

HC 114-115 – Jehovah Demands more than any other god!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Why do false gods of false religions demand so little from their followers? The answer is simple: These gods are actually evil spirits with a goal to deceive and destroy, so they limit their demands to what their followers *can* do and **fool their followers into thinking that that is sufficient.** For example, the Muslim god does not call “minor sins” sin. He calls them mistakes. So they don't need real repentance. And if the Muslim commits a big sin, he is not punished by eternal death in hell as the God of the Bible says. Instead, the Muslim god requires that a man must do good deeds to negate (抵消) the effect of the bad deed. Their god minimizes sins and minimizes the consequences for sins. But not Jehovah!

Today you will hear from the one true God - how he demands perfect obedience -something you cannot do. But you will also hear how to obey God's better.

Our headings are:

Your obedience to God's law is imperfect and incomplete
How are you then able to obey God's law more perfectly?

Our goals are: That you will see and be thankful that **Christ obeyed God's law for you** so you get credit, and that, having been renewed in your soul, you will **strive努力 to obey God's law as you regularly hear faithful exposition (阐述) of his Word.**

Your Obedience to God's Law is Imperfect and Incomplete

114 Q. BUT CAN THOSE CONVERTED TO GOD **OBEY THESE COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY?**

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.

1. As Creator of mankind, God gave 10 laws that all men throughout all ages are bound to obey.

God's laws are **incontrovertible (不可转换的) and immutable (不变的) ; they cannot change.**

Matthew 5: 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

These 10 laws are holy because they come from a holy God. These laws reflect God's nature.

2. But because of man's fall into sin in the Garden of Eden it is impossible for him to reach this perfect obedience.

All men since Adam are guilty law-breakers before God. God could not accommodate (迁就) man by reducing his standard of holy demand – as some religions teach. If God reduced his standard he would not be God.

3. But is it really true that man is unable to keep God's law? Yes.

You are not able to keep any of God's law. If you break 1 law you are guilty of breaking all 10. God's laws come as a covenant package, not as piecemeal. Even so-called innocent (无辜的) children break God's law.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For **there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.**

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous (义人) , no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**" 13 **"Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have**

practiced deceit"; **"The poison of asps is under their lips"**; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing (咒诅) and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

It is easier for a man to touch the stars or span (跨越) the oceans than for a man to obey God. This is why Islamic and other religious teachings which argue that you can meet the demand of God is so dangerous. This is why the Devil loves their teaching. **The teaching of these false religions gives people comfort in their sins**...making them think that their sins are less offensive (冒犯的) to God, so they see no need to repent (悔改) . Or if they do break God's law, they teach that the **consequences for law breaking are minor (无关紧要的)** . This is a most deceptive act on the Devil's part. **He makes people feel good, even in sin.** Isn't he rightly called the Sneaky (鬼祟的) Snake?

4. Even Christians, born again believers, cannot keep God's law perfectly.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal (属肉体的) , sold under sin. **15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.**

1John 1:8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (不义) . **10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar,** and His word is not in us.

The Apostles (使徒) Paul and John were speaking to Christian churches – and they both bluntly 坦白地, 毫不客气滴 stated that Christians were unable to keep the law. They included their holy selves in the category of sinners. Born again Christians are unable to keep the law **because their motives (动机) are not perfectly pure**. You might obey a law but not purely for the glory of Christ and not purely from faith in Christ. There are only glimmers (微光, 少许) of obedience to God's laws in the life of Christians.

6. Because you are sinful, you must reject perfectionism (完美主义) that some Christians believe and teach.

Paul, James, and John testified (见证) to their less than perfect lives and the impossibility of perfection. **Charles Finney taught he could be perfect!** Who should you listen to?

Philippians 3:12 **Not that I have already attained or am already perfected;** but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of Me.

James 3: 2 **For we all stumble (绊倒, 失败) in many things.** If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Note James' emphasis...that you stumble in "many" things. So you surely cannot obey God's law perfectly even as a Christian.

How then are you able to Obey God's Law more perfectly.

