

he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the lord

chapter nineteen Leviticus

~ We are directly in the middle of a Scriptural valley known as the commands for holy living in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We began this section of Scripture in the last chapter, and we will conclude it in the next. I cannot think of anything more practical than this part of the Bible; so, it's a wonder to me that so many people have no idea that it even exists. The entire point of Leviticus has been for God to tell His people, "YE SHALL BE HOLY!" God says He is holy and that we are to be holy. This is a basic and fundamental facet of everyday, ordinary life for the believer. Holiness is to enter into our web of societal interactions and be woven into our thinking and daily automatic routines and responses. Holiness was paramount to God in the lives of the children of Israel.

HOLINESS is something that really needs to be emphasized today. Frankly, I don't hear any talk of holiness or holy living for the cause of Christ. Too many people love God when it's convenient, but forget about Him in their next statement or deed. They're not fundamental - they're just funny - and mental! The problem is that holiness doesn't get geared into the day-to-day activities of modern life; and, until we do, we are going absolutely nowhere with God. God intends for holiness to be exhibited in our life and home and business. How about it, friends? How much do you really study the Word of God? How much do you think about holiness throughout the day? When is the last time you thought to yourself, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD?

"Whatsoever the law saith it saith to those who are under the law," Paul said. Well, that was the nation Israel he was talking to. Every mouth will be stopped, my friend. The whole world will become guilty before God. Therefore, shall no flesh be justified by the deeds of the flesh in His sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Today, God, by the Holy Spirit, has

revealed Christ, Who is the dynamic required for our Christian ethical living....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

~ In case we haven't noticed, God is telling us to be holy because He is holy. God is going to amplify the Ten Commandments into many, many commandments now. Some of this sounds redundant and I am sure the reason for that is because these people were committing the same old sins repeatedly. God seems to emphasize many particular areas in which these people were weak. History reveals that all of this is very accurate, too. They were instructed to bring the proper offerings, observe the Sabbath correctly and avoid idolatry completely. I can't think of any way to learn the Bible other than that! Holiness is where they broke down! God has commanded them in their daily lives to be holy like Him. We are told today that whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God! Can you say you do that?

Any genuine child of God is a new creation - and a new beginning has taken place in their heart and life. When we are joined to Christ, old things are passed away. We're no longer joined to a legal system, and we are to seek to please our Savior. The major difference is that under the law they were to do this on their own. Today, the Holy Spirit does the work through us and in us. What the law could not do, because it was weak though the flesh, God sent His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, to complete; and, for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit of God! The law never went that far, friends. The Spirit of God wants to bring you up to a very high place in your knowledge of truth and wisdom....

3 Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

~ It may seem a little strange for God to begin here with the fifth commandment to honor your father and your mother but that's where we begin in life, so it really is natural and normal. Life begins in the home. The parent stands in the place of God while that child is under their care. The child looks to the parent, trusts the parent and will take anything the parent gives them. If you fill their little spiritual bottle with poison, they're just going to drink it down as fast as they can! God help the parent that murders their kids spiritually in an atheistic home and doesn't allow their child to turn to Jesus.

The Sabbath is also mentioned again. God demands one seventh of our time and one tenth of our possessions. These two commandments encompass the major division of the Ten Commandments; that is, our duty to God in the first four commands and our duty to man in the last six. The Lord Jesus Christ summed it up when He said, "love to God and love to our fellow man" are the greatest commands. The sum total of the law is that Christ is the Lord our God. The Sabbath today does not rest upon a moral basis; but is an arbitrary command of God given specifically to the nation Israel – and an Israel in apostasy, I might add – they were steeped in sin at this point, and they refused to observe the Sabbath or obey the commandments of God, in general. That's what was going on in the camp at the time in which we are studying. God read the charge against the nation in open court in Amos.

Amos 8:5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the Sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? ~

~ Chapter nineteen Leviticus ~

4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

~ Here are the first two commandments. It seems God is counting them DOWN here. The thought is that we aren't to even cast a glance at idolatry. Heathen worship always appeals to the eye with pomp and ceremony; and

it still does today. We have pageantry and meaningless rituals in religion today that take up the whole day doing them but that are perfectly meaningless. It's all eye and lip service. God hates it, my beloved - and He says, turn ye NOT unto idols. God says, don't look to those people for answers – look to Christ! I wish I could get this truth over to the self-professing "Christian" politics crowd today....

5 And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will.

6 It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire.

7 And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted.

8 Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

~ I would call your attention to the peace offering and how it is offered – voluntarily. We have seen that God says that time and time again. This did not relieve the offerer from following the prescribed rules, though. There are individuals in Christian service that feel they have certain liberties that are special and that no one else can take those liberties. That's just plain wrong, friends. Many Christians are like that, however, if you just look around, you'll see them everywhere. The rich and the poor alike make the same offering; we must always come to God on His terms. There is a penalty for the man that breaks any part of the law as an example unto the people.

