

Welcome to our Bible study on God's Unchanging Law! Let's look at the beauty of God's law and why it is important for us today.

#### God's Unchanging Law



The apostle John, who was exiled on the isand of Patmos, wrote the book of Revelation as he was given visions from God. What did John see when the temple of God was opened in heaven?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Revelation 11:19

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the \_\_ of His \_\_\_\_ was seen in His temple.

#### Revelation 11:10

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Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the **ark** of His **covenant** was seen in His temple.

#### God's Unchanging Law



In the holy of holies, in the sanctuary of God in heaven, John saw the ark of the covenant. The ark contains the Ten Commandments, the law of God, which is the foundation of His throne.

What does the ark contain?

#### 4 God's Unchanging Law



In heaven this law is sacredly enshrined. It is a revelation of God's will and a transcript of His character.

How enduring is God's law?

#### God's Unchanging Law

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O Lord, Your word is settled in Psalm 111:7,8

Psalm 119:89

...All His precepts are sure. (8) They stand fast and ever...

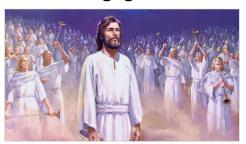
Psalm 119:89

**Forever,** O Lord, Your word is settled in **heaven.** 

Psalm 111:7,8

...All His precepts are sure. (8) They stand fast **forever** and ever...

#### **God's Unchanging Law**



Do angels in heaven keep God's law?

#### **God's Unchanging Law**

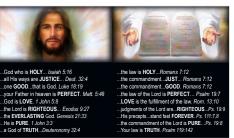
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#### Psalm 103:20, KJV

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his **commandments**, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

#### God's Unchanging Law



Look at how the law is a reflection of who God is. Since it is a description of His character, it must endure forever. See how the same words are used in the Bible to describe both God and His law...holy, just, good, perfect, love, righteous, everlasting, pure, and truth.

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Mount Sinai was wrapped in thick clouds of darkness and awful mystery. Flashes of lightning and peals of thunder echoed from it that day when God came down in fire and the whole mountain shook. As the people waited at the base of the mountain, they heard the voice of God proclaiming His holy law. Just ten simple, basic, concise rules sum it up...all based on the principle of LOVE.

What are these ten commandments?



#### Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words, saying: (2) "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

(3) "You shall have no other **gods** before **Me**.



Jehovah God, Who created and sustains all, is the only One entitled to our worship. We are forbidden to give any other object first place in our lives and affection. Anything we adore more than God or that gets in the way of our loving and serving Him, becomes a god to us.

What is the 2nd commandment?

#### God's Unchanging Law

## Exodus 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself a carved \_\_\_\_\_\_any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; (5) you shall not \_\_\_\_ down to them nor \_\_\_\_\_ them. For l, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, (6) but showing mercy to thousands, to

those who love Me and keep My commandments.

#### Exodus 20:4-6

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; (5) you shall not **bow** down to them nor **serve** them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, (6) but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

#### God's Unchanging Law



This law forbids worshiping an image or likeness in place of God. Many people say the image just *represents* God, but it is sin because it lowers our idea of the infinite perfection of God, and attracts us to the object instead.

Because our children turn out a lot like us, it is important to teach them the truth about

What is the 3rd commandment?

#### God's Unchanging Law

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### Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the \_\_\_ of the Lord your God in \_\_\_ for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

#### Exodus 20:7

"You shall not take the **name** of the Lord your God in **vain**, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

#### God's Unchanging Law



God is majestic and holy, and we should show reverence when speaking His name. Swearing and any careless use of His name dishonors Him.

What is the 4th commandment?

#### God's Unchanging Law



#### Exodus 20:8-11

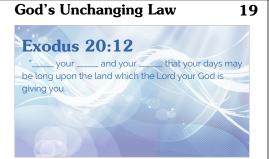
"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
(9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
(10) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the
Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you,
nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male
servant, nor your female servant, nor your
cattle, nor your stranger who is within your
gates.(11) For in six days the Lord made the
heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in
them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the
Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

#### God's Unchanging Law



God made the seventh day holy as a memorial of His creation. As our Creator, God asks us to rest from our work and business matters and worship Him on the seventh day. Remembering the Sabbath is a sign of our loyalty to God. He gives us this weekly gift of holy time to rest and to focus on our relationship with Him so He can show His creative power in our lives.

