

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

Volume 26, Issue 06 © June, 2018

Shavuot: too many laws?

Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

*May God richly
bless you!*

Tom & Debbie

I'm writing this on the Hebrew **Feast of Weeks**, which is observed fifty days after Passover. We know Shavuot as '**Pentecost**.' Passover is the commemoration of God's leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Fifty days later, He gave them the Law at Mt. Sinai.

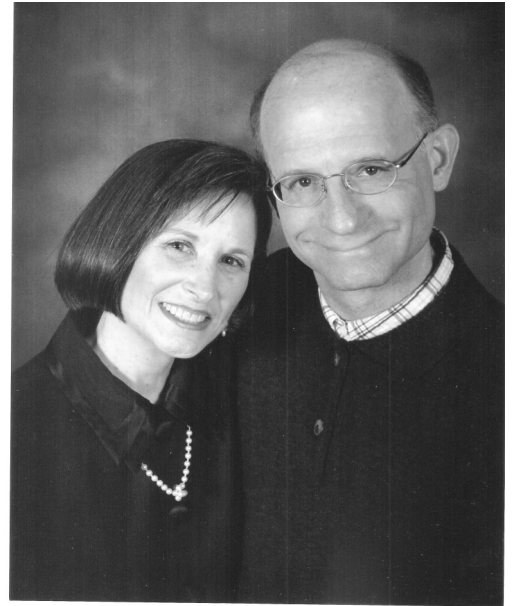
You remember the Law... the Ten Commandments and 600 or so other ordinances and statutes...

Why did God give Israel 'The Law?' He told them if they kept the Law they would live and if they broke the law they would die. The problem was that no one ever kept the Law... they all broke it... everyone! No one ever kept the Law until the Lord Jesus Christ kept it completely and yet, He was killed anyway. It doesn't make sense, does it!

Maybe God just wasn't paying attention and He simply made too many laws, maybe He made it too complicated for us. I mean, we're good enough... most of us, anyway... aren't we?

Catholicism had the right idea, I think... they didn't like the 2nd Commandment: (*You shall not make for yourself any image of anything... you shall not bow down to them or worship them*), so they just erased it... pretended God never said it! Then they split the last one (*Don't covet your neighbor's wife or his stuff*) and made it into two separate commands, (wife and stuff) so that they could still appear to end up with 10. Neat trick if you can get away with... it seems they did. (Check the Vatican website or Google '10 Commandments'... see the first entry and compare it with your Bible at Exodus 20)

That particular command could pose a real problem if you were teaching your people to bow and pray to icons, statues and the bones or possessions of early Christians... you can see how awkward a command like that might appear to the little people out in the pews, the ones paying



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

the bills, the ones with altars to Mary and saints in their houses...

But as I think about it... I'm thinking they might be on to something... maybe if we could just trim down the law a little... we'd all be a lot happier and more *well adjusted*...

Let's look at all ten of God's '*suggestions*' and see which ones we could maybe do without...

1. **You shall have no other gods before Me**... that one's not so bad, I guess... except... there are things that have, at times, seemed more important to me than God Himself and my relationship to Him... I don't think other people have noticed though, so it's probably alright.

2. **Don't make images or bow to them**... most of us don't do that, I guess... except Catholics but then they don't have that commandment anymore so they should be OK.

3. **Don't take God's name in vain**... now there's a command I could have done without... once or twice...

4. **Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy**... hmmm... football, camping,

the crepe restaurant for *brunch*, hookie to the beach and so much more... Seventh Day Adventists would say that all we '*Sunday worshippers*' have already taken the *Mark of the Beast*. (this can also be related to #1... how many of us are far more enthused by our favorite sports team than we are about God Himself and Eternal Life?)

5. **Honor your father and your mother**. Now we're getting somewhere... I do feel really good about myself with this one... I take care of my dear old 99 year old mother and I've never been frustrated or snapped at her... well hardly ever... at least not very often... not lately anyway... well not today... Fine!! Whatever!!

6. **You shall not murder**... OK... now I'm in the clear... I've never murdered anyone... we can keep that one... except Jesus said if we hate someone we're guilty of murder. Duh!!!

7. **You shall not commit adultery**... hurray... I've never done that! We can keep that one... but Jesus said if we look at someone else with lust in

out heart we're guilty of adultery! See what I mean about the whole thing being unfair... it seems like it was all rigged from the beginning!

8. **You shall not steal**... hmmm... yeh, yeh!

9. **You shall not lie**... never mind!!

10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his stuff**... his wife is mean and sort of ugly... not a problem... but he does have a pretty cool Mercedes...

Great! *I've* failed them all and I didn't even have to. Paul said if I'd broken just one, I'd be guilty of them all... so do we even want to keep any of them?

Did God purposely tailor all these Commands to be the very things that we were unable to live up to?

I mean, Come on, Lord... couldn't You have come up with just a few commandments that were not quite so unkeepable?

I'm thinking that if He'd made the whole thing simpler, maybe a lot more people could have been able to keep the Law and then Jesus wouldn't have had to die.

