

Life-Study of Exodus Review – Messages 61-79

The Law

The **commandments** were given to bring the children of Israel into a position to know themselves as a **people who did not truly have a heart for God**, and to put them to a **test**. It **exposes** our sin, **subdues** us as sinners, **guards** us from sinning, and **brings** us to Christ. We are exposed and subdued by the law as the word of God in that it is spiritual, holy, just, and good. Although it was intended to **result** in life, it **cannot give** life of itself. Hence, when we rise up to attempt to keep the law of God, we **separate** the law from God Himself. God gives us a new **heart**, a new **spirit**, and even His **Spirit** which enable us to keep all of His commandments. We need to keep our **heart turned** to the Lord that we may behold and reflect as a mirror His glory. When our hearts are hardened and turned away, this ministry becomes one of **condemnation** and **death**. May we take the matter of our heart seriously. God's intention is to bring us to His mountain so that He could infuse us with Himself. However, if we have a heart of **indifference**, **turned away** from the Lord, there will be a **veil** over the glory of the Lord. We will be in the "night" of His word, and we will not receive the great blessing from Him.

The Ordinances

The ordinances are a **supplementary** part of the law and add details to the Ten Commandments. Concerning the worship of God, the ordinances tell us that we should have no **idols**, not worshipping **silver** or **gold**. They also tell us to worship God through the altar with the sacrifices, and to remember **only the name of the Lord**. The sequence of the ordinances concerning man's relationship with man is unusual in that the first ordinance concerns the relationship between a **master** and his **slave**. The only one who can fulfill all the ordinances of the law is one who is willing to be a slave. To be a slave is to have the spirit of **sacrifice**; the prerequisite of fulfilling the divine ordinances is **emptying, humbling, not claiming** anything for, and **sacrificing** ourselves to serve others. Continuing as a slave is not a legal requirement; it is a matter of **love**. Love is the basis of a slave's continued service. Today, our position as slaves of Christ should be at the doorpost, waiting for the master's orders. Only those who are willing to be slaves can remain permanently in the church life.

The Covenant

After the law was enacted, it became a **covenant**. Although the law was decreed on the mountain of God, there was still the need for the law with all its ordinances to be enacted. With the enactment of the law through Moses, there are particular, uncommon points. The **altar** indicates that the people of God needed to be **terminated** and **replaced** by the sacrifices. The altar symbolizing the **cross** indicates that we need to be redeemed, terminated, and replaced. The twelve **pillars** stand for **testimony**. The law was given that God's people might become God's testimony. The law was enacted with **burnt offerings** and **peace offerings**. The burnt offering was for **God's satisfaction**, and the peace offering was for **peace** between God and man. Christ became a feast for God and man to enjoy mutually. This is the Christ who has redeemed us, terminated us, and is now replacing us. The Bible first **reveals** to us what God is and then enables us to realize that we are **fallen, sinful, corrupted**, altogether **hopeless** and **helpless**. God is waiting of us to repent, turn to Him, and receive His redemption and forgiveness. Praise the Lord that He gave to us, through the blood, a new **heart, spirit, His Spirit**, and the **inward law of life**. By these things we have the ability of life to **know** God. Through the blood we are **redeemed, brought** to the tree of life, **led** to the waters of life, **ushered** into the holy of holies, enabled to **serve** the living God, and brought into the temple to enjoy God for eternity!