

16. Keeping the Tenth Commandment

Once again we will continue looking at the difference between being religious and being spiritual as we did in our last three studies; look into a little more in depth so that we can be clear in our own minds on this very important matter.

Most of us are aware of the Ten Commandments that God gave Moses. You may not know all of them. It is good to know all of them. I want to point something out to you in those Ten Commandments which you may have not noticed up until now. If we understand that, we will see a little bit of the reason why God gave The Law, even though He knew that The Law could never lead anyone to becoming spiritual or to live a godly life. In fact, in Hebrews 8:7, you will see very clearly that the Old Covenant was faulty. That is the word used there that the old covenant, The Law was faulty.

Did God give something faulty? Did He make a mistake? He certainly didn't. He knows the end from the beginning. He gave it with a purpose, for our help, for us to see our need. The Law was given to expose sins. We could also say that The Law was given by God to test man - to see how many people would be satisfied with an external righteousness that brought the honour of men, and how many would seek God for that inner purity which alone pleases God.

You remember when Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, He told them, "You are people, who just clean the outside of the cup, but God sees your hearts and He wants the inside of the cup cleansed.

16. 持守第十誡

下面我們要繼續前三章所討論的「屬宗教」與「屬靈」的區別,並更深入的討論,從而更清楚這個非常重要的問題。

我們大部分人都知道神交給摩西的十誡。也許你還不清楚十誡的全部內容(能全知道是件好事)。我想要指出,十誡中的一件或許你還沒留意到的事。我們若能明白這件事,就能更清楚的瞭解,為什麼神明明知道律法本身無法讓人活出屬靈敬虔的人生,但仍然把它給了人類。實際上在希伯來書 8 章 7 節,你可以清楚的看到,舊約(那個舊的約)是有瑕疵的。那裡用的詞就是,舊的約,那律法,是有瑕疵的。

神怎麼會給人有瑕疵的東西呢?難道祂出錯了嗎?當然沒有。神從起初就知道末了。祂這麼做是有目的的,那就是為了說明我們,使我們看到自己的需求。律法是用來揭示罪的。我們也可以說,神給人律法是用來測試人的,看有誰滿足于給自己帶來好名聲的表面的正直,又有誰渴慕追求神,渴慕內在的聖潔,只想討神的喜悅。

你還記得耶穌對法利賽人說:「你們這些人,只洗淨杯盤的外面,而神看重的是你的內心,祂想要內裡也潔淨。你們這些人盡去做使別人印象深刻的表面功夫,可神想看的是你內心的深處。祂想看你內在的動機是

You people will do all the right things externally so that people are impressed, but God sees deep within; He is looking for inner purity of motive." We can say that the Pharisees were like Adam covered with fig leaves, and you know, from the previous study, that there is curse upon it. That is why you find that Jesus was in constant conflict with the Pharisees.

The Pharisees, who kept the letter of the law down to the last detail, whose doctrines were so correct that we read that Jesus told even His disciples to follow the teachings of the Pharisees (Mt. 23:2-3). Have you noticed that? He said that because whatever they say is right. The only thing, He said, is that they don't do like they teach; don't follow their example in your life, because they teach things they don't practice. So, there was nothing wrong with the doctrine of the Pharisees.

There was another group in Jesus' time called the Sadducees who had wrong doctrines. Jesus never told His disciples to follow their teachings, because they didn't believe in angels or Spirit or resurrection. In fact, they were very earthly minded. They didn't think much about future life at all. Their doctrine was wrong. But the Pharisees were the people whose doctrines were right. A person can have all his doctrines right - his doctrines may be thoroughly evangelical and yet he may not be religious. He may be only having a doctrine which is external.

Now think of the Ten Commandments; God said, "You shouldn't have any other gods, you mustn't make idols, you must not take My name in vain, you must keep the Sabbath day holy. You must honour your father and mother, you must not murder, you must not commit adultery, you must not steal, you

否純淨。」我們可以說,那些法利賽人,就像是披著無花果樹葉子的亞當,你知道吧,我們前面說過的,那上面是有一個咒詛的。這就是為什麼你總能看見耶穌和法利賽人的衝突。

那些法利賽人,把律法的條文持守到枝稍末節,以至於他們的規條是如此的正確,連耶穌都告訴祂的門徒們,法利賽人所吩咐的要遵守(馬太福音 23 章 2 至 3 節)。你留意到了嗎?祂說那些法利賽人所說的是正確的。只是祂說,那些人卻不喜歡做他們自己所說的,因此不要把他們的行為方式當作榜樣,因為他們能說卻不能行。所以,法利賽人的規條是沒錯的。

