

GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

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CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

REDEMPTION Part 4 INHERITANCE By Rayola Kelley

Last month I talked about what man has become lost to, and how redemption was the means in which God would be able to restore what was lost. What has been lost in the Garden of Eden was man's relationship with God, the essence of life, paradise, and purpose or direction. There is also something else that became lost to all mankind because of the action of the first parents and that is spiritual inheritance.

What inheritance did God intend for our first parents? We know that the inheritance promised to the children of Israel was comprised of a physical and spiritual inheritance. The physical part of the inheritance had to do with the Promised Land in order to bring forth the Promised Messiah, but the spiritual part of their inheritance had to do with the Law as well as the promises attached to the covenants that God made with such men as Abraham and David.



For Christians, our inheritance is mainly spiritual. In fact, we have been given a seal until the fullness of our inheritance can be realized. The seal is the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 1:11-14*). This brings us to our inheritance as Christians. What is it? Consider what *Ephesians 1:14* states about this matter: "Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." The earnest or down payment of our inheritance is the Holy Spirit, but our inheritance as believers is the fullness of redemption in light of complete restoration.

It is vital to understand how our inheritance works. Let us consider

the implications of inheritance. When you study it in light of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, it is associated with possession, purpose, portion secured by acquisition, heritage, lots, part, allotment, assignment, privilege, and heirloom. It points to distribute, something divided, bequest, occupation, and mode of descent.

We know that others often acquire an inheritance, but if we are somehow related to or recognized by the one who acquires it, we can benefit from it. However, to benefit from an inheritance usually means the benefactor is dead. In many cases an inheritance is divided; thereby, those who are on the receiving end will receive a portion of the inheritance available. This portion points to some type of law or regulation governing how an inheritance will be broken up and divided. In the case of God, this is where covenants and promises often come into the picture. As Christians, we are part of a covenant that has been carefully outlined in the New Testament.

In most cases inheritance is meant to serve as a point of heritage that is attached to birthright, custom or legacy. It clearly becomes a point of identification. However, it is also meant to be passed down in some way to maintain a legacy.

The other aspect of inheritance is that of possession. Sometimes the rules and regulations governing the inheritance will have stipulations attached to them. Conditions must first be met before those who can benefit from it can actually possess it. In some cases these regulations reveal that the benefactor is trying to maintain the integrity of the inheritance. People have been known to squander or neglect the inheritance instead of wisely using it to establish an ongoing legacy that will also benefit others down the line. Hence enters the warning to Christians not to neglect the salvation that has been entrusted to them (*Hebrews 2:3*). In other situations the conditions can also imply

that the benefactor is still trying to control matters from the grave.

We see with the children of Israel that their inheritance was actually acquired by God. It did involve Him purchasing them through the sacrifice of the first born of Egypt, even though He laid claim to them long before they became totally lost to their inheritance and purpose as a distinct people.

A Passover Lamb was also sacrificed. The children of Israel were to utilize every bit of it to ensure their deliverance. The blood of the Passover Lamb also identified those who were to be spared from the judgment that was about to befall the people of Egypt. We know that the Passover Lamb pointed to Jesus.

When our first parents became lost to their inheritance, they primarily became lost to the very life God had ordained for them in the Garden of Eden. When they became lost to the life that was ordained for them, they also lost their identity in light of God and their legacy. Without identity we do not know who we are, who we can become, and who we are meant to be. Without identity, we have no legacy that will have any real meaning or purpose. Even though man was meant to live forever, there was still a legacy to obtain where he would come to realize his full potential and purpose as one who was uniquely formed by the Creator. The Apostle Paul put it best when he stated that all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (*Romans 3:23*).

In Adam's initial stage he was formed in a state of innocence, but there was more he could have discovered as to the glory he could have experienced if he had become more God-oriented instead of more earthbound. Time and time again we see where the more man becomes caught up with the earthly creation and the activities around him, the more he becomes earthbound. The more earthbound he becomes, the less spiritual he strives to be.

It was clear that there was some-

thing amiss in the Garden of Eden when in the beginning of creation, the Lord declared all things to be good, and then we see where it was not good for man to be alone (*Genesis 1:31; 2:18*). Man was not alone in the garden for he had God, but somewhere along the way God ceased to be enough to man.