What is the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment?



#### **Exodus 20:12**

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

#### God's Unchanging Law



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Parents, more than any other people, deserve our love and respect. As children learn to obey their parents, they are learning to obey and reverence God. Those who honor their parents, and comfort them in old age, are promised eternal life in the earth made new. We are also to respect ministers and rulers and others to whom God has given authority. What is the 6th commandment?

**God's Unchanging Law** 



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**Exodus 20:13** "You shall not murder.

#### God's Unchanging Law



Taking the life of someone else, or anything that tends to shorten life or injure health: hatred, revenge, injustice, overwork, ignoring those who are suffering - all these are, to a greater or lesser extent, a violation of this commandment.

What is the 7th commandment?

#### God's Unchanging Law



Exodus 20:7 "You shall not commit adultery.

#### God's Unchanging Law



God wants to give us pure hearts so that our actions, thoughts, and desires are also pure. Jesus taught that lustful desires\*, and all sexual deviations from God's creation\*\*, are sin. And the Bible says that those who commit adultery and fornication will not inherit the kingdom of God\*\*\*.

What is the 8th commandment?

\*Matthew 5:28, \*\*Matthew 19:4,5, \*\*\*1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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#### God's Unchanging Law



**Exodus 20:15** 

"You shall not steal.

#### **God's Unchanging Law**

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Stealing, whether public or private, is wrong. Cheating, fraud, theft, robbery, child trafficking, wars of conquest, not paying our just debts...all these are included in the 8th commandment.

What is the 9th commandment?

#### God's Unchanging Law

**Exodus 20:16** "You shall not bear \_\_\_\_ \_\_ witness against your neighbor.

#### **Exodus 20:16**

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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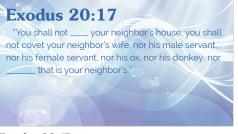
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This commandment forbids any intent to deceive. Lying, misrepresentation, exaggeration, anything designed to mislead, or suppress truth; even slander - all are violations of the 9th commandment.

What is the 10th commandment?



#### **Exodus 20:17**

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"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."



This is a funny picture, but humans don't outgrow these emotions. Because of sin, selfishness is a part of our nature. This commandment prohibits the sinful desire for whatever belongs to others.

The more we study the law, we see that its principles go deeper than just what people see us do. It is about who we are: the thoughts and motives that affect our actions, the deep purposes and desires of our hearts.

How did the Israelites respond when they heard the law of God?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Exodus 24:7

"And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do,

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Exodus 24:7

and be

And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."

#### God's Unchanging Law



The Israelites readily agreed to obey the commands of God. Their reaction was like, "Ok, got it! No problem!" But only a few weeks later, they were dancing around a golden calf, disobeying and insulting their Creator. They did not realize their weakness, sinfulness, and need of God.

Because the law is a reflection of God's character, what does it show us about Him?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is \_\_\_\_\_ for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; \_ and upright is He.

#### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

He is the Rock, His work is **perfect**; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.

#### God's Unchanging Law



The Bible describes God as a Rock, stable and unchanging. When we see the beauty of God's character as reflected in His law, we see that it is as sacred, important, and as permanent as He is. In contrast, what do we see about ourselves?

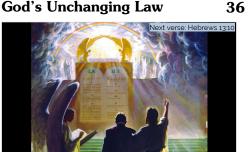
#### God's Unchanging Law



#### Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

#### God's Unchanging Law



The law is a mirror that shows us our real condition. We see that we don't measure up, that we are far from perfect, that our goodness is like filthy rags. Often we find ourselves unable to do the good that we want to do, and many times we don't even want to! But God has said He would do for us what we can't do for ourselves. What has He promised?



