TALKING POINTS

Exodus

Quarter 3, Lesson 9
"Living the Law"

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MEMORY VERSE: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: "You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves."'" Exodus 20:22, 23, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson looks at the "Code of the Covenant" (Exodus 21-23)—the practical policies God gave the Israelites to apply His Ten Commandment law in their daily lives.

1. Broad principes are applied in practical policies (Sun, Mon)

- The regulations God gave in Ex 21-23 were not additional commandments but merely practical policies for applying the Ten Commandments in daily life (Ex. 24:7; Dt. 31:24-26).

> The minds of the people, blinded and debased by slavery and heathenism, were not prepared to appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God's ten precepts. That the obligations of the Decalogue might be more fully understood and enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the principles of the Ten Commandments. PP 310 (Qtly, Sun, par 2)

- This type of practical instruction was common in the Bible (Ex. 18:16; Neh. 8:1-8).
    - Jesus had His disciples do the same with His own teaching: "

> When the great throngs gathered about the Saviour, He would give instruction to the disciples and to the multitude. Then after the discourse the disciples would mingle with the people and repeat to them what Christ had said. Often the hearers had misapplied Christ's words, and the disciples would tell them what the Scriptures said and what Christ had taught that they said. 6T 88

- For a list of Commandments and corresponding instruction found in the subsequent chapters, see the Teacher's Comments, p. 119.

2. "Jesus Christ is the same… forever" (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- Christ gave the Ten Commandments (Ex. 23:20, 21; Acts 7:38; Is. 63:9; 1 Cor. 10:1-4).

> Since the sin of our first parents there has been no direct communication between God and man… All the communion between heaven and the fallen race has been through Christ… Christ was not only the leader of the Hebrews in the wilderness—the Angel in whom was the name of Jehovah, and who, veiled in the cloudy pillar, went before the host—but it was He who gave the law to Israel. Amid the awful glory of Sinai, Christ declared in the hearing of all the people the ten precepts of His Father's law. It was He who gave to Moses the law engraved upon the tables of stone. PP 366

- Christ (Heb. 13:8) and His Word (Is. 40:8) are unchanging.
    - Christ's instruction in the Sermon on the Mount was not in conflict with the Ten Commandment law or the "Code of the Covenant."
        - Before commenting on the Law saying "you have heard it said, but I say…" (Mt. 5:21, 27), Jesus explained clearly "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one [b]jot or one [c]tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Mt. 5:17, 18). While circumstances may change certain applications, the moral Law never changes.

3. Our goal should be the ideal (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- How radically different would the history of Israel been if they had followed God's Law (Ex. 23:20-33; Dt. 4:1-6)!
- The correction Christ gave was not to the Ten Commandments or even the "Code of the Covenant" given to Moses, but to the traditions heaped up by generations of false teaching and generations of misapplication.
    - Relation to Gentiles, Sabbath, marriage, etc.; see Qtly, Wed, par 1
        - Our focus in life should be the practical application of the great moral ideals of the Ten Commandments.

CONCLUSION

"God's law reveals Him, that is, His goodness, love, values, righteousness, and His restraints against evil. As the law is holy and just, so is God" (Qtly, Sab, par 2).