在耶穌生活的時代,還有另外一群人,被稱作撒都該人,他們則持著錯誤的教義。耶穌從沒告訴祂的門徒去服從撒都該人的教導,因為那些人不信有天使、靈,或是復活。實際上,那些人的心思是非常世俗的。根本就不太考慮以後。他們的教義是錯誤的。然而法利賽人,持著的則是正確的教義。一個人完全可能持著全部正確的教義,完全是新教福音的教義,然而卻不是個屬靈的人。因為他的教義也許全是外在的。

現在請思考一下第十誡,神說,「你不可以有別的神,你不可造偶像,你不可妄稱我的名,你必須守安息日。你必須孝敬父母,你不可謀殺人,你不可犯姦淫,你不可偷盜,你不可做假見證。」這是十誡中的九條。對於任何人,想要持守這九條誡命,就算沒有聖靈的說明,也是可能的。證據就是,在舊約時代,沒有聖靈的說明,很多

must not bear false witness." Now these are nine of the Ten Commandments. It is possible for any person, without the help of the Holy Spirit, to keep those nine commandments. The proof of it is that many people in the Old Testament kept those nine commandments without the help of the Holy Spirit.

They did not have the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament times and yet, Paul could say, "I have lived with a good conscience before God from my childhood up until this day" (Acts 23:1). The rich young ruler, when Jesus pointed out these commandments to him, said, "I have kept all of these from my childhood" (Mk. 10:20). It was possible for a God-fearing person to keep all these commandments without the help of the Holy Spirit, just by his own strength. It is possible for any man of any religion to keep these nine commandments without any help from God, because man has certain strength to lead an externally moral life. If you don't lead an externally moral life, nobody is going to accept your religion. People expect religious people to be, at least, moral externally!

But, when we come to the tenth commandment, the tenth commandment did not deal with the external; it dealt with something inward. The commandment was, 'You shall not lust or covet or strongly desire'- all these three words mean the same. Unfortunately lust has got an evil connotation in people's minds. But all it means is strong desire, like it says in Galatians 5:17, "The Holy Spirit lusts against the flesh." What does that mean? The Holy Spirit doesn't do any evil. He has got a strong desire against (as opposed to) the flesh. And the flesh has got a strong desire against the Holy Spirit.

It is the same word used in Exodus 20: 17 in the

人都持守著這九條誡命。

舊約時代的人沒有聖靈住在裡面,但保羅仍可以說,「我在神面前行事為人都是憑著良心的,直到今日」(使徒行傳 23 章 1 節)。當耶穌提到這些誡命時,那個青年財主說,「這一切我從小都遵守了」(馬可福音 10 章 20 節)。沒有聖靈的說明,敬畏神的人依靠自己的力量,是有可能來持守這九條誡命的。其實對於任何宗教的任何人,不用神的說明,也都可以持守這九條誡命,因為人的確具有一定的能力來保持外在的品行。如果你外在沒有這些品行,那麼沒人會接受你的宗教。人們指望宗教人士至少在表面上應該是有道德的!

然而,當我們面對第十誡時,發現它所對付的不是外在,而是內在的。這條誡命說「你不可以貪戀,或者說覬覦,或強烈渴求的欲望」這三個詞是同樣的意思。可惜,欲望這個詞在人腦海中有邪惡的暗示。其實這條誡命所指的強烈的渴求,如同加拉太書 5 章 17 節所說的「聖靈與肉體的欲望相爭」,這話什麼意思呢?聖靈不會做任何邪惡之事。這話是說,聖靈所渴求的,敵對於肉體渴求的。而肉體所渴求的,是敵對於聖靈渴求的。

在出埃及記 20 章 17 節的第十誡,用的詞也是這個,

tenth Commandment -"You shall not covet your neighbour's house or your neighbour's wife." This means the same as, 'You shall not lust for your neighbour's house or lust for your neighbour's wife.' It means the same as, You shall not have a strong desire for your neighbour's house or for your neighbour's wife or you shall not have a strong desire to get your neighbour's servant and wish that that servant who works in your neighbour's house could be your servant, because may be she is such a faithful servant. You shall not desire your neighbour's business, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's. The tenth commandment was inward. The thing is there is no way by which anybody could find out whether you kept it or not. It was impossible.