115 Q. NO ONE IN THIS LIFE CAN OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (十诫) PERFECTLY: WHY THEN DOES GOD WANT THEM PREACHED SO POINTEDLY (特意地) ?

A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to **know our sinfulness and the more eagerly (渴望地) look to Christ for forgiveness** of sins and righteousness. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, **we may never stop striving to be renewed** more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

1. In order for you to obey God's law more perfectly as a Christian and to improve from that glimmer of obedience present in your life, God wants his Word to be preached frankly (直

率地) and regularly to you.

God does not promise you “prophetic ecstasies狂喜, 无法自控的情绪,” dreams, visions (异象), visiting angels, or signs in the sky. No! God requires faithful preaching! This means preachers must be fully aware of God’s demand and submit to it. This means that if you are in a church where there is no faithful preaching, then it is time to start searching for another church!

2. When God’s Word is preached pointedly-without watering it down-you will better see your sinful nature (罪性) –the source of your problems - and you will learn about your salvation (救恩).

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

You can say that the law is a school master to teach you the way back to God and how to live after you come back to God. You will no longer be ignorant.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness (贪婪) unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity (俘虏) to the law of sin which is in my members (肢体). 24 O wretched (悲惨的) man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

When you see your sins you will not despair for life, but you will flee to the Lord for forgiveness.

Ignorance (无知) of God’s law was epitomized (被概括为) by past US President Obama who said that Jesus came to teach us the way of social justice (公义). You must say to him: Mr. President you are wrong. You are bearing false witness (假见证). Jesus wasn’t seeking social justice. He was seeking spiritual reconciliation (和好) of man to God through the shedding of his blood on the cross in the place of sinners.

3. When God’s Word is preached pointedly and you see the hopelessness of your condition and the greatness of your free salvation, it will humble you.

The demands of God’s law overwhelm you and make you look to him for help. You realize your obedience was like

paddling (划船) against a hurricane winds. The humble (谦卑的) man will then look for the Savior’s help for daily sustenance (营养).

4. When God’s Word is preached pointedly and you are humbled, seeing your condition, you will be moved to call on God for help.

5. When God’s Word is preached pointedly and you are moved to call on God for help, and God hears your prayers, he will enable you to fulfill your duties.

And what are those duties God expects you to fulfill? You must love God and love your neighbor.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Romans 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery (奸淫)," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying,

namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment (完成, 实现) of the law.**

This will be Christ's work – he will restore man's ability to keep his law by changing his heart.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, **and write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And love is fulfillment of the law.

6. When you hear God's law preached pointedly and you see God's help in fulfilling your duties, you will surely be thankful and worship him better.

Yes, sometimes preaching might hurt the heart, but it is a good hurt! You know that it will lead to better things if you accept it.

Conclusion:

No Christian man, woman, boy, or girl, no matter how humble or holy is able to keep the law of God. No one can keep God's law in thought, word, or action, not even a born again Christian. And if you break 1 law, you are guilty of breaking all 10. God says so. Even when an act of obeying a law is outwardly good, the heart is never 100% by faith in Jesus to make it acceptable and that work is never 100% for the glory of Jesus.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Think about the godliest men in the Bible how they sinned against God: Adam rebelled, Abraham endangered (使危险) his wife, Moses murdered, Aaron led Israel into idolatry (拜偶像). David committed adultery, murdered, and failed to train his children, Solomon married many wives and worshipped idols, Peter denied Jesus, and Paul had more sins than he wanted to list.

2. Given the fact that Christians sin in heinous (可憎恶的) ways, you need to daily claim the righteousness of Christ – your Covenant Keeper. And you need to rejoice and be glad that God counts his Son's righteousness as yours. And you need to listen to sound preaching, not preaching that will tickle your ears. And you need to ask for help from God to obey his law better. And you need to let others know about Christ's righteousness.

Finally, if you are honest, you have to confess (承认, 认罪) that you have sinned in thought, word, and action. You deceive yourself if you think you are not sinning every day. Self-deception will destroy you. Why not ask Christ to set you free from all your sins. He obeyed all of God's laws for sinners and he took the punishment that belonged to them.

