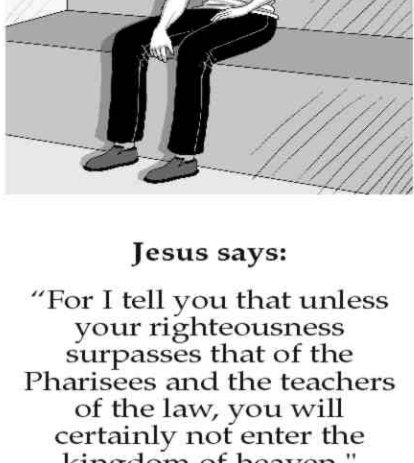


DO YOU OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS?

Please advise:

My church pastor claims the Ten Commandments are out of date and don't belong in the New Testament? Is this true?

A question from Mr Good Guy.



Jesus says:

"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."
 (Matthew 5:20, NIV version)

Let me throw some light on this crucial concept.



Meet Mr Good Guy! I'm sure if anyone makes it to heaven, he will.

So I ask him: Do you keep the Commandments?



Well, I try to do the right thing and keep them as best I can!

Really! Do you mind if we look at them?



Hmm - OK?



Have you ever told a lie?



Who hasn't?

What do you call someone who lies?

A liar

Have you ever stolen anything?

No!

But you just said you are a liar.

...



Well... I did steal sweets as a kid.



What do you call someone who steals?

A thief

Have you ever used God's name to curse?



That's called blasphemy. "The Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name." Exodus 20:7

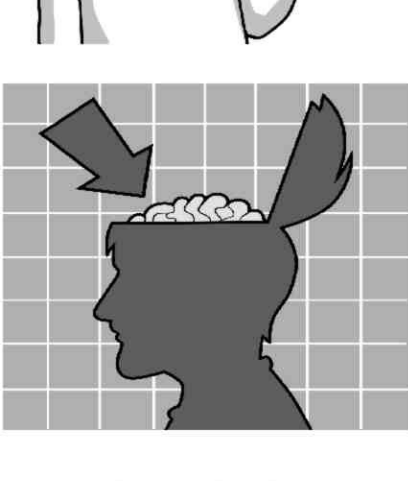
Have you ever looked at a woman with lust?



Of course!

Jesus said:
 "Whosoever looks at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart."
 (Matthew 5:28)

You have admitted to being a liar, a thief, a blasphemer and an adulterer at heart, and that's just four of the ten commandments.



OK. So maybe I'm not perfect

Actually, it's worse than that!
Sin isn't just doing things we shouldn't. It's also NOT DOING the things we should.



But wait... There's more.

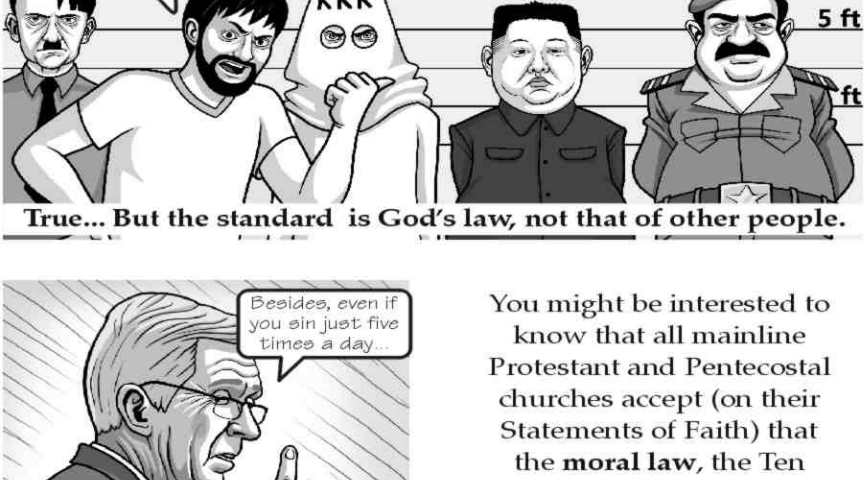
"Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." (James 4:17)

Suppose we could put a computer chip in your brain that would record all your personal and private thoughts for a month...

... and then play them on YouTube for your friends and family to see.

That'd be s-o-o embarrassing!

"God knows the secrets of the heart." Psalm 44:21



Well... compared to some people, I'm a saint!

KKK

6 ft

5 ft

4 ft

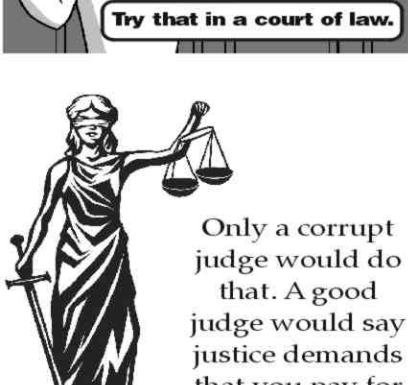
True... But the standard is God's law, not that of other people.



Besides, even if you sin just five times a day...

