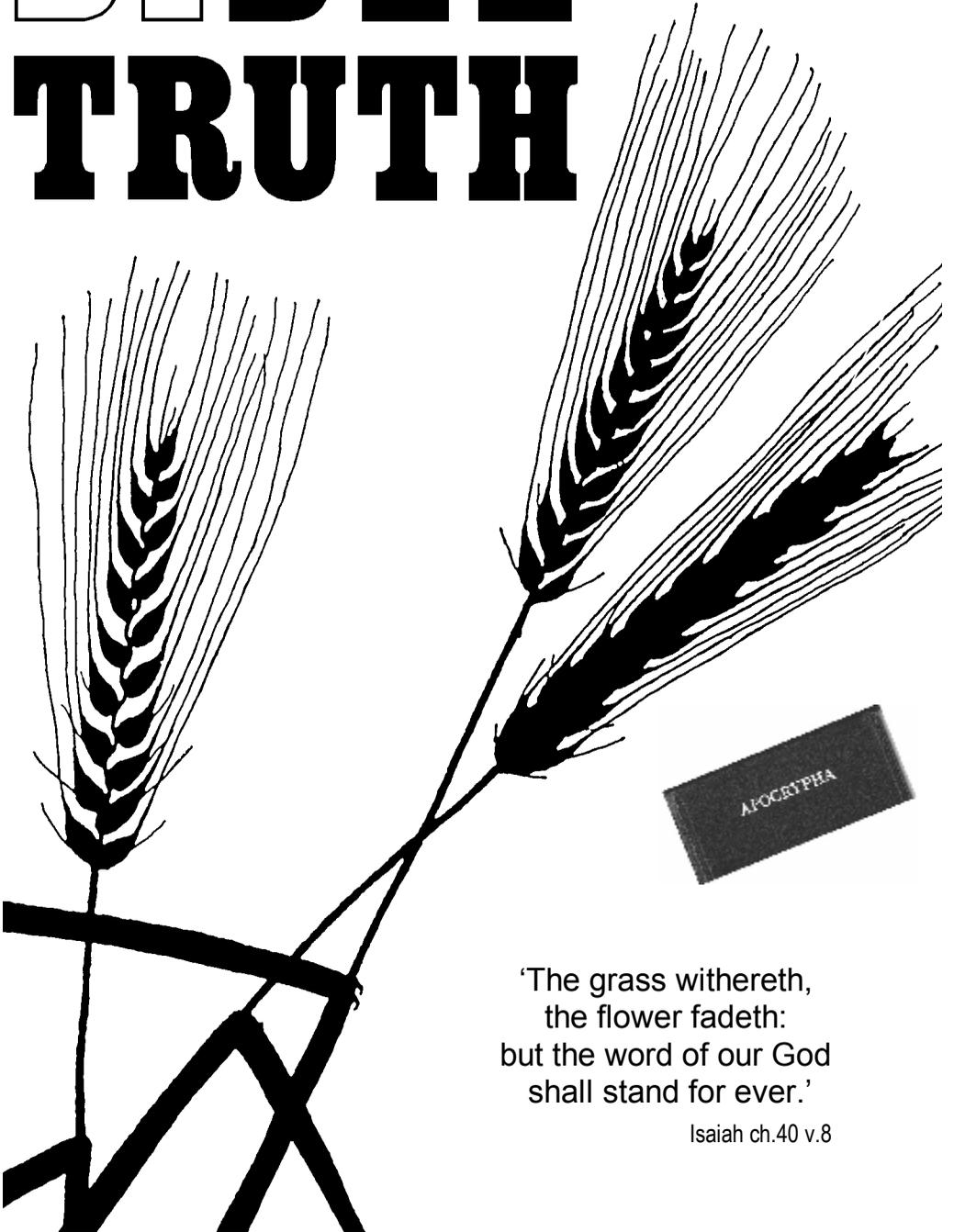


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'The grass withereth,  
the flower fadeth:  
but the word of our God  
shall stand for ever.'

Isaiah ch.40 v.8

# IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

by Pastor Karl Schott

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‘If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter [advocate, consoler], that he may abide with you for ever; ... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words [commandments]: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.’

John ch.14 vv.15-16, 21 & 23

‘By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.’

1 John ch.5 vv.2-3

‘He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: ...’

John ch.14 v.24

The Scriptures quoted above may come as a surprise to many Christians who have been taught that the commandments and laws of God have been abolished, or done away with. Admittedly there are some Scriptures which seem to indicate that this is the case, but upon taking a closer look at them, we find that this is not what is being expressed.

For example, we find what seems to be a contradiction in Paul’s Epistle to the Romans,

‘For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness [i.e. the righteousness of faith] to every one that believeth (hath faith - New English Bible)’.

Romans ch.10 v.4

Paul is not saying that the law has ended, or was terminated by faith in Christ. The believers’ righteousness is by faith in Christ Jesus, and he has no need of the law to govern his life. But, the law still remains for all those who still remain unbelievers and therefore the law is still in effect. Without the law, there would be no sin. Paul goes on to say,

‘... Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet’.

Romans ch.7 v.7

However, should a Christian steal, lie, commit murder, etc., let him be aware that, since the law and commandments are administered by judges who sit in our courtrooms, they will use the law to judge this Christian just the same as if he or she were not a Christian.