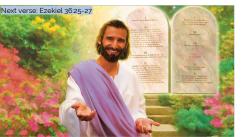
Hebrews 13:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My \_\_\_ in their mind and \_\_\_ them on their and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

#### Hebrews 13:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts: and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

#### God's Unchanging Law

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What a promise! GOD will write His law in our hearts! He will change us from the inside out! If we agree, He will be our God and we will be His people. How will this affect our behavior?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall you from all your filthiness and be clean: I will from all your idols. (26) I will \_\_\_\_ you a new heart and \_\_\_ a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and \_\_\_\_\_you to walk in My statutes, and you \_\_\_\_\_ My judgments and do the statutes, and you \_

#### Ezekiel 36:25-27

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Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (26) I will **give** you a new heart and **put** a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

#### God's Unchanging Law



The beautiful thing about this is that it is based on GOD'S PROMISES not ours! He is the One Who says He will put His laws in our hearts and Who will cause us to walk in His ways and keep His laws! It is all about HIM and what He will do in our lives if we give Him permission. What a God! We can trust Him. He always keeps His promises. How does this change the way we look at God's law?

#### **God's Unchanging Law**

**Psalm 40:8** I\_\_\_\_\_ to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart. Psalm 119:97

Oh, how I \_\_\_\_ Your law! It is my

Psalm 40:8; 119:97

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.

Oh. how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

#### **God's Unchanging Law**

Next verse: Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom 6:23

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Like the psalmist David, we can live a life of praise to God not only for what He did on the cross, but for what He is doing in our lives every day.

Are we saved by keeping God's law?

#### God's Unchanging Law

**Titus 3:5** Not by \_\_\_\_ of righteousness which we have done, but according to His \_\_\_\_ He saved us\_\_\_

#### Ephesians 2:8,9

For by \_\_\_\_you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the \_\_\_\_ of God, (9) not of \_\_\_\_\_ lest anyone should boast.

#### **Romans** 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...

#### Ephesians 2:8,9

For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

#### Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### God's Unchanging Law

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There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. It is a free gift from God. The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. Since God's law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could atone for our sins.

Did God's law exist before Mount Sinai?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Genesis 26:5 Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My \_, My \_\_\_\_\_, and My

#### Genesis 26:5

Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.



Abraham, who lived before Mt. Sinai, knew and obeyed God's law. Sin is the transgression of the law, and when Adam and Eve sinned, they introduced sin into our world, with its sentence of death. But before there was sin, there was a Savior. God's plan to save us was in existence before the world began. His love reached down to us in our guilt and shame, to atone for our sins and satisfy the justice of the law.

How does this affect you and I?



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All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has **laid** on **Him** the iniquity of us all.



Apart from God, our lives do not reflect His love. Not one of us are perfect or righteous. We need a Savior! Christ was treated as we deserve, so we could be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, so we could be set free. For us, He took the penalty of the law and suffered the death that was ours, so we could have the life that was His. At the cross, justice and mercy were perfectly blended.

**God's Unchanging Law** 



By His life and His death, Christ showed that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous and can be perfectly obeyed.

How was this part of His mission on earth?



Isaiah 42:21

**52** 

He will exalt the law and make it honorable.



Jesus' death on the cross showed the whole universe that God's law is unchangeable. The wages of sin is death. His infinite sacrifice demonstrates that both justice and mercy are the foundation of the law and government of God.

What was abolished when Jesus died?

God's Unchanging Law



The ritual law of sacrifices and ordinances pointing forward to the Messiah was no longer needed when Jesus died on the cross. This ceremonial law was written by Moses in a book and put beside the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God on stone, and sacredly preserved in the Ark. Jesus said He did not come to destroy the law or the prophets.\* This is why He had to die to atone for the transgression of the law. What miraculous event showed the end of Jewish sacrifices and offerings?

\*Matthew 5:17

**God's Unchanging Law** 



When Jesus died on the cross, the heavy veil in the temple, which separated the holy from the most holy place, was torn from top to bottom by an unseen hand\*. The death of the true Lamb of God had opened a new and living way for us to approach God. Jesus' sacrifice was complete, and He now stands at the right hand of God "to make intercession for us."\*\*

Did Jesus obey God's law when He was on earth?