Jesus is meant to become our all in all (*Colossians 3:11*). The Lord is what man needs, and is able to be all that is necessary to satisfy the desires of the inner man. He alone is man's real legacy. However, there is something that became lost to man, even before his fall. Whether he became lost to his real purpose or legacy is hard to know, but in the end his rebellious actions towards that which represented his real inheritance showed that he was willing to explore the possibilities outside of a life with God and his purpose within creation.

This brings us back to the restoration of what was lost. It could only be obtained through redemption. Man could once again have his inheritance or legacy restored to him. However, the legacy would not be about restoring man in light of regaining the Garden of Eden, but in light of reaching his potential in relationship to the life and glory that God wanted man to initially experience.

Oswald Chambers explained how Adam was intended to reflect the glory of God in creation, but because of rebellion he failed to reach his potential. Therefore, the second man, Christ Jesus, represented what God intended man to become. He reflected in His teachings, example and ways the distinction and excellence of the glory of God in the midst of creation. For this reason the Apostle Paul penned these words: *"But we all, with open face beholding in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

We know for the children of Israel, it cost the Egyptians dearly and an innocent lamb its all. In relationship to Christians, it dearly cost God His Son, and cost His Son His all. *Hebrews 9:14-22* tells us that Jesus is our benefactor. Until His death, the testament had no strength. Redemp-

tion could only come by way of His death. It was upon His death that we were able to receive our eternal inheritance by faith. We are also told the inheritance that has been made available through Jesus is a much more excellent inheritance than the one that the children of Israel were allotted.

This brings us to our inheritance as Christians. We will inherit the fullness of Christ's life. His life in us will reflect His heavenly glory. As *Colossians 1:27* stated about our real hope: *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."* Clearly, redemption allots believers not only eternal life, but reaching their potential in regard to the heavenly glory that will ultimately be unveiled in their lives.

As Christians, we need to understand our real inheritance because many believers have been erroneously led to believe that much of their inheritance is wrapped up in the things of this world. In some cases these individuals believe that worldly goods reflect how rich and blessed they are when it comes to God. Although God may entrust Christians with worldly blessings, such blessings do not represent their spiritual status before God. The Apostle Paul actually counted all ties or blessing in regard to this present world as dung in light of gaining Christ (*Philippians 3:7-9*). The Laodiceans, who were rich with the things of the world, were considered wretched to the Lord, and that believers who are often poor in light of the world's standards were found to be rich in faith towards God (*James 2:5; Revelation 3:14-19*). Once again, we as believers must remember that the more we become earthbound to the ways and things of the world, the more we will lose our edge as spiritual people. We must never lose sight that our blessings are spiritual, our hope heavenly and our inheritance is eternal.

What do we need to understand about the spiritual inheritance to ensure that we as believers will actually receive it? Here are some points that we need to keep before us.

Identification: Inheritance serves as a point of identification. People who fail to be identified by the life of Christ and the seal of the Spirit will not be

privity to this inheritance. Like the first born of Egypt so many years ago, these people will be marked for death and damnation because they have not been properly marked by the blood of the Lamb of God. These individuals may have a worldly inheritance, but they do not have the eternal inheritance that will mark them to receive the inheritance of the world to come.

Status: As Christians, we have been legally adopted into a heavenly family to ensure that we will receive this inheritance. We hold the status of being a child of God, part of the royal heritage of Christ and designed to experience the fullness of His glory. Our moral quality, as God's children, must clearly be distinguished by how we conduct ourselves in the way we live the life that has been entrusted to us. We must not lightly esteem, be flippant or dishonorable as to the legacy we have been entrusted with.

Possessing it: It is not enough to have an inheritance allotted to us, we must be prepared to take possession of it. The children of Israel each had a personal inheritance, but they were instructed to go in and possess it (*Joshua 18:3-10*). For some, that first meant walking the land to understand the value of what they were entrusted with. Most Christians do not understand how rich and valuable their real inheritance is. They have failed to walk out the very life of Christ in order to possess it as their inheritance. Some are actually tarrying instead of occupying until their possession somehow falls into their lap. However, we are told that we must inherit this prized possession (*Galatians 5:17-21*). Paul instructs us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (*Philippians 2:12*). Although our inheritance has been secured and is freely offered to us, we must personally possess the life it promises. Clearly, our goal should be to prepare in this age to properly embrace the fullness of this legacy in the next world to come.

Do you somewhat understand the inheritance that is truly awaiting you? Are you preparing yourself to properly receive it? These are questions we need to answer honestly, for it will determine our attitude in regards to possessing it. †

Pray for AMERICA, and this ministry too!

