law Do for You? – v7-13 <sup>7</sup>**

**What can the Law of Moses do for you? <sup>8</sup> We find in Romans, Chapter 7, verses 7 and 8, that it can show you what sin is. What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.**

**9** There are two words for “know” in the original language. **10** One means to know by observation. **1** You saw something happen or witnessed a person or event. You know it’s true because you saw it happen. **11** The word “know” in this passage, however, means to know because of personal experience. **2** This is how you know sin through the Law.

Here’s the example: **12** **You shall not covet.** **3** If you didn’t have the Law, you would have an excuse whenever you coveted. You could say, “I didn’t know any better!” But since the Law commands you not to covet, when you covet you commit sin knowingly and willingly. You are held responsible and declared guilty.

**13** The Law could have brought you life but, instead, it brought you death. Verse 9 continues, **Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment**

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<sup>1</sup> οἶδα.

<sup>2</sup> Γινώσκω.

<sup>3</sup> Exodus 20:17.

**came, sin sprang to life and I died.** <sup>14</sup> When you didn't know what sin was, you were justified by your ignorance. So you were "alive". You didn't feel guilty.

But here's the problem; although you were justified by your ignorance you couldn't be righteous. Being righteous means having a right relationship with God.

<sup>15</sup> The reason for this is God can't fellowship with sin!

<sup>16</sup> Isaiah, Chapter 59, verses 1 and 2, state, **Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.** <sup>17</sup> What you need is not just justification, you need righteousness. Your relationship with God is where your salvation comes from!

<sup>18</sup> When the Law shows you that what you are doing is sin, then when you sin you do so knowingly and willingly. The Law should have brought life to you by exposing the sin if you avoided the sin! By showing

**you what sin is, the Law makes you accountable when you do it!**

**19 How does the Law deceive you and kill you by simply exposing what sin is? Verses 10 and 11 tell us, I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.**

**20 The Jewish leaders took great pains to clarify what the Law of Moses was saying. They were very good at satisfying the legal demands of the Law. Lord Jesus told them, Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.<sup>4</sup> You can be really good at obeying rules and still ignore the ethical implications.**

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<sup>4</sup> Luke 11:42.

**21 Only Jesus satisfied both the legal and the ethical implications of the Law. That's why He was sinless!**

**22 Now verses 12 and 13, So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. Why was indwelling sin in the Apostle Paul working out death in him? Because, before he knew the Lord, Paul was under the Law of Moses. In order to be justified by the Law, you have to obey it perfectly. **23 James, Chapter 2, verse 10, For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. Paul didn't!****

**You see <sup>24</sup>, the failure of the Law was it could point out what sin was but provided no remedy for sinning! <sup>25</sup> Once the Law was broken, there was no way to restore the sinner!**

## II. What Could the Law Not Do for You – v14-

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Now that we know what the Law of Moses could do for you, verses 14 through 25 show us what the Law could not do for you. <sup>27</sup> It could not help you overcome sin!

<sup>28</sup> Verse 14 tells us, **We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.** This passage says Paul was “sold under sin”. Who sold him?

The word “sold” in the original language, could mean one of two things. <sup>5</sup> <sup>29</sup> This word can be translated “sold under sin” or <sup>30</sup> “sold myself under sin”. <sup>31</sup> I believe the Apostle Paul, just like all of us, sold himself by committing sin. He was the responsible

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<sup>5</sup> **Sold** (πεπραμένος) is a perfect participle of πιπράσκω. The verb ending can be either in the passive voice “sold under sin”, or the middle voice “sold myself under sin”.



one. He was the one accountable for the sins he committed! <sup>6</sup>

<sup>32</sup> How did he sell himself under sin? He yielded himself in obedience to it! <sup>33</sup> Romans, Chapter 6, verse 16, **Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?** <sup>34</sup> Sin, then, worked out evil in him! <sup>7</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Although the Law's purpose was to do good, it was designed to go no further than the intellect. <sup>36</sup> It was able to convince Paul that he was doing wrong. <sup>8</sup> <sup>37</sup> But the Law of God and the Law of Sin were present in

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<sup>6</sup> I realize I disagree with most of the Bible translators. Translators are influenced by their theology. So when they have the responsibility of translating God's Word they try to be as accurate to what they believe God intended as they can. When a word can convey two concepts, the translators rely on the convictions of their theology. They tend to come from a Calvinistic bent. I do not!

<sup>7</sup> v17 & 20 - As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me . . . Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>8</sup> v15-16 - I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

Paul at the same time. <sup>9</sup> <sub>38</sub> His weakness for sin overpowered his desire for good. <sup>10</sup> <sub>39</sub>

Here's the key! <sub>40</sub> The Law could expose sin, but it couldn't help him overcome it. He had to rely on his own efforts, his own strength! <sub>41</sub> However, when Paul became a Christian, he received the Holy Spirit to empower him to live life victoriously! <sup>11</sup>

There is a second thing the Law could not provide for you. <sub>42</sub> It could not rescue you from sin by providing forgiveness!

<sub>43</sub> The universal question throughout the ages has always been, **Who will rescue me from this body of death?** <sup>12</sup> The 10 Commandments were incapable of doing this! The overwhelming answer is <sub>44</sub> God has

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<sup>9</sup> v21-22 - So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law . . .

<sup>10</sup> v19 & 23 - For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing . . . but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

<sup>11</sup> Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>12</sup> v24.

**provided the remedy for sin by His grace through His Son Jesus Christ! <sup>13</sup>**

**45 You can't be good enough to get to heaven by obeying the 10 Commandments! You obey the 10 Commandments because you are already saved not in order to get that way! It's your expression of appreciation for the cross!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**

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<sup>13</sup> v25.