

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

“For by the law is the knowledge of sin”

Romans 3:20

Dear Brethren and Sisters called with a Holy calling into the kingdom of Gods Dear Son: I visited a local municipal office in my community of late and conversed with the manager of the facility (of which I am a board member) regarding the operation of the system involved. By God’s divine leading I was lead into a spiritual comment in respect to God’s divine purposes in the world’s current events. Well, within a short period, the conversation was turned to the fellow’s personal concept of God and his relationship, if any.

He proceeded to say how he was brought up in a Christian church as a young boy in rural Missouri; his parents were very devout believers and faithful to their local assembly. He went on to confess that he does not attend any local church currently as he indicated he probably should, but he tries to live the Christian life by attempting to keep the Ten commandments and do the best he could in living according to the Bible. During the conclusion of this conversation he was called away to take care of some immediate business.

It haunted me that I was not able to follow up on his comments which he had made regarding the Christian life and his attempts to keep the ten commandments. I thought very seriously about how there are millions of people that have this same concept of what it is to attempt to be a Christian. I thought “how many people actually know what the ten commandments are?”

Thinking that in most (so-called) Christian assemblies. I would be surprised if 90% of the attendees actually could name the Ten commandments let alone attempt to live by them. I further was challenged in my thoughts if most professing Christians could name FIVE of the ten commandments.

At my next scheduled preaching appointment, I mentioned this conversation in my message attempts and stated, “how many professing Christians can name the ten

commandments”? I got a “deer in the headlights” (a blank appearance) look from all that was under the sound of my voice. I had no one which wanted to volunteer to attempt to quote me the ten commandments.

Now, yesterday, this same fellow called me (by divine appointment) to ask if he could come by my home to talk with me about some business. I said, “sure, I’ll be working in my garage, come on by, I’ll be home all day.” Well, he was there within fifteen minutes and we discussed the business at hand. Then I said to the fellow, “I used you in a sermon of which I was sharing with the church I pastor last Sunday.” He was surprised at my comment and looked puzzled. I said, “do you recall our conversation a couple weeks ago regarding church and your attempts to live the Christian life”? He responded, “yes I do,” and that you said you were trying to live by the ten commandments although you don’t attend a church and haven’t for years. He responded again, “yes, I recall.” I then said “can you quote me the ten commandments?” And he replied, “NO,” and I said, “OK how about quoting me FIVE of the ten commandments?” He responded by saying, “I doubt if I could without thinking a while on them.”

I said, (quoting his name, as he was getting very uncomfortable by the appearance of his demeanor) do you see how that YOUR attempts to please GOD by keeping the commandments is A FAILURE, and that your attempts to even quote FIVE of the ten commandments was unachievable in your efforts, therefore how can you expect to live by them? He embarrassed, replied, “well I try to live a good life.”

God moved upon me to “PREACH CHRIST” unto him, telling him “that by the works and deeds of the law (commandments) shall NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD, and that he just proved that what I had just said was a fact, for he had failed the “law-keeping test.”

I told the dear man, “The law was given to expose man’s inability to appease the Almighty God of the Holy Bible, and that “by the LAW is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.” For the law condemns the human race “that every mouth may be stopped, and that ALL the world would become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19). “For by the law (and commandments) is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3: 20).

I proceeded to tell the dear man “this is the exact reason why God sent His only begotten Son into this sin cursed world, and that was to “seek and to save them which are lost” which are condemned because of their depraved ungodly nature of which ALL MANKIND was born with resulting from Adams disobedience.....Christ became that sacrificial Lamb that the Old Covenant was a type and shadow of that COULD NOT REMOVE SIN BUT MERELY ATONE FOR SIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR; but Christ, by His sacrificial giving of himself as the God/Man Saviour, taking the sin of ALL which shall in time believe on HIM upon himself and became our sin bearer REMOVING SIN ONCE AND FOR ALL. NEVER TO BE REMEMBERED BY GOD AGAIN!! This my dear friend, I expressed, “is what Christ provided salvation is all about. Christ became the

LAW KEEPER FOR ALL WHO SHALL BELIEVE UPON HIM, and it's all a matter of whether a man has been blessed to believe on Christ alone as the Saviour of their souls.

The dear man listened with serious expression and respected what I had shared. For he said, "Thanks for the good conversation, I appreciated your time very much." I said, "I am here anytime you have a notion to stop by, just give me a call and come on over" (as I see him monthly anyway at the board meeting with which I am associated). I awakened this morning with this man on my heart and I prayed that God would have blessed the words shared regarding Christ so great salvation by this unworthy sinner, which has been given a heart to share what I believe Christ has provided and is continuing to do in this poor and needy pilgrim whose HOPE is in Christ alone.

*Respectfully submitted,
May 8, 2013*