

Red Letter Edition

What did Jesus Say?

"On the Law (Part Four)"

Don C Harris

The Old Testament is a wonderful source to learn the mind of our Father, Yehovah. He reveals Himself in His Commandments. What is important to Him is a mystery to most of us modern-day "New Testament" Christians.

- Why would He care if we had two different kinds of cloth in one garment?
- Why not boil a kid in its mother's milk?
- Why not charge interest to family members?

I wanted to get to know the God of the Bible. I wanted answers. I have found that there are easy answers and there are correct answers. The easy answers are given freely by many of the clergy; the correct ones come through meditation and prayer. The easy answers line the bookshelves in bookstores; the correct ones are written in our heart by God.

Somehow, I knew that getting to know God would be done through the knowledge and subsequent obedience to His Law. I not only wanted to know God; I wanted to be acceptable to him. I wanted grace to accord forgiveness for only that sin which I could not avoid.

Also, I wanted to come face to face with who I was in God's eyes and make whatever changes I could to be what He wanted me to be. I had no delusions of "*working for salvation*" or "*bypassing faith in Christ*" I just did not want to displease the God and Father of my Lord Jesus. I did not want to forget "*what manner of man*" I was.

This principle, outlined in James 1:22-24, is making a point that is easily overlooked by the casual reader. When we only make ourselves aware of the Law (The Word written in tablets of stone and now in our hearts) but we do not DO it, we make ourselves hearers and not doers.

There are many New Testament Christians who are aware of the Law.

There are many who are under the false impression that it has passed into uselessness, or even has taken on a harmful effect to those of us under grace in Christ. These are as a man, beholding his face in a mirror, who, when he is gone his way, immediately he forgets what kind of man he is. They forget the pit from whence they are digged, and what is worse, they deceive their own selves.

Look at this Scripture again carefully:

James 1:22-25, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

- Are you a doer of the law of liberty?
- Do you continue therein?

Many of us have been told the law is a grievous taskmaster that weighs heavily on the shoulders of the one under it.

Why then does the Apostle call it the law of liberty?

His commandments are not grievous to us when we are sure that God is concerned with cultivating good and righteousness in us. His commandments are a source of guidance that can be trusted and we can begin to know intuitively.

They most certainly are not grievous; they become a source of life.

They show the heart of God and thus give us a philosophy that eventually becomes a pathway to follow in order to live in a way that pleases Him.

Example: When I was building onto my house and the unfinished deck protruded out and over a steep hill. A dangerous fall could occur for some unsuspecting soul walking off the edge of this deck. I remembered that the Scriptures said, "*When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.*" Deuteronomy 22:8. Can you see the heart of God here? The reader who doesn't want to build a guard railing may think God is imposing His will, or rationalize that this Scripture is not for us today. (This rationale is familiar.) However, one may look at this as God caring for your neighbor's life and knows the sorrow one would feel when responsible for another's death. I see it as that God wants to awake a careful attentiveness to the dangers created for others and make every effort to prevent our "good" (the building of a new house) from becoming someone else's disaster. What a nice view into the very heart of God.

This is only one example of God's goodness found in His law. *He allows us, by His Law, to peek into His mind and by this understanding an intimate relationship begins to form.* When these times of familiarity present themselves to me, it is as close as I ever come to feeling God's smile.

To be continued....

Friendly,
Don C. Harris

ThINKer's Thoughts:

From the Ministry of Obedience: Nigeria

"The fantasy of being saved and corresponding actions.

The human race is a race that needs salvation and it doesn't matter how we view it, that person who came, preached, died and resurrected is someone we all need to listen to.

The outbursts that happened towards Nigerians living in South Africa, and others living in other parts of the world is a pointer to us that we all need salvation.

You will agree with me that many so-called religious people engaged in one form of lynchings or the other. A good example is Paul in the Book of Acts. He was a witness to some people's act of lynching. It didn't start in South Africa or Nigeria, it is an old disease.

Why and how can a mob lay hands on one person and end their life? How does it happen? Many of those present at that point are religious in one form or the other.

Is it not high time we accepted that our religion is actually killing us? Is it not time we saw the need to repent and turn to God? Why do we become diplomatic with truth and pretend as if our religion and denominations are ok and fine? The fruit we produce is bad and rotten.

We are not ok and fine. What happened in South Africa happened in Rwanda many years ago and still happens all over the world - such thing can only happen where the Spirit of God is absent. This is a true saying, the Spirit of God is absent in so many places and the earlier we know this and repent, the better.

Check your hearts and minds and see if you are in the faith - examine yourself daily and see if truly you can lay hold of a man or woman and end their life with a blow of a weapon.

Can you kill a defenseless soul? Can you assume a divine judge and in a split second determine if someone deserves to die? This hopeless state of the human mind needs a total turn around.

Our vigils are a hoax. Our revivals as a show of shame. Our worship is a waste of time and energy and our pilgrimages are false and powerless.

Our members are or form part of those who lynch people on our streets.

Our religion is a shame to humanity. We have lost our sense of righteousness. We all need to be saved from the mind of sin, the man of sin has had our minds in his hands and we need to deliver ourselves from him. Not by going to places of worship but by going INSIDE.

Yes, introspective action is what we need today. We need to shut out the noise around us that feed us daily with this selfish virus. The TV and social media are the worst things that have happened to us in this generation. We have lost our humanity and we see nothing wrong in murder anymore.

Many of us do not even investigate anything before taking action or attacking others. Many of us are lost and worse still, we do not know we are lost until this virus bursts out of us one day.

God has sent His Voice to the earth - may we listen."

Ministry of Obedience (M.O.B.) Nigeria ~ Sanni

EXTRA, EXTRA!

"Are you working to be better next year? This message is for you."

At Think Red Ink Ministries we're thinking about next year. We know it's difficult to make a timely change in the celebration of the birth of Christ when we learn His *birth-day comes early!* We are not accustomed to celebrating on the calendar of YHVH. The Gregorian calendars on our mobile phones and walls unanimously declare the birth of Christ to be December 25 - every year!

We invite you to be proactive. Put out your nativity sets and practice your part for the Christmas play. But, don't ignore the budding desire you have to worship God in Spirit and Truth, according to His ways and not those of tradition.

Share the Feast of Tabernacles Red Letter Academy: "Mary's Christ-math" with your friends and family. Then, go ahead, mark your calendar for Christ's birth-day celebration in October 2020. We'll celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with you.

Friendly,
Don

RED LETTER ACADEMY:

**Mary's Christ-Math
(Jesus' Birthday)**



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*Are you watching YouTube? KAZQ? GLC? Got questions? Write me. Thanks,
Don.*