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changing the world, the people knew it, and the government helped in no way whatsoever.

The church and its members can still change the world by the message of Christ's salvation without outsourcing to the legislature and Governor.

### **The Ten Commandments belong to an obsolete covenant.**

If the church would work to publicly display a brief list of God's intent for morality, it would be better to post the *"fruit of the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:22-23), the *"armor of God"* (Ephesians 6:10-17), or the so-called "beatitudes" (Matthe 5:3-12) because these remain valid within the New Testament.

The decalogue is a list of highlights from the Law of Moses, which Law has since been replaced. Jesus asserted, *"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it"* (Luke 16:16). And Paul explained that *"Christ is the end of the law"* (Romans 10:4).

Although the previous covenant can be learned from (Romans 15:4; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11); it is no longer applicable law (Colossians 2:14).

Of the Ten Commandments, nine remain in effect under the law of Christ, but one is void. *"You shall have no other gods before Me"* (Exodus 20:3) still stands (Matthew 6:24). So does *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image"* (Exodus 20:4-6; Acts 17:29). *"You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain"* (Exodus 20:7) is no less valid now than it was then (Philippians 2:9-11). *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you"* (Exodus 20:12) is repeated in the New Testament with special emphasis given its attendant promise (Ephesians 6:1-3). *"You shall not murder"* (Exodus 20:13) is still true (Revelation 21:8). So is *"You shall not commit adultery"* (Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 4:13). *"You shall not steal"* (Exodus 20:15) has not changed (Ephesians 4:28). *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"* (Exodus 20:16) abides (Romans 13:9). And *"You shall not covet"* (Exodus 20:17) remains in effect (Hebrews 13:5). The Commandment which expired when Christ changed the law (Hebrews 7:12) is *"Remember the Sabbath day"* (Exodus 20:8). That one must not be enforced now (Colossians 2:16). The true rest given by God is one that awaits in eternity (Hebrews 4:9-10). Since one tenth of the Ten Commandments is no longer in force, it is misguided to place so much emphasis on them.

## **THE NEED FOR SPECIFIC PREACHING**

James Hahn

Several years ago, I was delivering a lesson on "Distinctive Preaching." One young preacher in the audience took issue with some points that I made and said, "I just preach principles; I don't make application. I let each person do that for himself." I replied, "Don't you think David was glad that Nathan didn't do that?" He wanted to know what I meant. I reminded him of Nathan coming to King David after David had taken another man's wife and later had that man put in a position to be killed. Nathan came to David and spoke of a rich man who had many flocks and herds and a poor man that had just one little ewe lamb that was like a child to him (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12). When the rich man had the opportunity to entertain a stranger he did not take from his many flocks and herds but took the poor man's one little ewe lamb. David understood the principle. In fact, *"David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, 'As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity'"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:5-6). It was not until Nathan said, *"Thou art the man"* that David made the application to himself and acknowledged his sin (Psalm 51).

Yes, sometimes we must be very specific in our preaching if we expect people to understand and make application. Many will say "Amen" when we teach that we must respect the authority of God's word in all things, but will get upset when we start examining various practices or doctrines in the light of God's word. It is great, to them, to have you say that we need to reject the doctrines of men, but when you identify some of these (instrumental music in worship, church support of human institutions, church sponsored recreation and entertainment, etc.) they get angry as David did. I know from personal experience that just because preaching makes one angry doesn't mean that the preaching did no good. It may cause one to study and examine his life in light of the truth and make the necessary changes in his life.

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"I cannot imagine the apostle Paul bouncing up to a platform, cracking a few jokes to put the congregation at ease, and then entertaining them with flippances in order to play upon their feelings."

– Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

Ladies' Study @ 6:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"Christ refuses none for weakness, but accepts none for greatness."

– Richard Sibbes

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**COMMANDMENTS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Many social conservatives in America are applauding a recently passed Louisiana law mandating that the Ten Commandments be conspicuously posted in all public school classrooms throughout the Pelican State. While it is very good for Scripture to be seen and read, Christians should be hesitant to celebrate this legislation.

**The force of law is a poor substitute for evangelism.**

Civil authorities have been ordained by God for two specific reasons: *"for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good"* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:14; cf. Romans 13:3-4). It is not the State, but the church which God has established for disseminating the truth of His word. *"The manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church"* (Ephesians 3:10; cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15). These roles must not be conflated.

During the first century, when the gospel made the most impact on a given society, no level of government contributed to the success. After Paul and Silas converted a multitude in Thessalonica (Acts 17:3), unbelievers stirred up a persecution and accused the preachers of having *"turned the world upside down"* (6). Yet, all Paul and Silas had done was preach three Saturdays in the synagogue (1-3). The only role filled by *"the rulers of the city"* was to hear the accusations (8) and make the new disciples in Thessalonica pay bail (9). The gospel was – Continued on page 2 –

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