FATHER OF LIES

By Jeannette Haley

About 25 years ago while in prayer, I saw a “picture” of the world. I knew it was the world, even though it was impossible to see any continents or seas because the entire globe was wrapped up like a ball of twine. That “twine” represented lies. It was simple, yet it had a profound effect on my worldview. With the passing of the years, this revelation has come to mind often as attacks against the truth escalate from every quarter.



According to Isaiah 24:7, this “twine” is a covering. *“And he [Jesus] will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.”* We gain further insight into this covering in *Isaiah 30:1*, which states, *“WOE to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin”*. These verses bring us face-to-face with the shocking reality that every nation—every man, woman and child—are under an evil covering of lies. Where did all these lies originate? If you answered, “From the father of lies, the devil, in the Garden of Eden,” you would be correct.

Genesis 3 clearly reveals how the stage was set for Satan to be established as “the god of this world” through three powerful ploys that have served him well ever since that fateful day. The first was to throw doubt on God and His Word. Consider the subtlety of this question, *“Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”* The subtlety lies in the intent, or spirit, behind the question. Satan’s scheme was to undermine what Eve believed by casting doubt on the character of God, insinuating that God was withholding something good from them. Once this small insidious seed of doubt was planted in Eve’s innocent mind, causing confusion for her, the door was open for him to inject the poison of an outright lie, which is his second ploy. *“Ye shall not surely die.”* This was quickly followed by Satan’s explanation of why God had “lied” to them. *“For God doth know that in the day ye*

eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” This promise of “godhood” was Satan’s third tactic.

To summarize, the first of Satan’s three-pronged attack was to cast doubt on God (the way, the truth and the life) with the aim of shaking Eve’s faith. Once confidence, trust and faith in God are weakened, the aftereffect of a shocking, outright lie can be perceived as truth and believed. The third and final assault in the form of a promise to intellectual understanding, elevated personhood, power, and spirituality without God was more than she could fight. After all, Eve was inexperienced, unprepared and unprotected. Her husband, who had been given the responsibility to protect the garden and his wife, opted to ignore his responsibility in favor of becoming a “god” himself. Thus, the lie that entered into Paradise and into the hearts of our first parents spread over the face of the entire world.

Why have these three tactics been so successful through the ages? The answer can be summed up by *1 John 2:16*, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* We see Satan using these same ploys in his temptation of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. *“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread”* *Matthew 4:3*. This mocking temptation was aimed at the very deity, the I AM of Christ, and the lust of the flesh. It is as if Satan was saying, “Are you really God? If so, then prove it. I know you are hungry, I know you want bread, so why not turn these stones into bread?” Jesus answered and said, *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* *Matthew 4:4*. One down, two to go.

Undaunted, Satan took Him *“up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”* As with Eve, Satan was putting his own spin on the truth, tempting Jesus with the sin of the

pride of life. Humanity seems to be particularly vulnerable to twisted truths, especially when it appeals to the pride of life, but not so our Lord. *“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”* (See *Matthew 4:5-7*). Truth is a two-edged sword that never misses its intended target. *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,”* *John 8:32*. Two down, one to go.

With a determination that would make Obama and the Congressional progressive socialists proud, the devil took Jesus up *“into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me”* *Matthew 4:8, 9*. Ahhh! The temptation to gain “the whole world”—the temptation of all temptations through the lust of the eyes. Herein lay the promise to be the one-world ruler of *“all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.”* This temptation, to be “as a god”—with knowledge and power—was too much for Eve, and she sold her soul. But, wait! Before you condemn her (and Adam, who was “with her” and whom through whom “all die”), consider what whole governments, kingdoms, and nations sell their souls for. Consider what corrupt American politicians have recently sold their souls for—and weep. Then consider Jesus who overcame the wicked one, and the deceiver of all mankind, when He replied, *“Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”* *Matthew 4:10*. Hallelujah! Three strikes and Satan was out. If Jesus had given in to just one of Satan’s lying temptations, we would all be hopelessly lost, and remain dead in our sins.

