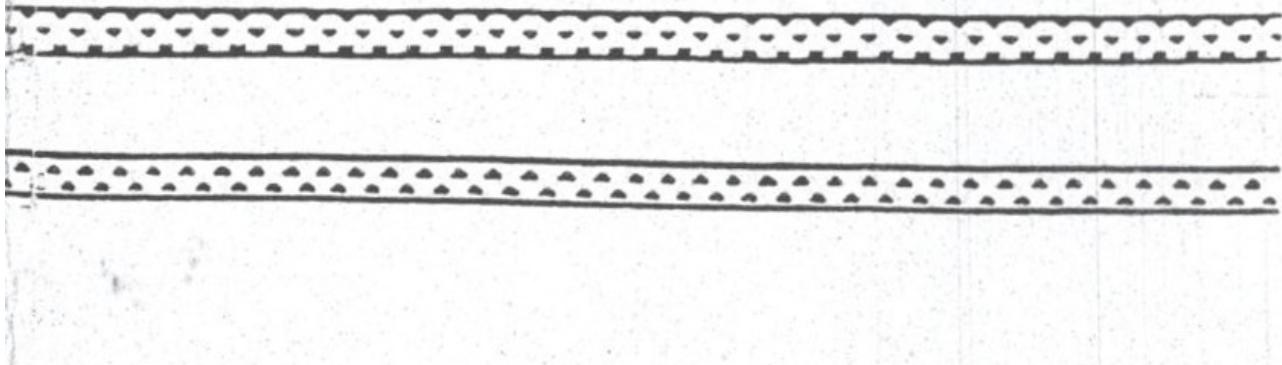


The Law of God Versus the Devil's Scrapbook



The Law of God Versus the Devil's Scrapbook

Yes, the devil has a "Scrapbook." He has been putting notes in it for nearly 6,000 years. Did you ever see it or read it?

He uses it as a handbook of ready references for his ministers. It has many Scriptural references in it and the notes therein are so arranged that honest people are often found using it, or extracts from it, not realizing how they are being misinformed and misled.

There is only one safe way to keep from getting some of the devil's scrapbook mixed up in your theology. Christ tells us what to do. "Search the scriptures..." (John 5:39) And Paul says: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Thess. 5:21) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine..." (II Tim. 3:16)

But if Satan uses the Scriptures in his scrapbook, how are we to know when we have the truth? Let Paul answer this! "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly diving the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15) There is perfect harmony throughout the Bible and they do not teach contradictory doctrines.

We find Christendom today teaching a mass of conflicting doctrines and all claim the Bible as authority. The Bible is truth. (John 17:17) A lot of people, though some are honest in it, are wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction as Peter said they would. (II Peter 3:15-18) Satan is a very religious fellow, having transformed himself "into an angel of light." His "deceitful workers" are transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." (II Cor. 11:13-14) These are the ministers of Satan, who pose as teachers of the gospel, using

the Word of God deceitfully, wresting it so as to pervert the gospel of Christ. (II Peter 2:1-3; Gal. 1:6-8) Even in Paul's day such deceitful workers were subverting whole houses for filthy lucre (money). (Titus 1:10-11) In Matthew 4:5-7, we have an example of how Satan misapplies the Scriptures.

Let us look into a few extracts from this "Scrapbook." Satan is a great teacher of liberty. People like the easy road and Satan "Promises them liberty," thus enticing "those that were clean escaped from them who live in error." (II Peter 2:18) This liberty is promised those who are the servants of corruption or sin. "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption." "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." (verses 19, 21)

Satan told mother Eve she wouldn't die if she broke the positive commandment of God, but he lied and death came upon the whole human family as a result. (Gen. 3:14-20; Rom. 5:12) Thus the whole race of mankind came into bondage of sin and death. (Heb. 2:14-15; Eph. 2:1-5) But still Satan preaches liberty from God's law. Scriptures are cited to prove Christ abolished the Ten Commandments and gave us liberty (?). This is Note No. 1 in the "Scrapbook."

Note No. 1: The law was contrary to us and abolished and for proof he cites Colossians 2:14-16 and Ephesians 2:15. Then to climax this Galatians 5:1-4 is cited: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled with the yoke of bondage." "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Answer: This argument is used by many professed Christians against our keeping the Ten Commandments which God wrote upon two tables of stone and added no more at Mt. Sinai. (Ex. 20:1-17) Will the reader please turn and read the Ten Commandments as given by God Himself in Exodus 20. Now compare that with Colossians 2:14 where Paul speaks of Christ blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that were against us and contrary to us.

Are the Ten Commandments, the law referred to here? "Thou shalt not steal." Is that contrary to Christians? "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Is that contrary to Christians? The answer is no! A thousand time, No! Christ taught obedience to that law from the heart (see Matt. 5:27-28), and said it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail. (Luke 16:17)

The fact is that all admit that nine of the Ten Commandments are for Christians to obey. If nine are to be kept and are not contrary to us, then we are forced to conclude that Colossians 2:14 did not refer to the Ten Commandments at all. If the Sabbath command were not in God's law no one would argue that the law was abolished by Christ. Satan knows that if we break one we are guilty of all. (James 2:10-12) Yes, and James quotes two of the Ten Commandments to show what law of liberty. "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (verse 12) Again in James 1:25, he calls it "the perfect law of liberty."

