

Red Letter Edition

What did Jesus Say?

"On the Law (Part Six)"

Don C Harris

What We Can Do

When it comes to obeying God's law, it seems a simple thing. He says do it, so you do. He says don't do it, so you don't. Yet, it is not that with which we are in agreement that we have a problem, it is against that which we find difficult or unimportant or inconvenient that we tend to rebel. Again, God's grace is for those of us who try and fail.

- But what grace is found for those who don't care?
- Or those that don't try?
- Or those out of rebellion, who don't even make attempt to find that they are in transgression?

Let us try and fail. It is better than not trying at all.

The tithe is such a good example of God making a stiff requirement of us that is thoroughly fair and can be universally applied. It requires 10% of what we have been given or "from our increase." It makes no demand upon those who have nothing and makes fair demand upon the ones who have. If it were a predetermined fee, the amount could be considered a pittance to the rich while the same amount would be a fortune to the poor. But he made it perfectly fair. He didn't require it from folks who no longer had it because it was spent, nor did he require it in advance of receiving it; the tithe was due at the time that the increase occurred. One can find no suitable reason not to tithe. It is fair, timely, and affordable. It is something that we can do. But should we? When someone asks, why should we tithe, I must ask, why not? The only reason I can think of not to tithe is, I would rather have my money than give it away.

Bad reason -- I'll tithe.

Let us digress for a moment to the subject of the innate desire to serve or prove our faith. This answered for me a quandary proposed by those who think tithing was an Old Testament doctrine that has no place in modern Christianity. They say one tenth is not enough. They say, "We are to give all not just a tenth." After all God gave His only Son to you and therefore we should be willing to give everything to Him. Well, this is a touching sentiment, and it probably will sound good through a speaker system, but can we to bring that idea to fruition? How are we to know that we have been obedient? How is one to carry out such a ludicrous doctrine? How are we supposed to know that we have done that which is our duty to do? Our assurance comes from knowing that if the Lord wanted 40% that He would have said so. If he wanted 60% or 80% or 110% He would have said so. But that is not what He said. He said 10%. I say, *"Thank you Father, for making it so plain. - I'll tithe."*

Remember the error of Cain. Both of the brothers made sacrifice. Both gave, one God's way - one his own way. No mention was made in the story about the amount of Cain's sacrifice, or of Abel's. It is our creaturely greed and pride that make us think in terms of quantity. "The bigger the better," we say. ***God is not looking for His bank balance to increase; He is looking for an obedient people.*** We must do what He asks, because what we want, no matter how motivated, or how it is initiated, is still what we want. We think quantity, while He seeks quality.

If we approach the law with the attitude that we will do whatever we want to do, only that which benefits us will be done. If we approach the law with the attitude that we will do whatever we can do, there will be a lot more done than anyone can realize. Think of the money problems that would virtually disappear if we simply took on the tithe as something we want to do. Think of the alleviation of debt that we would enjoy if we lent money WITHIN the Church at no interest and practiced the year of jubilee and the years of release. No doubt, as the Scriptures in the footnotes are read, there will be those who say

that they never knew these Scriptures were in the Bible. But they are there ... in your Bible; and most of them are easy to understand and to follow.

If we approach the Old Testament as a revelation into the mind and personality of God, and not as an antiquated rule book for the Jews, we will be more compelled to find ways to obey. Some of these things are easy and some will make drastic changes in your lifestyle. Some will add to your financial acumen and some will cost you more than you may be willing to pay. I am sure all the laws will effect people differently, but if we can do it, we should do it -- let's approach obedience to the law with the attitude: if I can I should.

It is not only the Law of the Old Testament that has something to offer, the prophets are equally rich. When I read the prophets who spoke for God and listen as they delineate the concerns that He has, I see a way to please Him. Example: Exodus 23:13, *"And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth."*

This was the motivation for Quakers not to use the god's names for the days and months. They insisted on using the Bible names such as First day instead of the Sun-day named by Constantine in 325 AD for the venerable day of the Sun.

I thought to myself, *"I can do this."* I can do this for the lover of my soul. If He doesn't like me to use the names of other gods, I won't. One may say that it is unimportant, but according to Scripture, it is important. One may think that grace is in place for things like this. This might be true if you had no Scriptures to tell you differently. But we can do this, and we should.

There is a host of things we can do to bring our lives into line with the Scriptures.

- Why do we not at least try?
- Can we be faithful to Truth if we don't even try?

What We Cannot Do

As one looks at the Law, one will inevitably come to a point that goes against what the Spirit of Christ has placed in our heart.