Satan’s great ability through lies to cast doubt on God’s character and His Word, to make God out to be the liar, and to promise a “better existence” for people is the power behind the veil over the nations. The power of the “mystery of iniquity” is Satan’s ability to deceive through lies, which is the unseen hand directing the course of the nations of the world. The Apostle Paul’s words as recorded in *2 Corinthians 4:1-4* are timeless for his

age, the succeeding ages, and especially applicable for the end of the age in which we live. He wrote, *"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."* I might add, the "hidden things of dishonesty," "craftiness," and "handling the word of God deceitfully," is not isolated to certain offices of government, or certain denominations, but to the church at large. I say this in light of Paul's warning in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, which the people of God must take heed to. He warned, *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* The "falling away" refers to apostasy, which brings us back to the whole world wrapped in lies and propaganda. However, consider this: all liars *"shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* Revelation 21:8.

The sad fact is, not everyone is concerned about whether or not the framework of their perspective and worldview is embedded in lies. Furthermore, not everyone gives serious consideration as to whether or not the foundation of his or her belief system is solid truth. People who have no love for the truth, and this holds true from the "greatest" to the "least" in any nation, culture or church, will be sent a strong delusion from God Himself so that they will believe a lie. What is the result of this strong delusion? The answer is damnation. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Either receive a love for the truth, or lose your own soul.

If this seems harsh in your estimation, it is because you are without God's perspective, and ignorant of the seriousness of what is involved concerning lies. First, it is impossible for God to lie. (See Hebrews 6:18). Therefore, whenever a person disbelieves the record that God has given us (His Word), that person is calling God a liar. If we say that we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar, and His word is not in us, (1 John 1:8). Isn't this what Satan tempts us to do—call God a liar? After all, if we can convince ourselves that God doesn't really mean what He says, then we can rebel, twist and rewrite Scripture to mean something it does not say, and follow the broad path of the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eyes. We can probably even find a local church within five minutes that offers a "different gospel, Jesus and spirit" to suit our arrogant, politically correct sensibilities, and plenty of entertainment to satisfy the flesh. Such heretical churches abound today. Religion is not a substitute to true holiness, godliness, and obedience. No religion or doctrine can save you. Faith in your faith cannot save you, nor can faith in your doctrines save you. No amount of tradition can save you, neither can humanism, or social justice save you. Positive confession, which is just another mind-science occult practice, cannot save you. Joining a church cannot save you. Neither can you purchase your salvation. There is only one way to be saved, and that is through the cross of Christ. *"Ye must be born again"* John 3:7b.

If we truly love Jesus, we will love the truth. Remember what Jesus said to Thomas: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me"* John 14:6. You cannot separate Jesus from truth, but the fact is many people try to do exactly that when they claim to love Jesus, yet embrace theologies, doctrines, philosophies, and lifestyles that deny who Jesus is, and what He taught. Jesus prayed, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"* John 17:17. It is clear that sanctification is impossible without the truth of the Word of God, yet today in the post-modern, emergent churches we see the exact opposite as the Word of God is "bent" to "fit" around people's

emotions and experiences, thus stripping the pure Word of God of its power to convict, draw, quicken, cleanse and redeem men's souls. For in-depth research of such dangerous heresies log on to:

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Who opposed Jesus the most when He was on this earth? Was it the Roman government? Was it the common people? Was it the Samaritans? You already know the answer—it was the Pharisees, and the Scribes. In his discourse with the Pharisees in John 8, imagine their shock when Jesus said to them, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words; ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God"* John 8:44-47. Do you "hear" (receive) God's words? Do you apply them to your heart and life? On the other hand, have you been deceived into believing the "convenient" lies of the devil? You may think you belong to yourself, but you belong either to God, or to the devil. Which is it?

In Revelation 12:9 we read *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* How shall we stand against such a foe? The next verse gives the answer, *"And they [the saints] overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* Remember, one day soon *"They that see thee [Satan] shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?"* Isaiah 14:16, 17.

Finally, as we celebrate the resurrection of our soon-coming Lord, let

us take comfort in the words of the Apostle Paul, *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! †

TEST YOURSELF “TRUTH OR LIE” QUIZ

(Answers on page 6)

1. No Christian should ever be sick.
2. Christians should always obey the government, even if it is evil.
3. Christians are to establish the kingdom of God on earth before the return of Christ.
4. The Bible says that Christians must belong to a local church.
5. Government health care is a right guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.
6. Discerning what spirit a person is under is the same as “judging.”
7. Husbands are to control their wives.
8. God is in every person.
9. Christians no longer have to obey the Ten Commandments.
10. Christians should never get involved in politics or run for office.
11. It is not scriptural to discipline children, or to spank them.
12. Once a person “accepts Christ,” he or she is saved no matter how he or she lives.
13. God’s favorite nation is America.
14. Christians will not be judged according to their deeds.
15. Homosexuality, abortion and euthanasia will not be judged by God on Judgment Day.