Now Paul was a very, very honest person. He tells us that, 'According to the righteousness which is in The Law, he was blameless' (Phil. 3:6). He had kept the law blamelessly. What does it mean? Does it mean he kept all Ten Commandments? - He certainly didn't; He kept only nine. But that is all that was required. Nobody could keep the tenth commandment. Nobody could say I have never lusted after anything; I have never lusted out for my neighbour's wife or my neighbour's daughter and remember every woman in the world is either your neighbour's wife or your neighbour's daughter, everyone in the world. You can never say that you have never desired what belongs to somebody else.

There is not a soul in this world who can say that, not even the apostle Paul. And He tells us that very honestly, "What shall we say then, is The Law sin, may it never be." He continued, "I would not have known sin except for The Law" (Rom. 7:7). Then he mentions the tenth commandments, not the first

「你不可貪戀別人的房屋,也不可貪戀別人的妻子。」這就等於說「你不可以對別人的房屋或他的妻子有欲望」。就是說,你不可以對人家的房屋、妻子產生強烈的渴求,或者因為你鄰居的僕人是如此忠心,就渴望得到她來為你工作。你也不可以渴求你鄰居的生意,或他的驢子,或任何他的東西。這第十誡是向內在的。這條誡命的問題在於,別人沒法知道你是不是在持守它。在舊約時代,持守這條誡命是不可能的。

保羅是位非常非常誠實的人。他告訴我們:「就律法上的義說,我是無可指摘的」(腓立比書 3 章 6 節)。他對律法的持守是無可指摘的。那是什麼意思?他能夠持守全部的十誡嗎?他當然沒有。他持守了只有九條。然而那是當時要求的全部。因為沒人能守得住第十誡。沒人能說自己從沒對什麼起過貪欲。沒人能說自己從沒有對別人的妻子或女兒動過欲望。要知道這世界上每一個女人,不是別人的妻子,就是人家的女兒。你無法說你從沒渴求過別人擁有的東西。

這世上沒有任何一個人能說這話,連使徒保羅都不行。他曾非常誠實的告訴我們,「這樣,我們可說什麼呢?律法是罪嗎?斷乎不是!」爾後他繼續說「若沒有律法,我就不知何為罪」(羅馬書 7 章 7 節)。然後他提到了第十誡,他沒有說前九誡,因為那些他全都持守了。當說,當談到第十誡時,「你不可對別人的東西可起貪

nine, because he kept the first nine. He says, when it came to the tenth Commandment, which said, 'You shall not covet, you shall not lust, you shall not have a strong desire for anything that is yours neighbour's,' "I discovered every type of lust in my heart" (Rom. 7:8). He was honest. He said, 'I thought I was pleasing God till this commandment showed me the corruption of sin in my life. I saw that I was dead spiritually in God's eyes, because I found every kind of lust in me.' He says, 'Every kind of coveting, every kind of strong desire' (Rom. 7:8).

Why did God give such a commandment if He knew that nobody could keep it without the help of the Holy Spirit? Now here is the answer: God gave it to see how many people would be honest in admitting that they come short in this area. Do you know friends; the first step to being spiritual is honesty. God doesn't ask you to be holy first; none of us can be holy. Again, He doesn't ask us to be loving or humble or anything, because all these things take time.

There is one thing you can be today, that is the first step to true spirituality, and that is honesty. Paul was honest. He said, 'It is true, I find every type of covetousness in my heart. I am a sinner.' He admits, 'Such a sinner that I thought I was alive, but I am actually dead, I am dead in sin.' A man who kept every single external commandment acknowledges that he is thoroughly dead in sin, because he discovered every type of lust in his heart.

