

Study for the Months of March-April 2020

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The Decalogue: Transcript of God's Character and Standard of Man's Duty and Obedience

“The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will magnify the law and make it honorable.” Isa. 42: 21, K.J.V.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass [away], not one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matt. 5: 17, 18. (To *fulfill* means “to preach fully.” Col. 1: 25).

The grand tipping point of the gospel's work on earth, no doubt, is, what transpired at Calvary's cross two thousand years ago. All Christendom, from all appearances, formal declarations, theological dissertations and assertions on the pulpit every Sunday, is fully united “at the foot of the cross,” or so it seems.

In a manner of divine determination that can never be duplicated or repeated ever again throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, the mystery of godliness was manifested to men, angels and the world in the combined most-ignominious yet most-glorious event that took place on earth, exceeding what preceded and prepared for it in and by the birth of Jesus Christ, thirty-three years before Calvary—the moment of earth time when divinity mysteriously combined with humanity in the incarnation. If only they desire so, fallen mankind can understand the simplicity of the gospel of Christ by tracing Him from Bethlehem's humble cradle to Calvary's cruel cross, from His once-and-for-all birth to His once-and-for all death, from one earthquake-less yet angel-heralded glorious act and event to the other more glorious earth-quaking act and event where He “bore the glorious, red-dyed garments and trod the winepress alone: and of the people there was none with Him” (Isa. 1-3), not even His disciples, and neither His earthly father and mother, Joseph and Mary. That's why He is the *only* Savior of mankind.

Without ceasing to be God in His eternal position within the Godhead, the Creator of heaven and earth and of man, the crowning act of creation having been “made in His own image and likeness,” became a Man, partaking of the human flesh and blood nature four thousand years *after* the fall of man—one that had no existence in His preexistence, and that forever--an act of condescension and love most supreme and humanly inconceivable it can described in such feeble human words yet of divine origin, thought and substance, as:

“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created *by* Him, and *for* Him : and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.” Col. 1: 16.

“God, who at sundry [various] times and diverse manners spake in time past unto the fathers [patriarchs] by the prophets, hath in these last days, spoken unto us by His Son,

who He hath appointed Heir of all things, by whom also He made the *worlds* [the other unfallen worlds and their inhabitants in God's universe], who being *the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person*, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins [at Calvary], sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high [as our merciful High Priest and Mediator, after His ascension]." Heb. 1: 1-3.

"But unto the Son, He [the Father] saith, *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity*; therefore, God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness, above Thy fellows." Heb. 1: 8, 9. (Note that God in Christ, from the very beginning, loves righteousness and hates iniquity or sin. And "sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3: 4.)

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels [in the incarnation] for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for everyone. For it became Him, *for whom* are all things, and *by whom* are all things, in bringing many [not all] sons unto glory, *to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings*." Heb. 2: n9, 10.

"Forasmuch then as the children are *partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same*; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death [but not life], that is, the devil." Verse 14.

"For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it *behoved* Him to be made [not created] like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of His people, for in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." Verses 16-18.

"Even *the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations*, but now is made manifest to His saints." Col. 1: 26.

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: *God was manifest in the flesh*, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentile, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3: 16.

This is where they are totally missing the point. What is painfully sad and most certainly fearful is that even while zealously championing the cause of the Cross as "the tipping point of eternity," they are either still in the dark, or worse, intentionally deny the salvation-determining truth enfolded in the everlasting gospel as proclaimed by the first angel (Rev. 14; 6, 7),--- that the changeless and immutable nature of the Ten Commandments, which Christ the Creator and Law giver twice wrote with His own finger on two tables of stone in the Old Covenant, ratified in *type* by the shedding of the blood of bulls and lambs, and then ratified in the *antitype* by His own blood shed at Calvary, renewed as the New Covenant "written in the tables of the heart and mind,"--- was magnified and made honorable by Christ's death on the cross. Type had met antitype. The ceremonial law, also called "the law of Moses" that taught the gospel in types and symbols, all pointing forward to Christ Himself and His work of redemption, were then nailed to the cross.