The most dedicated people in the world are dedicated to greed. Hollywood is a classic example of that. They get paid very well to give their life everything they've got – and they do! You would think that they would be just one happy group of people - but they aren't. There are more suicides amongst the elite than any other class. Ultimately, and tragically, they dedicate themselves to hating their life because of the sin and disobedience

they love - and it all begins with loving money! I wonder why Christian's don't give learning the Bible everything they've got? Very few truly dedicate themselves to knowing Christ properly, correctly and completely; keyword: completely. So many Christians will be judged on laziness and greediness when they go into the presence of the Lord. Some are proud that they taught a Sunday school class or a Bible study. I ask: how much did you put into it? How systematic and regular was or is it? How many times were you late? Teachers today are flipping through the Bible trying to find something to say and, as a result, we hear a whole bunch of blah. God's going to judge them someday; and God have mercy on them. I do love this section of the Bible, personally! It is vindicating - and convicting ~

9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.

~ This is our first look at God's poverty and welfare program for the nation. We will come back to this field-corner reaping business several times on safari, and we will gather more information each time. Let me say this: God never put anyone on charity as a means to a purpose-filled life. We aren't going to sit down and do nothing and receive a blessing from above. It just isn't going to happen. Whatever the owner of the field didn't get the first time through harvesting was to be left for the poor - but the poor had to go out and glean the field by hand. That was hard work, and they could only take what they could carry. That's how God takes care of His children. The poor Israelite in that day could go out and take what he needed for the moment. God never let the man who was serving Him fall down and starve. God DID let them go hungry, though. Remember, poor Elijah had it pretty rough. Elijah was on the verge of a nervous breakdown when God intervened - but I digress, sort of....

11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

~ Stealing, lying – the entire eighth and third commandment – is dealt with here. Dealing falsely with someone is a form of stealing according to Gods definition of it here. The child of God is to deal with others on an honest and equitable level. We are to pay the people fairly who are working for us. Godless labor is a terrible thing, but it is nowhere near as awful as Godless capitalism! People do and did all of these things listed here in the next few verses, too, by the way....

13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

14 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

~ Here is a note from the Lord to the judge on the bench in the courtroom today; and those judges just happen to need a note from God Himself right now. The human judge of his fellow man needs to understand that he sits in the place of God handing down sentences. If they would remember they are on the bench because God made them representatives of Him, and not of the people as we mistake today, we would have a fair and balanced system; but we do not have fair and balanced justice, of course. We need judges who will judge impartially; but our system is so far from that it is laughable. Shakespeare said, in Henry the Eighth, “.... *Heaven is above all, yet, there sits a judge that no king can corrupt.*” Socrates said, “.... *four things belong to the judge, to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially.*” Of course, our symbol of justice is a blindfolded woman....

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

~ If you want some truly harsh realities presented concerning the principles found in this section of the Bible, then just wait until we get to Proverbs. Tale bearing is tantamount to slander and gossip. It is an epidemic that kills and has killed organized churches in the world. People say they don't believe everything they hear, but they sure will repeat it. Others believe everything that is said. When we get to the epistle of James, we'll see hate put on the same par as murder; just as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "if you are angry at your brother without a cause you are guilty of murder...."

19 Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.

20 And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.

21 And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, even a ram for a trespass offering.

22 And the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he hath done: and the sin which he hath done shall be forgiven him.

23 And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as uncircumcised: three years shall it be as uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten of.

24 But in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the LORD withal.

25 And in the fifth year shall ye eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you the increase thereof: I am the LORD your God.

26 Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

27 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads; neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

29 Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.

30 Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.

34 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

35 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.

36 Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

37 Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD.

~ So, we conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari with some real-life situations whereby God admonishes the children of Israel - and us - that we CANNOT mingle truth and error. Some people ridiculously use this passage to say God approves of slavery but, no, friends, God recognizes sinful situations caused by hardened hearts in man really does exist, and He addresses them instead of tucking them away in the back of the psyche - as does the unbeliever. That's what this section of Scripture means; and this is the same thing we were commanded regarding divorce. It's because of the hardness of their hearts that Moses permitted divorce. This section also contains some dendrology, how did they know all that stuff about picking off the bud?

God also reiterates not to eat the blood for the umpteenth time, and we have been over that completely. Friends, God says all this not so nice stuff repeatedly because this is what was going on in Israel at this time - and it happens to be exactly what is going on today - repeatedly! God goes on to address the Sabbath, which is a 'peculiar relationship between the Lord and the nation Israel forever,' as God said. Today, Christ is our Sabbath. Christ is our Passover. Christ is everything. Familiar Spirits, strangers, the elderly and all of the condemning relevant statutes and judgments are dealt with as God commands us to DO THEM His way - because HE is the Almighty. Can you think of a better reason to obey Him than that? Nothing is better than this ~
