The Ten Commandments

• Why did God give the commandments?
• Can I go to heaven if I follow them?
• What if I break the commandments?
• How can I be forgiven of my sin?

Look inside for the answers to these questions!
There is a lot of confusion about the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God. Many people believe that they must follow the Law so that they can go to heaven, but the Bible does not say that!

1 Timothy 1:8 states, “But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully.” The Ten Commandments are good if you use them the right way, but some people use them the wrong way. God never intended for us to keep them in an effort to go to heaven. So why were the Commandments given?

The Commandments show our SIN
Romans 3:20 states, “…for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” The Commandments were given to show us that we are sinners. I Timothy 1:9 also proves this, “Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners…” The Commandments do not take away our sin, they show us our sin!

The Commandments show our SUFFERING
Galatians 3:10 says, “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” There is a curse on all people who have not kept the Commandments. What is that curse? Spiritual death is the curse! “For the wages of sin is death…” (Romans 6:23) “…the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:4)

The fact is, all have sinned and all have broken these Commandments. There is not one person alive that has kept all of the Commandments. All men are under the curse of death in hell for breaking God’s Commandments.

Trying to follow the Commandments does not remove the guilt and does not remove the curse! The Commandments give us no hope. In 2 Corinthians 3:7, the Commandments are called “the ministration of death.”
The Commandments show our STUMBLING

Many people believe that if they try to keep the Commandments, God might have mercy on them and forgive them. This is never taught in the Bible. The opposite is taught. In fact, there are two things that the Law cannot do.

1. **The Law cannot forgive sin.** Galatians 2:16 says that “...a man is not justified by the works of the law.” Justified is another word for forgiveness. God says no person can be forgiven by the Commandments! (See also Galatians 3:11, 5:4; Romans 3:20, 3:28)

2. **The Law cannot give righteousness.** We know that we cannot go to heaven unless we are righteous. Some hope to become righteous by trying to keep the Law. God warns us of this error in Galatians 2:21, “...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” If you think that you can become righteous by following the Commandments, you are replacing Christ’s work on the cross with your works. Only Jesus can make you righteous, not your works! Maybe you are trusting the wrong thing. You need to change your mind and trust Christ instead of the Ten Commandments. Jesus cannot help you as long as you are trusting the Law. “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law” (Galatians 5:4)

The Commandments show us the SAVIOUR

We just stated that the Law cannot forgive sins and it cannot give righteousness. The good news is that Jesus can! The most important lesson of the Law is that we are sinners and need Jesus to forgive us. Galatians 3:24-25 states, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” The Law is only a teacher. It shows us our need of Jesus. We cannot earn forgiveness for our sins, but He can give us forgiveness as a free gift. “…the gift
of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) If you receive Jesus today, He will give you eternal life. If you try to earn heaven by doing the good works of the Commandments, you cannot go. Salvation is a gift, not a debt.

If you receive Jesus, you will have “his righteousness for the remission [forgiveness] of sins” (Romans 3:25) Jesus gives forgiveness and righteousness. The Commandments cannot do that. Which do you want to trust for your salvation?

You cannot go to heaven if you trust the wrong thing. If you have been trusting the Commandments, you are not saved. Will you repent right now and trust only Jesus for your salvation?

If so, you may pray this prayer of faith: Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and deserve punishment in hell for my sin. I have stopped trusting the Commandments and my good works to save me. I now trust only you, Jesus. Please come into my life, forgive my sin, and give me your righteousness so that I can go to heaven. Thank you! Amen.

If you have decided to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour after reading this tract, please write and let us know.

Name __________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ Zip ______________

State ___________________________ Age ________