The law of Ten Commandments, the law governing the heavenly universe of God, which was in eternal existence ever before earth was created, the transcript of God's character, the foundation of His kingdom of love and the standard of righteousness, is what Adam and Eve became guilty of breaking in Eden. It's built-in "wages" for breaking it was "death." This is what necessitated the plan of redemption of the gospel "before the foundations of the earth were laid" by the omniscience and omnipotence of God eternal. Universal harmony in loving obedience to the divine law could only be restored, only when sin and sinners who choose to cling to it, rather than be set free from its bondage by the plan of redemption are finally destroyed.

It certainly is not the law of Ten Commandments, the transcript of God's character and the infallible standard of love and righteousness that can ever be done away with but those who rebelliously, persistently and stubbornly refuse to accept the invitation to enter into the terms of the new covenant, ratified by Christ's own blood, and obey it because they love Him. As Jesus Himself said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14: 15.

"Christ's death did not make the law of none effect; it did not slay the law, lessen its holy claims; nor did it detract from its sacred dignity. The death of Christ proclaimed the justice of His Father's law in punishing the transgressor, in that He consented to suffer the penalty of the law Himself, in order to save fallen man from the curse. The death of God's beloved Son on the cross, shows the immutability of the law of God. His death magnifies the law and makes it honorable, and gives evidence to man of its changeless character The death of Christ justified the claims of the law." Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, (1869), p. 201.

The law spoken of here is the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments, which Jehovah Creator wrote with His own finger, twice, on two tables of stone and gave these to Moses on the top of Mount Sinai to be entrusted to Israel, as a nation and people designated as "keepers" of the law and for them to give to the world by precept, principle and practice. This was God's original plan of dissemination on how His law, that was broken by Adam and Eve's transgression in Eden, would be once more restored in the hearts of the fallen, sinful race. This is the exact same law that governs heaven—the eternal home of the Godhead and the angels, and all the unfallen beings of "the other worlds" throughout God's measureless universe. Earth is the lone planet in rebellion against the Creator and the law of His kingdom of righteousness and therefore is the only one suffering the curse of sin, which is not caused by the law nor by its very nature but its transgression thereof 1 John 3: 4. He who says, 'I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.' 1 John 2: 4. Herein is manifested the love and mercy of God on one side that "kisses" the other half of His righteousness and justice. And "what God hath joined together let no man put asunder." Only fools and the wicked dare do this, to their own destruction. Such are self-condemned. The rest of God's heavenly universe is in eternal, perfect love, peace, harmony and happiness.

Q. If the law is eternal and immutable, even as its Author is, what was it *before* it was written on two tables of stone and proclaimed amidst fearful thunder, lightning and the shaking of the earth?

First, the only Biblical definition of sin is, "the transgression of the law." 1 John 3: 4,

K.J.V. Therefore, Adam and Eve committed the first in on earth because they transgressed the law. Thus, Apostle Paul tells us:

“Sin is not imputed where there is no law.” Rom. 5: 13. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Rom. 6: 23. (This clearly says, “all have sinned,” never suggesting “all *will* sin,” as though man is not a free moral agent with the power of choice, created with the will, which is “the governing power in the nature of man.”)

So, let’s trace from cause to effect by going back to the very beginning *before* “as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world and death passed on to all men, and death by sin; and death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5: 12), to see the whether the law existed and its role in the life and behavior of man towards God and his fellowmen even before it was summarized in ten precepts and etched into two tables of stone by God’s own finger and given to Moses.

“Adam and Eve, at their Creation, had a knowledge of the law; they were acquainted with its claims upon them; *its precepts were written upon their hearts*. [which is why the very thing they realized immediately after transgression was “feeling naked” and “fearful”—the manifestations of guilt, having committed sin even before God sought and called out for them as they hid themselves behind the trees in Eden]. . . . Adam taught his descendants the law of God, and it was handed down from father to son through successive generations. But notwithstanding the gracious provision for man’s redemption, there were few who accepted it and rendered obedience. By transgression the world became so vile [like it is now, Matt. 24: 37-39] that it was necessary to cleanse it by flood from corruption. *The law was preserved by Noah and his family, and Noah [the tenth of the righteous patriarchs from Adam] taught his descendants the Ten Commandments*. As men again departed from God, the Lord chose Abraham, of whom He declared, ‘Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.’ Gen. 26: 5.”- Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 363.