Less unkeepable commands like maybe... 'Thou shalt not speed, thou shalt be careful to observe all the traffic laws perfectly.' hmmm

I could do that... I never have, but it doesn't mean I couldn't... if I was really supposed to... I think... if I wanted to...

How about... Thou shalt not become impatient with other people... especially other drivers...

Well that's just stupid! Who could do that... who would want to do that... try something else!

I know, I know!!! (hand raised) How about just one law... a simple easy one... and if we can do that... we can go to Heaven... how about... **You can go anywhere you want, do**

We are so thankful for our radio sponsors so please do pray for them, and use their service. THANK YOU!!

Pray for and use our SPONSORS

Pray for the health and prosperity of our radio sponsors, their families and their businesses, as they help spread the Gospel. (area codes 503)

Shrum Pest Control	Kelly and Holly Shrum	314-3782
Tom Miller Remodeling	Tom & Linda Miller	777-9080
Minuteman Press of Tigard	Bob & Ruth Ann Davidson	620-5203
Carpets for Kids	Jeff & Katie Fagen	232-1203
Capacity Commercial Real Estate	Mark & Kim Childs	504-3298
Wellstone Wealth Mgmt LLC	Richard Brock & Greg Allen	594-1210
Huber's Café.....	James & Helen Louie, David & Cynthia Louie	228-5686
Infinity Countertops.....	Paul & Carol Lundgren	287-6877
Pietro's Pizza - Milwaukie, Hood River, Salem & Beaverton.....	Ray & Susan David	659-7770
Omni Realty Group.....	Richard & Rachael Osmon	649-1000
Uncle Larry's Pet Treats.....	unclelarryspettreats.com..... Larry Lindel	639-1743

YOUR BUSINESS NAME COULD BE LISTED HERE AS A SPONSOR...CALL FOR INFO!

anything you want, eat anything you want... except one small tiny thing... just don't eat the fruit of that one tree.'

There you have it... even that one simple tiny little 'don't.' Mankind couldn't even handle that. So then why did God give Israel The Law?

Andy Stanley, the Megachurch pastor son of Charles Stanley, says that Christians should '*unhitch their faith from the Old Testament.*'

What a fun idea!

Paul, on the other hand, the *genuine* Pastor to whom God entrusted much of the New Testament and the majority of Doctrine for the Church, wrote, '**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**' 2 Tim 3:16

When Paul wrote that, he was referring especially to the Old Testament, Genesis through Malachi, as well as the various letters circulating among the churches, his own included, of which the entire Bible would eventually be comprised.

Imagine that... the man or woman of God can be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work before the New Testament was even completed and put together.

God gave The Law to reveal His own Righteous character and to show us our utter sinfulness. Rom 3

No one ever kept the Law and the Law never made anyone righteous.

All the Law and all the Prophets pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ... the One Who would come to be the willing sacrifice for our sin.

Without the Law, without the Old Testament, without fulfilled prophecy concerning the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, how could any of us have the faith to believe?

Paul said faith comes by hearing the Word of God... again... Paul meant all the Word of God... at the time, **especially** the Old Testament because it was mostly all they had.

More and more today, the Church is being filled with false teachers telling us that serving others is what leads to Salvation... doing good works is what is most important... '*what you do is more important than what you believe.*'

The Word of God tells us, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be

saved.' Our faith must be in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross for us... but we can only have faith from reading or hearing God's Word... all of it... even the Ten Commandments, none of which most of us could ever even keep... but the Lord Jesus Christ kept the Law for us. 'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.' and 'He Who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.' 2 Cor 5.

God said, 'For I am watching over My Word to see that it is fulfilled.' Jer 1

David wrote, 'You have magnified Your word above all Your name.' Psalm 138

On Shavout God gave the Law to show us our utter sinfulness and our desperate need of a Savior. After that Savior came and sacrificed Himself for us and our sin, God sent His Holy Spirit on Pentecost to fill every believer and to seal us as His own children. He didn't give the Law to save us... He chose us for Himself and then did all the work Himself to save us and now He is the One doing all the work to keep us secure in Him until He comes for us one day soon... at any moment, He will come! Are you ready?

You can touch the World for Jesus Christ... Please partner with us in these last days.
The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

Special gift this month \$ _____ Bibles for China \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

Check _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Discover _____

Acct # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ 3 digit sec. code _____ Billing zip code _____

Contact me regarding info for **automatic credit card contribution.**

Contact me regarding **Corporate Sponsorship** of Radio Ministry

All gifts are tax deductible!

How can we pray for you _____

Please make checks payable to:

Hearts of Love

Box 22800

Portland, OR 97269

*Hearts
of Love*



P.O. Box 22800
Portland, OR 97269

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO. 4184

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please tell us if you want to be removed from our mailing list.



Hearts of Love Radio

Listen live at KPDQ.com

Sunday nights 10:00pm - 1:00am PST

KPDQ FM 93.9 and AM 800

Live Radio Call In:

503-786-9390 or 1-800-845-2162

Mail:

**PO Box 22800
Portland, OR 97269**

To support this ministry:

You may use

PayPal or

the cutout on pg 3

All gifts are tax deductible!

e-mail: heartsofloveministries@comcast.net