

Please! Consider the Law – God’s Law

Have you considered the law given to Moses by God, otherwise known as the 10 commandments?

(Because of this statement, some NT believers might want to switch off at this point because they know that attempts to live to the law fail and that we are meant to live as via the Spirit of God. That is true. However, Jesus taught that we must use the Law to bring conviction to people’s hearts, otherwise they may not seek repentance and perhaps not really be born again – they cannot be without repentance. It is this other use of the law that I am referring to, so bear with me as I explain – believers and unbelievers)

I am here speaking particularly to those who do not yet know Christ, *(I say yet because I hope they will)* but believers can listen in too, as it may help them or their friends who are not believers as yet. At this time, you may well be in a....

State of no concern for God or your life

Many in the world today do not recognize sin for what it is. In reality, it is the belief in human hearts that we can run our own lives and our actions in life that keep us separate from God. Talk about sin today and it is considered almost a joke, because many of us do not see our wrong doings as sin. WE may not even know they are wrong. Sin, as someone said is when you get caught out after having done the sin. But sin is the wrong attitude or the act, not getting caught out.

Your heart attitude determines your distance from God. If you are **unconcerned about God**, then some circumstance of life may bring you to realize that some sort of consideration of God in relation to life is necessary. *(many are so bound up in the everyday events of life, that there is no time or energy to reflect on what really matters in life)*

It often takes a jolt of illness, or death of a close one, or some similar sudden negative in life to have us realize how empty we are, this being due to a lack of relationship with Jesus Christ. *(we eventually find that out, despite denials)* This may bring you to a....

State of concern for God and your life

If we really do show **legitimate concern** for our emptiness, then we will soon realize our need. *(We get to realize that being good or doing good, does not bring the peace we need – if we are honest with ourselves. The big test by which we can test ourselves and to see how good we are is to compare our lives with the standard of God’s Law – His ten commandments. So we have to decide the....*

Step of checking ourself and being convicted

Out of your concern for your life and what happens at your physical death, please check yourself out against God's law, which follows. Here is God's Moral Code for Life, given by God to Moses.

- 1 You shall have no other God's before me
- 2 You shall not make idols for worship
- 3 You shall not take the name of God in vain
- 4 Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy
- 5 Honour your father and your mother
- 6 You shall not kill
- 7 You shall not commit adultery
- 8 You shall not steal
- 9 You shall not lie
- 10 You shall not covet what others have

Well, how did you go? Did you score well? The pass grade is and can only be 100%. So if you have ever broken one or more of these commandments then you have failed God's test for eternal life? (*right now that is – but there is something you can do*)

If your failure to keep the law bothers you (everyone fails this test), then there is something you can do about it. By saying it may bother you, I mean do you have some sort of awareness that in God's sight you may not be quite right. Good! But unless you know you are under the penalty of God's law, you will not want to believe. That is called **conviction** and is needed before you can take the next step towards God. (*You need to be aware that if you have broken any of these you are subject to God's penalty, which is spiritual death and separation from God forever. In other words you go to Hell when you die. (yes Hell is a reality) That is why Jesus came to earth to die and pay the penalty for your sin that you should really be paying*)

When you are really convicted you will want to begin to....

Turn things around

If you are convicted (*and only if you are – to go on if you are not, will not get you anywhere*) then God uses the word **repentance** as your next step in getting right with Him. It means having big change of mind – to want to change your life from one of running your own life independently of God and wanting to do it His way. So that is what you must do. Consider it well. It is the most important vital step you will ever take in your whole life. By your confession of the wrongness of your previous life, God forgives your sin and brings about a new life on the inside from which you will live forever. (*including after death*) (*So by believing in Jesus Christ and what He has done and repenting of your sin, you can have eternal life and freedom from*

all guilt of your sin) But to achieve that there is one more step to take right now. So.....

What follows conviction and repentance?

You will know when you are prepared to commit your life to the rule of Jesus Christ – even when it is impossible to foresee all the consequences. First, know this scripture is true.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

Privately, (God hears) or with a trusted friend, confess the sins you are aware of and tell God you are turning your life around – with His help. Also tell God you are believing in Jesus Christ and what He has done for you.

Know that you have obeyed what God has said to do – repent and believe – and that you have renounced your former claim to run your own life and begin to let Jesus Christ do that for you. Also, know that God has put a new spirit within you – you are a new creation and a child of the living God.

Read over again and know all those things. They are your assurance you are now right with God. When your life ends you will go to heaven to live with Him. Also your life will be now not be empty as it once was, but full of the life that God provides and the direction that He will give you.

You will now have a desire to know more and the first step is to begin to read your Bible. If you don't have one, get one. You won't enjoy sinning anymore and will want to confess your sin as they occur. You will want to do what you are led to do by the Spirit of God. You will want to talk to others who live out these things. You will be concerned for others to tell them what you have just found out. They may think you strange but that's OK. We are! WE know God! We are different!

Some Other Reflections

If you are still not thinking this way that I have written about, then consider these things.

Comparing yourself and your life against God's law is the only way that you will see your sin – otherwise you will not notice your sin or think that it does not matter. This is because the Bible says that it is only by a knowledge of the law that we will know our sin. (Romans 3:20)

So it is best to just forget all your personal efforts to reach God any other way. It can only be His way. Anyone considering these things honestly will know what they have to do, for their sakes and for their family – and

especially for God's sake. He wants to see you with Him right now and in heaven with Him later.

It's all up to you and God.

If you want to read more, then go to this link. STEP UP TO LIFE listed at <http://www.goodnews.org.au/fullness/index-2008rc.html>

For believers in Jesus Christ who are born again

What I have written here is for those who do not know God, as believers and born again. If you have not heard this way of salvation before, please consider. Evangelists of the past, such as John Wesley, Charles Finney in earlier centuries and A.W. Tozer and Paris Reidhead have taught this way' and successfully evangelized. It seems apparent that as the 20th century passed there was an increasing reliance on a variety of other ways. If you want to consider this some more, go to <http://www.goodnews.org.au/fullness/index-2008rc.html>

However, believers might also consider, particularly in the light of Paul's question to the Corinthians in Chapter 13, verses 5-6. *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.*"

If you have passed this test, then you may like to consider doing some of the study units newly available on Fullness of Life in Christ at <http://www.goodnews.org.au/fullness/>

The blessing is available for us all.

Ken Walker