

## Old Testament ...

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Here are several truths about the Ten Commandments:

☞ Obedience to these ten commandments is necessary for all men to live together in unity. They are the moral laws that God has given man. If they are not followed, there will be problems in society.

If the sixth commandment is not honored, then anyone can kill anyone for any reason. When the seventh commandment is ignored, families will be destroyed by rampant adultery. If the eighth is not enforced or taught, then there will be no inhibitions preventing anyone from stealing what they want. On and on society will degrade, as it has today because the basic moral commandments are not universally followed in society.

☞ Following these commandments will not guarantee anyone Heaven. So many, when asked if they are bound for Heaven, declare they are because they obey the Ten Commandments. Surprisingly, few even know what they are and are shocked that there are over 600 of them.

We are in a different time — a different dispensation. We are not under God's law; we are under God's grace. The way to Heaven is trusting in Christ's payment for our sins, not anything we can do. The law was only intended to give Old Testament believer's a glimpse (a

shadow) of how perfect worship would one day be.

*"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."*

*Hebrews 10:1*

☞ These commandments give us an idea of what God likes and does not like. The desire of all Christians should be to please God. The commandments clearly show us the preferences and wisdom of the Creator.

Some say there are over 600 Old Testament commandments. It is nearly impossible to know all of them, let alone keep them all.

*"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."*

*James 2:10*

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## The Agonizing Death of Biblical Morality

*Bill Brinkworth*

Prosperity flourished after World War II. Soldiers returning from the war re-entered the workplace. Families grew. Educational institutes were filled with those that wanted to start new careers.

In those institutes, prosperity and betterment were an important focus. The need for spiritual things went by the wayside. Biblical principles that were instilled in lives for centuries were forgotten and discarded as rebuilding a nation was a priority.

Those that desired to prepare for the ministry went to colleges that were led by many that also forgot the importance of following the Biblical way. Many thought they knew better than what the Bible taught.

Justification for not obeying the Old Book flourished. Confusion brought about by changed,

modern "bibles" helped stoke confusion. Church leaders left those institutes with less faith and more doubts than they had when they entered the school.

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## Old Testament Commandments

*Bill Brinkworth*

There are many commandments in the Old Testament. I have found, after my attempt at counting them, that the amount depends on the counter and his criteria for what is considered to be a commandment from God.

Although my count is only in the 300's, and others have counted 603 and 613, we all have to agree that there are more than ten commandments that God has given men. The number ten somehow sticks in the mind of most people, and they think, along with their other misunderstandings of God's Old Testament commandments, that they are only responsible for some of those that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

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## The Agonizing Death ...

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The pulpits expounded the doubts and questions pastors had learned during their pastoral training. Pew sitters absorbed what came from the pulpit.

Soon more churches were teaching what congregations wanted to hear rather than what God wanted taught. Hellfire and brimstone preaching were replaced with sermons that would offend less and booster congregations. Less biblical truths were taught and even less believed.

That generation produced another generation that had even less biblical training. A new generation of churchgoers was lulled to sleep with powerless, social reform rather than biblical obedience and doctrine. Watered-down religion was producing little obedience to the Word of God and more questions and doubts.

The U. S. Supreme Court Engel vs. Vital case in 1962 ruled not to allow prayer in public schools. The following year the Supreme Court also ruled in the Abington School District vs. Schempp case to remove reading of the Bible in schools. Few objected, and one more nail in America's moral coffin was hammered down.

Churches were not preaching all the truths from the Bible, and now public schools had stopped. Parents, because of lack of proper teaching, were not grounded in Biblical truths and morals and

were unable to teach those truths to their children.

A liberal movement among young people started in the late 60's and early 70's. Rebellion against sexual morals and responsibilities of man and wife were questioned and changed. Pregnancies out of wedlock increased and they lost the stigma of shame.

Women's roles in the family changed. Child rearing was delegated to babysitters.

Marriages were fewer, and the divorce rate skyrocketed. Laws were changed to abort many of the unwanted babies that were the result of sex out of wedlock.

Biblical morals were further ignored, and everyone was "doing what felt good." Society suffered because all did what they thought was right.

*"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."*

*Pro. 21:2*

God's will and way were further ignored, ridiculed, and not known by many. To fill the void of missing moral guidelines and spiraling out-of-control lawlessness more laws were created.

Politicians now changed laws without the populous knowing what they were doing. Major

social changes, most going against God's commandments, were made law.

While hard-working people toiled at their jobs to pay for their lifestyle, many found ways to get government financial assistance without working. Politicians leaped at the opportunity of those that were slothful knowing that those that were dependent on government money would vote for them no matter what they tried to push on the people.

Since so many are not taught true history, practices that failed every time in the past are now being pushed by politicians, government schools, and a biased, liberal media. The U. S. Constitution is being frowned on. Socialism is considered. Personal freedoms are discarded as untrustworthy politicians exchange them for more "free" handouts.

Most are confused what is right and wrong because of all the changes. Since there are no longer social standards, personal opinions have become the governing voice. Citizens continue doing what they think are right even though society around them is deteriorating.

Crime will increase. Immorality will increase. More freedoms will be lost. More taboos will be removed, and a society that is bent on doing what it wants will breed chaos and anarchy.

The only hope for any society is to once again return to obeying God's law found in the Bible.

God's Word certainly has more than "Ten Commandments" but just obeying those few will renew some morality and order to society's destruction. Putting God first and obedience to His standards would also change so many attitudes.

Love would replace the selfish "me firsts." Concern and respect for others would reintroduce kindness among citizens. The value of human life will be restored. Right and wrong will again be clearly defined, and everchanging personal opinions will not be as important as they have become.

Nothing will ever improve in society unless the reading, believing, and obeying of God commandments is revived. God created man, and He knows best how His creation should live and what will harm mankind. God made sure we had his guidelines because he knows if they are not obeyed people will not be able to live together.

Man's way never works. As easy and as simple as it sounds, society will not improve until individuals take that first step.

Do not wait to follow others in returning to God-honoring, biblical morality. God and His desires have been mocked and ridiculed for too long. Let a revival in honoring God and His commandments begin with you.

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

*Gal. 6:7*

***"God's law detects.  
God's grace  
corrects!"***