NOTE: It must be quickly pointed out here that one of the most egregious errors perpetrated by the enemies of Christ and God’s law to this very day and on to the close of time, is that the ten commandments are part of “the law of Moses,” therefore are applicable only to the Old Dispensation or Old Testament times and only to ancient Israel up to the Jews in the time of Christ. So that allegedly, when Christ died on the cross---condemned to death by His own people, the Jews, and executed by Rome, their bitterest and most hated enemy then (the crying shame of the universe when church, the religious, and state, the civil power combined to crucify the Lord of glory Himself), --- He “nailed” or abrogated “the law to the cross” and therefore is no longer binding in the New Testament dispensation and Christian Era. Thus, it is erroneously concluded, “we are no longer under the law but under grace.” But all these dishonest, unbiblical contortions and distortions of plain truth is simply to justify keeping Sunday, instead of the Biblical Sabbath of creation, the fourth commandment. That’s the main bone of contention in the beginning, and the final issue bringing earth’s probation to a close.

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Gen. 2: 16, 17. See Gen. 3: 1-7.

I quote a lengthy extract below from the pen of inspiration that *magnifies*---not adds

neither takes away from or replaces---the simple yet concise Biblical record in Genesis of the fall of Eve, then Adam, in that precise order, of the existence of the law—not yet written on tables of stone but originally written in the tables of the heart and mind of man “made in the image and likeness of his Creator and the Law giver Himself. This law, when transgressed, was the original sin *on earth*, that is, and has only persisted and grown worse since then “till earth fills up her cup of iniquity.” The first, one-and-done sin *in heaven* was the rebellion and war of Satan against Jesus and God’s law which he and his angels lost and were cast out to become the fallen angels, demons and evil spirits on earth since then. So we read and further enlightened:

“Satan represented to the holy pair that they would be *gainers by breaking the law of God*. Do we not today hear similar reasoning? Many talk of the narrowness of those who obey God’s commandments, while they themselves claim to have broader ideas, and to *enjoy greater liberty*. What is this but an echo of the voice from Eden, ‘In the day ye eat thereof---transgress the divine requirement---‘ye shall be as gods’? Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden fruit, but he did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an *outcast* from heaven. *Though he had found sin to result in infinite loss, he concealed his own misery, in order to draw others into the same position*. So now the transgressor seeks to disguise his true character; he may claim to be holy; but his exalted position only makes him the more dangerous as a deceiver. He is on the side of Satan, trampling upon the law of God, and leading others to do the same, to their eternal ruin.

“Eve really believed the words of Satan, but *her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin*. She *disbelieved* the words of God, and this was what led to her fall. In the Judgment, men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth. Notwithstanding the sophistry of Satan to the contrary, it is always disastrous to disobey God. We must set our hearts to know what is truth. All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His Word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God’s word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan.

“The serpent *plucked the fruit* of the forbidden tree, and *placed it in the hands* of the half-reluctant Eve. Then he reminded her of *her own words*, that God had forbidden them to touch it, lest they should die. [God did not forbid them to “touch it” but to “eat of it.” It was Eve who *added* these words, hence giving Satan the opening]. She would receive no more harm from *eating* the fruit, he declared, than from *touching* it. Perceiving no evil results from what she had done, Eve grew bolder. When she ‘saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat.’(Gen.____). It was grateful to the taste, and as she ate, she *seemed* to feel a vivifying power, and *imagined* herself entering a higher state of experience. *Without fear she plucked and ate*. [More fear of the covid-19 than of disobeying God’s law!]. And now, having herself transgressed, she became the agent of Satan in working the ruin of her husband. In a state of strange, unnatural excitement, with her hands filled with the forbidden fruit, she sought his presence [because she left his presence in the first place], and related all that had

occurred.

“An expression of sadness came over the face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; *and by the divine sentence she must die*. In answer *she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent*. She reasoned that this must be true, for she felt no evidence [faith is not and does not depend on feelings] of God’ displeasure, but on the contrary realized *a delicious, exhilarating influence, thrilling ever faculty with new life*, such, she imagined, as inspired by the heavenly messengers. [This description of what Eve felt sounds very similar to what people feel when they ingest any hallucinogenic substances, whether from nature or synthesized].