One of the particulars of the law with which I have found difficulty is the part that requires the death penalty, i.e. disobedient children. In those days, even adultery was punishable by death. How are we to obey these laws? First, I think we should gain the understanding of the severity of these offenses. These are not "natural" offenses to be overlooked and pardoned, but sins to be dealt with severely. To miss that fact is a mistake in itself. Also, there are differences today that make these things difficult to enforce or practice. One difference is that God is not speaking to us today by Prophets and Apostles and burning bushes. He now has spoken to us by His Son who has made mercy plain to us and has mandated forgiveness. This is not to say that we are to tolerate sin, but rather to say that we are to leave judgment to God. On one occasion, the Apostle Paul gave some to Satan for their destruction. The understanding of this must come from being an Apostle, for I do not pretend to have it.

We also must understand that condemnation is not for us to effect upon the world. Even as Christ was not willing to condemn a world that was condemned already, we should not be so quick to do so. *We are all living under a death penalty and in need of appeal.* Without God to say publicly, "stay now thine hand." It is not the duty of Christians to execute the lawless. This is something I feel I cannot do. Some things in the Law we simply will not have clearness to perform. These are things we cannot do. We should never go against a clear conscience. Some will argue that if one does not carry out the letter of the Law they are breaking the law. This cannot be true for we see Christ forgiving rather than executing one adulterer caught in the very act.

Here are some things we cannot do:

- We cannot redeem ourselves.
- We cannot live in such a way so as to affect our own salvation.
- We cannot do so many good things that God will say, *"Well done thou good and faithful servant."*
- We cannot "lay-up" good deeds to counteract the bad deeds and effectively earn a place in the Kingdom of God.
- We cannot please God as Christ did.
- Nor can we go on with our lives doing whatever we want and expect that we are pleasing God, never considering whether or not our lives fall within the divine Law, or how our lives conform to His divine will.

What a wonderful expression of devotion is a life conforming to God's divine Law. "Oh how love I thy law," the Psalmist writes. How many of us can say that in sincerity? Today, we must use the law as an avenue of understanding God's way and guiding us down a path of obedience that can only make our Christian life more fulfilling and rich.

Consider the instruction Paul gave in 1 Timothy 1:8, "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully"; Let us use it lawfully, and not expect to be justified by anything other than the precious blood of Christ. Let us use it lawfully to show us how to live in His constant pleasure.

To be continued...

Don C Harris

"Christian? ...spell that with a 'K'."

(A YouTube Feature from TRI for you.)



ThINKer's Thoughts:

THINKER IN NM: I have now listened to all your [Word of God Series on KAZQ 32] and am certain that Gods commandments are necessary for hearing Gods voice. Being now retired, my days are now pretty much the same as any other day. Sure I have some "honey do" jobs around the house every day except on the Sabbath. My question to you is, do you think its work to drive from Rio Rancho to Santa Fe on Saturday? It is something that I have to do for the family. I don't work only drive.

REPLY FROM DON: It's great to hear from you again. Personally, I do not have a conviction about driving on the Sabbath day, but there are times when I am prompted that it is not the thing to do. I want to share what a very wise man said in answer to my question about work on the Sabbath (which was very similar to yours). Though I received his answer years ago, it has served me well. He said simply ask yourself, "Can this be done another day? If the answer is yes, do it another day. If the answer is no, then do it."

The Lord God did not give us the Sabbath to make our life restricted and smaller, He gave it to us as a gift. What day will we give Him, if Jesus is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath, and all he asked is that we not do our vocational labor. We should be able to do that. Since you are retired, you'll find that your vocation has little to do with your weekly activities. Most of all, don't offend your conscience. Don't be surprised if the response is okay for something one time, and then, the next time it is not okay. Our Lord Jesus is alive. You'll find that keeping

the Sabbath is a great exercise for you to learn to pay attention to your conscience and to spend time before the Lord. This is your beginning. It's a wonderful time and you'll find His commandments not to be difficult for you. You will not be the same man a year from today. If we give the Lord His Sabbath and listen for His voice...Wow! This is great news.

PS. You can expect to receive persecution in this area. It's a sign you are on the right track and that your witness to others is growing. Let others try to show their faith without obedience; you will be able to show your faith by what you do.

When I saw the new month last night (evening), I knew I would get a mail from you today. It is a joy to witness another month knowing that Mr. Don is getting better.

Ministry Update:

This past period, I engaged many of my church friends in a discussion about "christmas".

I discovered:

1. That many don't really care what I had to say.
2. The few that cared, actually listened but I could see that it would take time for some re-adjustments to happen on their part.
3. Some were just indifferent, while
4. Some tried to discuss in favor of keeping this pagan holiday.

