

From The West Meadow
By Pastor Wesley Higgins

When we look at God's creation, we see everything perfect, beautiful and orderly. God Himself looked upon His creation, and everything He saw was very good (Genesis 1:31). At the same time we view and wonder at the perfection of God's creation, we look at God's law (think Ten Commandments) as flawed: difficult, impossible to keep, and burdensome. Yet they came from the very same mind, the mind of God. They are perfect and complete in every way.

Don't fall into the trap of believing that they appear first at Mount Sinai in Exodus 20, because they didn't. And don't suppose that the law was hastily added to deal with Israel's waywardness, or that it was Adam and Eve who were the first to break God's law, because they weren't. The Law was created in the mind of God before the foundation of the world. As proof, I offer you Revelation 13:8, "...the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world", and 1 Peter 1:18-20, which tells about our redemption through Jesus Christ who was foreordained before the foundation of the world. Without the Law, Paul tells us, sin is not imputed (Romans 5:13), and without sin there is no need of redemption. As to Adam's situation, Jesus tells us that it was Satan the Deceiver who was the first murderer and the father of lies (John 8:44). Here Jesus Himself claims that God's law existed long before the creation of man, because for Satan to be a liar or a murderer, there must first be a law that says lying and murder are wrong.

Psalms 19 says that God's law is perfect, able to convert man's very soul; that it makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, it is true and righteous altogether, and that in keeping the law there is great reward. Through Moses, God tells us in Deuteronomy 4 that any nation (and by extension, any family or individual) who keeps His law would be considered great by the world, a "wise and understanding people." (Deuteronomy 4:6) Far from being burdensome, James calls God's law the "perfect law of liberty", and says that anyone who observes it will be blessed (James 1:25).

When Jesus was asked which law He considered the greatest, He summed them all up with one word: love. On this one thing—love toward God and love toward one's neighbor—hangs all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:37-40). Christ does not diminish the Ten Commandments or take away from them. He emphasizes their purpose: the codifying of God's love. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15) John tells us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and that we as God's children reflect that love by keeping God's commandments.

And His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3), they are the Love of the great creator God, manifested in written form.

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