RAYOLA’S Q & A CORNER

CHRISTIANS AND GOD’S LAWS

Q: *Whenever I tell people that Christians need to obey God, I am often told that Christians “no longer have to keep the Law because Jesus died for our sins.” This has caused me a lot of confusion because Jesus said that if we love Him, we will obey Him. Can you please give me some guidelines that I can use with people? Thank you!*

A. Many people are confused about the part the Law is to have in our lives. It is a teaching in itself, but I will do my best to untangle some confusion as to what we as Christians need to understand about this matter.

General information: We must first lay a foundation in order to understand how the Law was structured. We know that Jesus did not do away with the Law (Torah); rather He fulfilled it (*Matthew 5:17-18*). We know the Law was holy and righteous. We also know that Christ is the end of the Law to those who believe, and that our lives are hid in Christ (*Romans 10:4; Colossians 3:3*). In other words, the Law was given to serve as our schoolmaster who would point us to Christ. However, as Christians, we are not under the Law (Torah) that reveals our sin and pronounces the consequences of death. We are under a more excellent Law—that of the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (*Romans 8:2*). This is why we are instructed to walk after the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and walk or live in the Spirit. *Galatians 5:23* tells us that there is no law that can rightly judge, bring accusation against or condemn that which is of the Spirit of the Living God. In a sense the Spirit leads us into a more excellent life and way where the righteousness of the Law could also be fulfilled in us (*Romans 8:4*).

Psalms 119 made reference to the Law in six diverse ways. Although interchanged with each other, we must understand how each of these six words related to the Law and what they were meant to unveil to us in order to rightly divide the Word of God. These words are: *word, testimonies, judgments, precepts, statutes, and*

commandments. This is what my studies and understanding of how each word relates to the Law, and what is said about it in regard to the New Testament.

Word: It is important to point out that every thing God says is law. In other words, it is final, will not change and must be rightly divided, be properly adhered to, and in many cases applied or put into practice. We need to be sober about God’s Word, fear or dread displeasing the Lord if we fail to properly apply it, and always esteem it in great regard by walking very carefully in light of it.

Testimonies: Testimony points to record that will testify of something. We know in a court of Law testimonies are used to justify or convict someone. We know the main reason the Law (Torah) was given was to testify of man’s transgression, as well as to record any such transgressions as to his guilty status before our holy judge of heaven. All men stand guilty in light of the Torah, but in Christ, they will stand justified by their faith that He totally addressed the issue of the Law. Today, we serve as living epistles that also serve as living testimonies as to the reality of God.

Precepts: These are the same as doctrine. Doctrine is not a matter of belief, but entails how man is to conduct himself in certain situations. Good examples of doctrine are how man was to conduct himself in marriage, in regard to his children, inheritance, and at points of conflict with others. We are told that the Sermon on the Mount is doctrine (*Matthew 7:28-29*). If you compare the doctrine set forth in the Law (Torah) and the doctrine set forth in the Sermon on the Mount, there is one big difference. The difference is that the Torah demanded an outward compliance to the Law, while Jesus explained that without the right spirit or intent in regard to Scriptural conduct, one stands guilty of breaking the Law (Torah). Without the right spirit, all matters of doctrine will be nothing more than dead-letter that has no real life, purpose or meaning behind it (*Romans 7:6*). God not only put forth precepts to ensure proper conduct, but to establish a right attitude as well. For the Christian, it involves lawful responsibility, plus His Spirit, and

a right attitude that produces godliness (godly conduct) which will equal pure and acceptable doctrine.

Statutes: Statutes are the same as religious ordinances that were to be practiced. These ordinances were intended to set the people of Israel apart in their religious rituals and practices as a people. Ordinances included such things as the offering of sacrifices, the feasts, the Sabbaths, circumcision, dress, dietary practices, and priestly responsibilities. The statutes in the Old Testament were meant to serve as shadows, types or outlines to something that would later be unveiled and prove to not only be an explanation of their purpose but a fulfillment of them. We know that statutes pointed to Jesus, His work of redemption, and in some cases, the establishment of the New Testament Church. We know that when Jesus came, these shadows were reduced to serving as beggarly elements that no longer had a real purpose because the shadows had become a reality. We know that on the cross Jesus actually blotted these ordinances out in order to usher in something that was more excellent and not as burdensome (*Galatians 4:9-11; 5:1-6; Colossians 2:14-17*). When man adds his own take or rules onto statutes, they become traditions (Talmud) that often nullify the real intent of the Law. Christ has only set forth two ordinances that are to be observed by His Church until He comes again, but sadly the Church fights and debates about them. They are water baptism and communion.