ALL of the groups mentioned above ARE professing Christians and acclaimed followers of the "Word of God". Well, at this point, let me say again: I thank God YHVH that I met Mr Don. I also had same discussion with close family members and they saw reason! Especially when I showed them the truth of Tabernacles (God with us). What was I looking for? I just wanted them to stop and THINK a little about what they read in scripture. Family members all agreed that maybe we got it wrong at some point. To me, that was all what I needed to hear from them. I should also say at this point that Mr Don taught me that He (The Lord) is alive and still speaks. He leads, He guides, He talks and...I just know it. He doesn't even speak English but when He speaks, I hear.

I hope all is well with TRI and the wonderful team you have there? I always pray for God's face to shine on you all. Mr. Don, I am not afraid when I hear about your health. Rather, I am thankful for what God has done, and will still do through you. To me, that is more important. Be strong sir. We your children are praying for you. We are with you. Enjoy the peace of our Lord Jesus.

~ ThINKer in Nigeria

Grateful.

What am I thinking? Just thankful for the favor God showed me, by giving me His seed of the Holy Spirit. I've experienced the effects that come from nurturing and caring for that seed. How it has grown in me and changed my life forever. I thank you for the lesson on 'Who's My Mother'? That is very good. I am a teacher of God's Word and am always willing to glean from others.

~ ThINKer in NC

So, so sorry about the set back in your health and hope and pray for much improvement. ...In my prayers for you, I always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints. (Col. 1:3)

~ ThINKer in TX

I really enjoyed your program tonight. Loving one's neighbor is very important topic and commandment we're all instructed by Jesus to commit ourselves too. I enjoy your laid back and simplistic rhetoric. "Taking time to hear the voice of God"...very profoundly stated, and how true.

~ ThINKer in TX

I did enjoy reading this email that you just sent out [RLEzine Dec 2019]. I am sorry to hear

that you have had some health problems. I hope you can recover. ...My husband I and met you at McMinnville during a feast. During this feast there was a man who came there and brought his telescope. Blessing to you!

~ ThINKer in TN

[Re: On the Law (Part 5)] Good email Don!!!!

~ ThINKer in MT

I just received your Red Letter Edition email called "On the Law (part Five)". Boy that's good stuff! Thanks for sharing this important message. Would it be possible for you to send me the first four parts (Red Letter Edition emails) of this continuing series on "the Law"? [Note: The prior four months RLEzine included parts 1-4. At the end of the series TRI will make an "On the Law" video available to ThINKers.]

~ ThINKer in TX

Always good to hear from you! Amazing how you keep going! I re-read the books and re-listen to The DVDs you have so generously sent me. Most times it comes with more and new revelation! It amazes me how you find time to do all you do! Wish there was something I could do to help! We are few and far between. Hope to meet you one day soon! Much love and abundant blessings in YAHUSHUA.

~ ThINKer in SA

Are you making time to watch the new "Words of Jesus" series?



We are excited to feature these *NEW* - never before heard messages from Think Red Ink Ministries. The "**Words of Jesus**" programs are broadcast daily on **GLC** and **KAZQ 32**.

This series is broadcast - every day (Monday-Friday) at 10:30 AM and 10:30 PM on **GLC (God's Learning Channel)** in Midland, Texas. You do not have to be in the GLC broadcast area, (*though you can see the show there*); you don't have to have ROKU and the GLC channel (*though you can see the show there*); you don't have to have an internet connection (*though you can see the show there*). The GLC stream is high quality and easy to find. But, you don't have to look for it, simply copy this link:

<https://GLC.US.COM/>

The **Words of Jesus** program also continues to broadcast on Alpha-Omega Television Broadcasting on **KAZQ TV 32** and sub-channels. Look for KAZQ TV 32 on your cable company schedule or on DISH. The **Words of Jesus** program airs daily at 3:00 PM (Monday-Friday) with a bonus show at 3:00 PM on Sundays. You can also watch online at the below link:

<https://KAZQ32.ORG/>

*"We are so thankful for all of the wonderful things happening here at Alpha-Omega Broadcasting and the privilege of partnering with "Think Red Ink" as we air your telecast on **KAZQ TV-32 [daily at 3:00 PM]**. We are*

always pleased to be able to air quality programs such as yours and look forward to continuing to work with your ministry. ...Know that we are praying for your ministry in the work you are doing for Jesus Christ."
- Brenton Franks, President Alpha-Omega Broadcasting KAZQ 32



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Don.*