

*“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine” - Exodus 19:5*

For nearly 2500 years the world operated devoid of written directions from the Creator. Now, at long last, God handed down a series of laws to the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments, the most prominent of these laws, were written by God on two tablets of stone. They were a visual reminder of God’s demand for a righteousness life. Moses also heard God express many other laws to him and these, largely, provided guidance on religious living, dietary constraints, and civil conduct. Moses taught all these laws to the people.

Our text makes known that “if” the Israelites obeyed this new covenant then they would become His people. When asked if they could fulfill these commandments *“...all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do...”* (Exodus 19:8). Human nature wants to contribute to its own salvation; hence, here was a seemingly perfect opportunity to do so by obeying the Law just given to them. Today, people still believe that if you try your best, in addition to being in faith, even if you often fail, God will be pleased with your effort and will forgive you on judgment day. This notion is not scriptural *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”* (James 2:10). As we know, the Israelites could not even keep the first commandment for forty days let alone the rest of them throughout their lives! Almost immediately, while Moses was gone, they made a golden calf and worshipped it in place of God.

The purpose of the Law quickly became evident, *“...for by the law is the knowledge of sin”* (Romans 3:20). In Egypt they worshipped idols, as did everyone else, but here it was sin. God did not intend for man to serve the Law, even in a partial manner, but that the Law would convict us of sin and bring us to the Gospel: *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith”* (Galatians 3:24).

God still promises to make a *“peculiar”* people of *“... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord...”* (Romans 10:13). Those that call upon the name of the Lord are they who have been convicted of sin by *“godly sorrow”* (2 Cor 7:10), have confessed that sin and have heard and believed the word of reconciliation, *“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”*

(Matthew 9:2). This way of salvation through the blood of Christ was determined by God before Creation, *“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied”* (1 Peter 1:2).

As it was at Creation, God still speaks to each person (that will listen to Him) through the Holy Spirit—that *“still small voice”* (1 Kings 19:12). And salvation today still comes through the blood. Had Israel been able to keep the covenant of works there would have been no need of Jesus to be crucified, *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second”* (Hebrews 8:7). The new covenant God has made with us is based solely on the atoning works of Christ, *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people”* (Hebrews 8:10). Thus, there has always been a law, just not one of works.

No person was ever saved by keeping the Law: its sole purpose was to reveal sin. *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon”* (Isaiah 55:6-7).

God’s Peace,  
Charles Korhonen

May 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
May 12	Jesse Mattson	
May 17	Andy Kandoll/Ken Storm	7pm
May 18	Andy Kandoll/Chad Kuivanen	2pm
May 18	Andy Kandoll/Ivan Niemela	6pm
May 19	Andy Kandoll/Ken Storm	11am
May 19	Andy Kandoll/Charles Korhonen	2pm
May 26	Chad Kuivanen	

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am  
Church at 11:00am  
Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

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