Judgments: Judgments have sometimes been interchanged with the concepts of ordinances. However, judgments come down to what I refer to as a judgment call concerning something that ceases to be black and white. There are unknown or unseen circumstances or elements involved that require a person to actually make a judgment call. One of the Old Testament judgment calls involved the matter of jealousy. If a husband suspected his wife of committing adultery a judgment call had to be made. We know that guidelines were set forth by God to ensure that a right judgment call was made. One of the examples

of the Apostle Paul setting forth guidelines as to ensure the integrity of a judgment call about a matter had to do with marriage and divorce in *1 Corinthians 7*.

Commandments: These represent our moral obligations. These were never done away with. We have a moral obligation to God (first three commandments), to ourselves (that of rest, the Sabbath), and to others (the last six commandments). However, the Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts that which not only makes us morally obligated to do what is right to God and others, but will fulfill the intent of such obligations in spirit as well. And, what will ensure that we uphold the intent and responsibility we have towards God, our life in Him and others? It is the love of God (*Romans 5:5; 13:8-10*).

I hope this will put some things in perspective for you in regards to the Law.

COMMENTS & EMAILS

“WOW! What a feast I've had this morning! [February newsletter] “*REDEMPTION' Part 2 - LORDSHIP* - by Rayola Kelley—Rayola, once again you have done such a superb job of defining *Lord* and *King!* I'd never read anything as definitive as that before, regarding those two words! What a wonderful perception! Also, as I read this article, once again it was confirmed to me that 'self-esteem' is nothing more than a bunch of malarkey! Apart from our Lord, we 'own' no esteem! Thanks for sorting this all out within my mind. “*FROM PLEASURE TO DELIGHT'* - by Jeannette Haley “Jeannette, you KNOW "ezer" is one of my favorite word studies, and you have done such a beautiful job of expressing all that the word entails! I agree with your three-fold rebellion for being SELF-centered in this world, and the bottom line is 'three strikes and you're out!' And, because I 'delight' myself in the Lord, I also delight myself with these newsletters every month! What a joy to read articles that are written from the 'no-spin zone!' Superb job, Ladies!” - FL

“I know I have seen it at our school [Books promoting witchcraft].

They encourage if the kids can read Harry Potter to do so. I tell them not to though. What is really sad is that most kids when they draw something they want to draw dragons or snakes. I told them the other day when I was subbing that they could not draw that. I told the teacher also, she did agree with me. What is terrible that a lot of the kids' books out there are about dragons and snakes. It is hard to find good books anymore. I know even some of things that [daughter's friend] lets them watch like Narnia, I told her I would not let my kids watch it and they have no desire as of now and hopefully of all the things we have taught them they will really discern these things. We won't be around them all their lives. I know it makes me sad and angry at the same time to sit back and watch what goes on sometimes. When I have a chance at times I will say things though.” - email, USA

“They're out to destroy and kill us. We need to know our enemy and his tactics. The Bible says, that knowledge will increase in the last days, we need not be ignorant, its a commandment. It's a crazy world out there isn't it. What happened to the good ole days? This attitude, too, reminds me that we are in the end of days, and so hang in there, don't give up, its hard, very hard.” - AK

“I just want you guys to know how thankful I am for you. I think I seriously would have lost my mind by now due Most of the time I don't know if He's teaching me how to fight or how to love. But I do know that this has tried to be a huge stumbling block for me. Without your love and prayers I may have been taken out. The Lord knew this and He has blessed me with you. Thank You for all you do. May the LORD bless you exceedingly above all that you can think or ask, in Jesus Name!!! - ID

“Alaska churches are filled with this kind of doctrine [Kingdom Now/ Dominionism]. Our church a long time ago, was heavily involved with this, but God in his faithfulness, brought us out. We know all the players and the theology. [Rick Joyner] is involved in a lot of under the radar connections, he is definitely a player in the end-time deception of the saints.— AK

Answers to Quiz: All fifteen are lies.