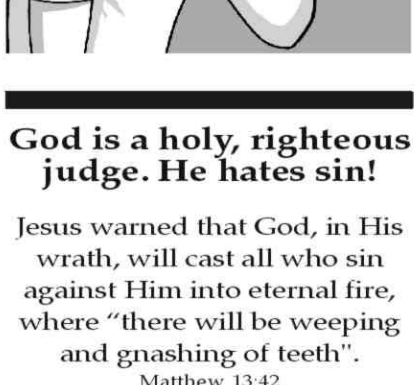
In one year, that's 1 825 times! If you live to be 70, you'll have broken God's law over 127 000 times!

You might be interested to know that all mainline Protestant and Pentecostal churches accept (on their Statements of Faith) that the moral law, the Ten Commandments, are irrefutable, as they were written by the 'Finger of God' and ratified by Jesus himself.



I know I keep breaking the law. But can't you just let it slide?

Try that in a court of law.

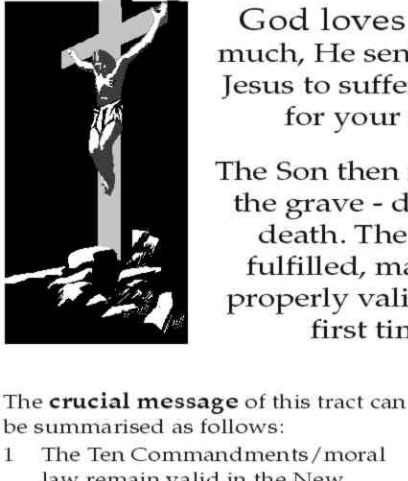


But won't God just forgive me?



Ouch! How can anyone then ever get to Heaven?

God is a holy, righteous judge. He hates sin!
 Jesus warned that God, in His wrath, will cast all who sin against Him into eternal fire, where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth".
 Matthew 13:42



God loves you so much, He sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die for your sins.

The Son then rose from the grave - defeating death. The law is fulfilled, making it properly valid for the first time.



The crucial message of this tract can be summarised as follows:

- 1 The Ten Commandments / moral law remain valid in the New Testament.
- 2 The demands of the law have been satisfied in Christ.
- 3 Salvation cannot be achieved by obeying the law. Obedience is always a gift, which we receive when we are called to follow Him. It belongs only to those who endure their lot for the sake of Jesus.



So how does this matter of the Ten Commandments (the moral law) relate to the born-again Christian?

Certainly the Pharisees never imagined that the law must be taught but not obeyed; they knew the Scriptures better than that! Their ideal was to model their behaviour exactly on the demands of the law.



Yet their obedience was imperfect; they knew there was an excess which needed forgiveness of sins to cover it. Sadly they had a law which was never fulfilled.

But the Christian has the advantage over the Pharisee in that his way of adhering to the law is in fact perfect. The righteousness it demands is already there, the righteousness of Jesus, which submits to the Cross, because that is what the law demands.

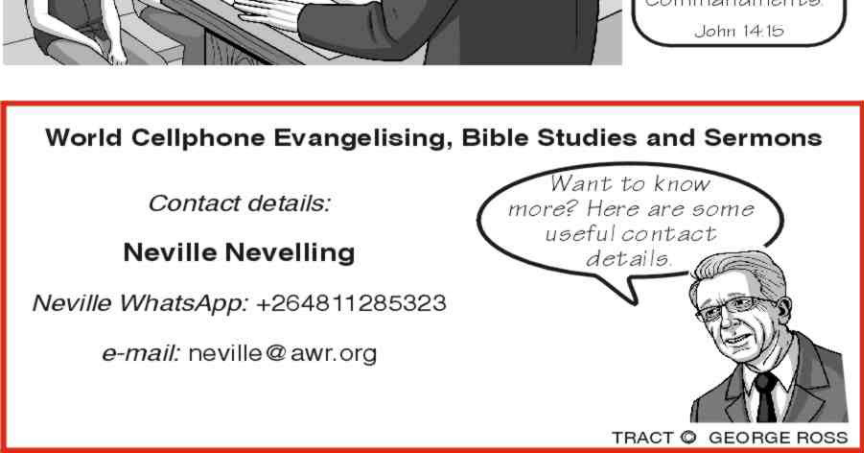
He is the righteousness of the disciples. By calling them He has made them partakers of His righteousness in its fullness.

That is to say Jesus, and **He alone**, fulfils the Commandments, because He alone lives in **perfect communion with God**.

Yet a common mistake many good gospel preachers make, is to claim that men can be saved by His salvation and be free from the law and the Ten Commandments.

Such teaching creates **enthusiasm**, yet neglects to address the foundation of truth.

The disciple of Jesus must instead learn that true salvation in Christ also means adherence to the Commandments of God.



So the importance of the Commandments is clear: 'the better righteousness' is found in the words of Jesus: "If you love me, keep my Commandments."
 John 14:15

World Cellphone Evangelising, Bible Studies and Sermons

Contact details:

Neville Nevelling

Neville WhatsApp: +264811285323
 e-mail: neville@awr.org

Want to know more? Here are some useful contact details.