This is why Paul wrote in his epistle to the Christians living at Rome,

‘Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers [civil authorities]. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be [the civil courts] are ordained of God. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the [those who do] evil [commit crime]. ... For he is the minister of God [the judge] to thee for good’.

Romans ch.13 vv.1,3 & 4

With this in mind, read the Lord’s thoughts concerning the Law and the Commandments.

‘Think not that I am come to destroy [cancel] the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil [complete]. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.’

Matthew ch.5 vv.17-18

Our LORD is saying that He has come to fulfil every prophecy written about Him in the law (the first five books of the Bible) and everything written about Him by all of the prophets.

‘Whosoever therefore shall break [set aside, loosen] one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least [not thrown out of] in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.’

Matthew ch.5 v.19

In the next verse the Son of God explains how to be ranked ‘great’ in the kingdom of heaven.

‘For I say unto you, That except your righteousness [your obedience to God’s commandments] shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.’

Matthew ch.5 v.20

The fact should be stressed that these Scriptures, out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus, clearly inform us that He came not to destroy the commandments.

The Apostle Paul, in his first Epistle to Timothy, expounding on the law and the commandments, helps us to understand the mechanics, regarding the commandments of God.

‘Now the end [purpose, aim - Moffett Bible] of the commandment is charity [love] out of a pure heart [a heart that is not soiled with immoral, evil thoughts], and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved [missed the mark - Amplified Bible] have turned aside unto vain jangling [purposeless discussions - Amplified Bible]; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm [make dogmatic assertions - Amplified Bible]. But we know [recognize] that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully [how it is designed or intended to be used]; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous [honest] man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy [irreverent] and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind [sodomites], for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons [those who wilfully tell a lie while under oath], and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine [teaching]; According to [expressed in] the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.’

1 Timothy ch.1 vv.5-11

The above Scriptures by the Apostle Paul tell us that there were some during his time who were spreading erroneous ideas regarding the commandments and laws of God found in the Old Scriptures. It's interesting to note that Paul spent considerable time in some of his epistles dealing with the mechanics and workings of God's laws in the life of both Christians and non-Christians.

Today, we are also challenged with correctly dividing God's Word, and we also are confronted with incorrect doctrine concerning the matter of God's law, since many are teaching today that the Law has been done away with.

For example, in the Epistle to the Romans, Paul refers to the law of Moses some seventy-six times, and the commandments, eight times. The Apostle Paul often expounded the Law, and we certainly need Paul's teaching on the Law today!

When thinking of the Lord's words to the Apostle John, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments,' I am reminded of what the Lord God of Israel informed Moses to write some three thousand, four hundred years ago.

‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.’

Deuteronomy ch.6 vv.4-5

We have a similar admonition in another chapter.

‘Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.’

Deuteronomy ch.11 v.1

Another interesting Scripture is found in Deuteronomy ch.10 v.12.

‘And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,’

There is one more Scripture that is of interest in this Book, where the LORD God is speaking to the Israelites.

‘See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. ... I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.’

Deuteronomy ch.30 vv.15-16 & 19-20

In all of the four separate Scriptures above, we find that God’s servant people, Israel, are directed to love the Lord their God, and to honour his commandments. It is interesting that one of the Scriptures states,

‘And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,’.

Deuteronomy ch.10 vv.12

(Note, these instructions are directed to the House of Israel, whom we understand largely to be the peoples of Anglo-Saxondom today).

The *Webster New World Dictionary* informs us that the word 'require' means 'to order or command' also, 'to ask or insist upon, as by right or authority'. These definitions certainly describe the Lord's position and authority relating to His servant people, Israel.

He encourages His people to 'choose life' which means doing His will honouring and keeping His laws and commandments. The natural result of doing this, and God's promise to those who do so, is that they may inherit the blessings, and not the curses, or judgments, which are described in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy and the 26th chapter of Leviticus, as well as many other passages of Scripture both of the Old and New Testaments.

The words which the Lord Jesus spoke, over 1900 years ago, as recorded in the Gospel of John, are still confronting His people with this same wonderful challenge ... 'If ye love me, keep my commandments'.

Recently the news media has shown the tremendous pressure being put upon Roy Moore, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama, to remove a 5300 pound stone monument of the Ten Commandments which he had brought in as a witness and a testimony to his convictions concerning the need to base the States judicial system upon God's laws.

In 1980 The Supreme Court of the United States of America barred the Ten Commandments from the classroom walls in public schools.

How far we have come from the time of the founding of the United States of America when the Sovereignty of God was never questioned. The laws, commandments, and judgments which the Lord God gave to the House of Israel people are the very building blocks of society, and must be adhered to if we are to remain relatively free from murder, rape, crime, violence, and so on as well as enjoying the blessings of God Almighty.

The peace, prosperity, and many other blessings which God's servant people, Israel, have enjoyed, have been diminishing in recent years. As we continue to distance ourselves from our God and his commandments, and fail to love Him and honour Him as we ought, we may expect an even greater diminishing of them.

Oh, that our people would indeed love the Lord God, keep His commandments, and spend time on their knees beseeching the Almighty for our nation, our people, our leaders, and our judges.

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