

Do you love the law of God?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—As we approach the observance of the Day of Pentecost, I would like to recommend that you spend a little time reflecting upon the wonderful law of God.

The apostle Paul described the law of God in such glowing terms.

In Romans 7:12, he called the law "holy," "just" and "good."

In Romans 7:14, he said: We know that the law is spiritual.

Of course, we know that God did not expect salvation to come through humans keeping the law. The Creator knew that the weakness was in our flesh. That's why He had to send His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3).

We needed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

However, just because we needed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ doesn't change the fact that the law is holy, just and good. It is indeed spiritual.

People in various churches (outside the Church of God and inside the Church of God) allow the precious gift of grace to influence them to underappreciate the beautiful law of God.

When a person correctly recognizes that we are saved by grace, that does not diminish God's law.

In Romans 3:31, Paul asked: Do we make the law void through faith?

In Romans 6:1-2, he asked: Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

In Romans 7:7, he asked: Is the law sin?

Paul answered the three questions he posed with the phrase "God forbid" (in the King James version of the Bible).

Notice how some other versions translate the phrase "God forbid."

■ "It is not to be thought of"—The New Testament in the Translation of Monsignor Ronald Knox.

- “Not at all”—The New Testament: A Translation in the Language of the People (Charles B. Williams).
- “That be far from us”—The Epistles of Paul (W.J. Conybeare).
- “Of course not!”—The New Testament in Modern English (J.B. Phillips).
- “May it never!”—The New American Standard Bible: New Testament.
- “Far be it!”—The Emphasized New Testament: A New Translation (J.B. Rotherham).
- “Never!”—The New Testament: A New Translation (James Moffatt).
- “By no means”—The New Testament: An American Translation (Edgar J. Goodspeed).
- “Certainly not!”—The New English Bible: New Testament.
- “Heaven forbid!”—The Twentieth Century New Testament.

As we continually demonstrate a love for God’s law, let’s seek to stay away from the extremes we see around us.

Let’s seek to avoid the approach of the antinomians. Let’s seek to avoid the approach of the legalists.

As I mentioned last week, I hope that we will avoid viewing our observance of the Ten Commandments as a badge of superiority over other people.

Rather, I hope we will view our observance of the Ten Commandments as a blessing to us and to our families.