\*Matthew 27:51; \*\*Hebrews 7:25

God's Unchanging Law

John 15:9,10 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have \_\_\_ My Father's

and abide in His love.

John 8:29

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And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I \_\_\_\_ do those things that please

John 15:9,10

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him".



Does God intend for us also to keep His commandments? If we are under grace, do we still need to keep the law?

#### God's Unchanging Law

John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to \_ just as He walked. 1 John 3:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His is a liar, and the truth is not in him. John 14:15 "If you love Me, \_\_\_ My comma

1 John 2:6

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 3:4

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John 14:15

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"If you love Me, **keep** My commandments.

# Next verse: Philippians 4:13, Galatians 2:20

God's Unchanging Law

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**59** 

**62** 

Jesus taught that obedience to His law is not only required, but possible through what He is able to do in and through those who trust Him. How is it possible for us to keep His commandments?

#### God's Unchanging Law

Philippians 4:13 I can do \_\_ things \_\_\_\_ Christ who strengthens me Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who \_\_ lives \_\_ me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by \_\_\_\_in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

#### God's Unchanging Law

Next verse: Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Jude 24

When we surrender to God, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A supernatural change transforms us! Instead of sinful thoughts, sadness, and evil deeds, we will have joy, love, and peace. We WANT to obey God and find our highest delight in serving Him. The more we get to know God, the more we will hate sin. What are some of His promises to us?

#### God's Unchanging Law

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**57** 

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 2:13 for it is God who \_\_\_\_ in you both to \_\_\_ and to \_\_ for His good pleasure. Jude 24 Now to Him who is to you from stumbling, and to present you before the presence of His glory with present you exceeding joy,

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Jude 24

Now to Him who is **able** to **keep** you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding

God's Unchanging Law



Jesus didn't EVER yield to temptation or consent to sin. His victory can be ours. He came to make us "partakers of the divine nature" through the "exceedingly great and precious promises"\* that have been given to us! This is how He overcame Satan: by the word of God! Our weakness or our circumstances are no match for the POWER and STRENGTH in every word that comes from the mouth of God!

How can we access this power?

\*2 Peter 1:4

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#### God's Unchanging Law

**Psalm 17:4** ...By the \_\_\_ of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:11 Your word I have \_\_\_ \_in my \_ \_, that I might not against You.

#### **Psalm 17:4**

...By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer.

#### Psalm 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not **sin** against You.

#### God's Unchanging Law

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Jesus became an exile from heaven and took the risk of failure and eternal loss so that He could give us the victory over Satan. In our own strength we are helpless, but when we claim His power we can defeat Satan!

Is there a way to escape every temptation?

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#### 1 Corinthians 10:13

\_\_temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not \_\_\_\_ you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of \_\_\_\_\_ that you may be able to \_\_\_\_ it.

#### 1 Corinthians 10:13

**No** temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not **allow** you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of **escape**, that you may be **able** to bear it.



We are safe as long as we are connected to Jesus. But if we make a mistake and are overcome by Satan, we should not be discouraged. God has not rejected or forgotten us.

What should we do if we break one of His commandments?

#### 1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may \_\_ sin. And \_ anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

#### 1 John 1:9

If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, He is faithful and just to \_\_\_\_ us our sins and to \_\_\_\_ us from all unrighteousness

#### 1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may **not** sin. And **if** anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

#### 1 John 1:9

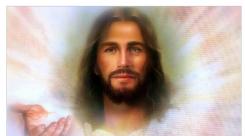
If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

#### God's Unchanging Law



Repentance is being sorry for sin and turning away from it. God is merciful and gracious. When we go to Him in repentance, asking Him for forgiveness and power to overcome, He will not turn us away. He loves to have us come to Him just as we are. It is His glory to wrap His arms of love around us, wash us clean, bandage our wounds, and give us new strength to fight the battle against evil.

#### God's Unchanging Law



In the final days of earth's history, there will be people who will be loyal and faithful to God. Through faith in His power, they will keep His commandments. God's blessing will be pronounced on them: "Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city".\* Will you let Jesus be Lord of your life and write His law on your heart?

\*Revelation 14:12, 22:14