How do you find it in your heart? You just got to be honest. If you are honest, God will lead you further. But if you are dishonest and pretend that you don't have any such desires and that you are so clean and upright like the Pharisees pretended, then

心」,「我發現諸般的貪心在我裡頭髮動」(羅馬書 7 章 8 節)。他很誠實的告訴我們,「在這條誠命之前,我以為自己是討神喜悅的,可這條誠命卻讓我看見了自己的生命裡犯著罪的腐壞。它使我看到了,在神眼中,我的靈是死的,因為我在自己裡面發現了各種的貪欲。」他說,是「每一種貪欲」(羅馬書 7 章 8 節)。

那麼神為什麼要給人這條誠命?祂明知道沒有聖靈的說明,就沒人能守住。答案是這樣的:神想看看有誰會坦誠的承認自己在這個領域的虧缺。朋友們,你知道嗎?邁向屬靈生命的第一步,就是誠實。神沒有從一開始就要我們聖潔,因為我們沒有人聖潔。同時祂也沒從開始就要你慈愛、謙卑或別的,因為那些需要時間。

今天你所能做的,則是通往真正屬靈生命的第一步,那就是誠實。使徒保羅就是誠實的。他說「沒錯,我在心裡發現了各樣的貪欲。我是一個罪人。」他承認自己是「如此一個罪人。我曾以為自己是活的,然而我其實是死的,因為罪的緣故,我是死的。」一個持守了每條外在誠命的人,承認自己徹底的死于罪,因為他發現了心裡各樣的貪欲。

那麼如何能看清心裡這些貪欲?你唯一需要的就是誠實。如果你夠誠實,神會帶領你到更前方。然而,你若不誠實,假裝自己沒有任何這樣的貪欲,像法利賽人一樣假裝自己純潔又高尚,那麼耶穌將會諷刺的對你說「我不是為了義人而來的,而是為了罪人而來的,來招

Jesus will say to you, sarcastically, like He said to the Pharisees, "I did not come for the righteous people, I came for the sinners. I came to call sinners to repentance," and he will pass by you altogether. And you will miss the Lord completely, like the Pharisees missed him.

Why did they miss the Lord? Why did the Lord leave them alone? He says, "You people are healthy. I came for sick people; only sick people need a doctor. Why do you healthy people need me?" You think they were healthy? - Far from healthy. Pharisees were the sickest people in Israel. Why did Jesus say, "You people are healthy?" He was being sarcastic. He was trying to show them their hypocrisy. He was showing them that He would not go to help those who are not honest.

You see, how easy it is to come to the Lord. You just got to be honest about the sin in your heart and say, 'Lord, there is every type of lust in me.' Because Paul was honest, you know what happened? He discovered how the Holy Spirit's power could help him keep even the tenth commandment; How the Holy Spirit's power could deliver him from lusting within his heart.

The blood of Jesus would cleanse his past failure and the Holy Spirit's power would set him free. He says, "The Law of the Spirit of life has set me free from The Law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2). Do you want that experience? Do you want to come into a life where the Law of the Spirit sets you free from this slavery to lust in your heart? Be honest. Tell the Lord that you have come short, that you have failed, that you have sinned in your heart, and ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you in His blood and say, 'Lord, I never want to be dishonest again.' Ask Him

呼罪人悔改,」然後祂就會不理你了。那樣你就徹底失去了主,如同法利賽人一樣失去了祂。

法利賽人為什麼會失去主?為什麼神不管他們了?耶穌說,「你們這些健康人。我來是為了生病的,只有生病的才需要醫生,你們這些健康人要我幹嘛呢?」那麼你覺得這些法利賽人健康嗎?當然不是。法利賽人是以色列人裡病得最厲害的。那麼耶穌為什麼說「你們這些健康人」?祂是在諷刺。祂想讓他們看見自己的虛偽。想讓他們知道,若不誠實,祂就不會幫他們。

你們看,來到神的面前是多麼容易。你只需要把內心的罪惡向神坦誠,說「主啊,我裡面有各種貪欲」。保羅由於誠實,你知道發生了什麼嗎?他發現聖靈的力量可以說明他來持守第十誡。聖靈的力量可以從裡面給他力量,解救他脫離貪欲。

耶穌的寶血可以潔淨他過去的失敗,爾後聖靈的力量使他得到自由。保羅說,「賜生命的聖靈之律,使我脫離罪和死的律了」(羅馬書8章2節)。你渴望這樣的經歷嗎?你渴望這樣的生活嗎?賜生命的聖靈之律,將你從內心貪欲的牢籠中解救出來?那麼就誠實面對吧。告訴主你的虧缺,你的失敗,對祂坦白你內心的罪,求祂寬恕你,並用祂的寶血來潔淨你,「主啊,我再也不願對你不誠實了」。求祂用聖靈充滿你,從裡面給你力量來潔淨你。

to fill you with His Holy Spirit and give you power
within and you can be pure.