The liberty in Christ (Gal. 5:1) is not liberty to sin and disobey this perfect law, but it is freedom from sin through faith. (Romans 6:17-18) Jesus came to take away our sins - not to take away God's perfect law. Since we have found that the Ten Commandments are a perfect law and that Christians

are to be judged by it, how can we believe that Paul referred to it in Colossians 2:14, where he speaks of a law contrary to us and that Jesus blotted it out? How could it be the law in Ephesians 2:15, that was abolished. The same writer says of God's perfect law, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." (Rom. 3:21)

A law that is established by faith is surely not abolished. A law that is holy, just and good is not contrary to us. A law of liberty is not a yoke of bondage as Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:1-4. The fact is that Paul is speaking of two distinct laws in his writing.

One is the Ten Commandments, the perfect law of liberty that defines sin and judges men, while the one that is contrary to us, a yoke of bondage and was abolished by Christ, was the law of Moses written in a book that governed the animal sacrifices from Moses to Christ. (Heb. 9:1-10) This law was a schoolmaster whose term expired with Christ's death. (Gal. 3:19-26) Send for the tract on "The End of the Law.")

The Jews who were converted to Christ sometimes thought they ought to continue to offer animal sacrifices and circumcise their children according to the law of Moses in order to obtain justification. This is what Paul had reference to in Galatians 5:1-4. Such a belief showed a lack of faith in the atonement through Christ. We are now justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of that law. (Rom. 5:1-2) The Ten Commandments give a knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20) and the gospel gives the remedy, which the law of Moses could not do. (Acts 13:39; Heb. 10:4)

Note No. 2: Jesus abolished the Law but re-established nine of the Ten Commandments.

Answer: Where do the Scriptures teach such a doctrine? Jesus told us not to think He came to destroy the law. He further said that till heaven and earth pass away (Matt. 5:17-23) one jot or tittle would not pass from the law until all be fulfilled. The old prophet said he would magnify the law, not abolish it. (Isa. 42:21) Jesus, Himself, kept them all. (John 15:10) We are to follow His steps, walking even as He walked. (John 8:12; I John 2:4-6; I Peter 2:21-22) Yes, He even kept the Sabbath (Luke 4:16), and taught it. "The Sabbath was made for man." (Mark 2:27; Matt. 24:20)

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, not the law of God. (I John 3:8) Paul said, "For if I build again the thing which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." (Gal. 2:18) If the Ten Commandments were abolished they remained so, but the above argument admits nine are binding. If nine are, all are.

Note No. 3: We are not under the law, but under grace. (Rom. 6:14) Therefore we don't have to keep the law.

Answer: Let us apply that argument, my dear friends, to the Ten Commandments, for that is the law argued against. The law says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," but we are not under the law, but under grace, therefore there is no restriction against Christians lying against their neighbors. The same rule would apply to "Thou shalt not kill." How would that harmonize with I John 3:15-16, where we are told that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him?

"Oh," someone says, "we would not kill, or lie or steal; we all know that is wrong." But how do you now it? "By the law is the knowledge of sin." (Rom. 3:20) "Where no law is, there

is no transgression." (Rom. 4:15) "Sin is the transgression of the law." (I John 3:4; Rom. 7:7) Is grace a license to sin? Does grace free us from our obligation to keep God's law? Or does it just free us from the Sabbath command?

Now let Paul answer this. A sinner is a transgressor of the law. (I John 3:4) Who is under grace, the sinner or the one who has been made free from sin and lives obedient to God's law? "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid, How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein." (Rom. 6:1-2) How dare you do the very thing God forbids? These verses teach that those under grace are dead to sin and forbidden of God to continue therein.

Now who was Paul speaking of in verse 14? "For sin shall not have dominion over you for ye are not under the law, but under grace." "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." (verse 15) Please notice that the ones not under the law but under grace are those who are not sinners, for sin does not have dominion over them. They do not sin or transgress God's law, and are under the grace or favor of God. "...Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life..." (Rom. 5:21) Sin and grace do not and cannot reign at the same time. "He that committeth sin is of the devil..." (I John 3:8) Grace means love or favor.

The phrase under the law means condemnation by it. The law-abiding citizen is under grace (favor) as long as he obeys the law, but when he breaks the law, he is no longer under grace, but under the law and must pay the penalty.

Note No. 4: That old law written on tables of stone, Paul says was done away. (II Cor. 3:7-8)

Answer: This is the big point with many because of a lack of understanding of the Old Testament. Space will not permit a lengthy answer but we will look into this briefly. "But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away." (II Cor. 3:7)

Please notice first, that this verse says nothing about the law being done away. The first identification says, "the ministration (administration) of death" which was written upon "stones." Please notice it did not say tables of stone. When the Ten Commandments are referred to it always says stone (singular) not plural. Notice also that it was the glory of Moses' countenance or ministration that was to be done away. Keep that in mind.

The Ten Commandments were given and written by God. (Deut. 4:12-14; 5:22; Ex. 24:12) They were not Moses' administration, neither were they an administration of death. They merely define sin; Moses' law written in a book (Deut. 31:24-26; Ex. 24:1-10) was an administration enforcing obedience to the law of God under penalty of death in Israel. (Read Deut. 21:18-22; 22:22-23; Lev. 24:16-17) Sacrifices were made for sins of ignorance. (Lev. 4:13-35)

When Joshua led Israel across Jordan, he built an altar of whole stones and wrote on them a copy of this book of the law of Moses. (Joshua 8:31-35) Here was where this ministration of death was written upon whole stones, not tables of hewn stone as were the Ten Commandments. Read II Cor. 3:8-10,

which shows that Moses' administration ended and Christ's took its place. Under Christ, God writes His law in our hearts. (II Cor. 3:3; Jer. 31:31-33) Thus we see it was Moses' administration and not God's law that was done away.

SCRAPBOOK.MSW/CW5

THE CHURCH OF GOD
7th Day
909-943-1996

THE CHURCH OF GOD 7th DAY
World Headquarters
P.O. Box 10184
Jerusalem,
Israel.