“Adam understood that *his companion had transgressed the command of God*, disregarded the *only* prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had *permitted* Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. How could he have it thus? Adam had enjoyed the companionship of God and the holy angels. He had looked upon the glory of the Creator. He understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God. Yet all these blessings were lost sight of in the fear of losing that one gift which in his eyes outvalued every other. Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator,---all were overborne by love to Eve. She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation. He did not realize that the same Infinite Power who had from the dust of the earth created him, a living, beautiful form, and had in love given him a companion, could supply her place. He resolved to share her fate; if she would die, he would die with her. After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true? Eve was before him, as beautiful, and apparently as innocent, as before this act of disobedience. She expressed greater love for him than before. No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate.

“After his transgression, Adam at first imagined himself entering upon a higher state of existence. But soon *the thought of his sin filled him with terror*. The *air*, which hitherto had been a mild and uniform temperature, seemed to chill the guilty pair. The love and peace which had been theirs was gone, *and in its place, they felt a sense of sin, a dread of the future, a nakedness of soul*. The robe of light which enshrouded them, now disappeared, and to supply its place they endeavored to fashion for themselves a covering; for they could not, while unclothed, meet the *eye* of God and holy angels.

“They now began to see the true character of their sin. Adam reproached his companion her folly in leaving his side and permitting herself to be deceived by the serpent. [NOTE: the start of the blame-game and scapegoatism]; but they both flattered themselves [shared guilt] that He who had given them so many evidences of His love, would pardon this *one* transgression, or that they would not be subjected to so *dire* a punishment as they had feared.

“Satan exulted in his success. He had tempted the woman to distrust God’s love, to doubt His wisdom, and to transgress His law, and through her he had caused the overthrow of Adam.” – *Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, The Temptation and Fall, chapter 3, pp. 55-57.*

The Existence of the Law After the Fall of Adam and Eve

The very first son of Adam and Eve after their banishment from Eden was Cain. We all know he became the very first murderer when he slew his younger brother Abel over the issue of acceptable worship required by God. Cain chose his *own way* to worship (even as man's religions today choose their *own day* to worship "God"). The result was predictable. God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's. In blind jealousy and rage, he killed his righteous brother. Since then, to the close of fallen earth's history, there have ever been only two major classes of man and worshippers: the righteous, following the spiritual line, not literal genealogy, of Abel and the unrighteous spiritual genealogy of Cain worshippers.

Note what the Scriptural record of what God said to Cain about his attitude and his flagrant disobedience to His simple and clear requirement:

“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and his offering he had no respect. And Cain was very wroth [angry], and his countenance fell. And the Lord to said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, *sin lieth at the door* [of your heart].” Gen. 4: 4-7, K.J.V.

We turn again to the inspired pen to enlighten us with more spiritual insights on these earliest tests of loyalty and obedience God administered to the fallen sons of Adam by way of *worship* requirements even as their yet unfallen and sinless parents were first tested in Eden by way of appetite and desire, and failed the test. Now this:

“Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, differed widely in character [as the result of the fall]. Abel had the spirit of loyalty to God; he saw justice and mercy in the Creator's dealing with the fallen race., and gratefully accepted the hope of redemption. But Cain cherished feelings of rebellion, and murmured against God because of the curse pronounced upon the earth and upon the human race for Adam's sin. He permitted his mind to run in the same channel that led to Satan's fall,--- indulging the desire for self-exaltation and questioning the divine justice and authority.

“These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to prove whether they would believe and obey the word of God. They were acquainted with the provision made for the salvation of man, and understood the system of offerings which God had ordained [See Leviticus chapters 1-7]. They knew in these offerings they were to express faith in the Savior whom the offerings typified, and at the same time to acknowledge their total dependence on Him for pardon; and they knew that by thus conforming to the divine plan for their redemption, they were giving proof of their obedience to the will of God.

“Without the shedding of blood, there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their faith in the *blood* of Christ as the promised atonement, by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice. Besides this, the first-fruits of the earth were to be presented before Lord as thank-offering [not a sacrifice!].

“The two brothers erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Abel

presented a *sacrifice* from the flock, in accordance with the Lord's directions. 'And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering.' Gen. 4: 4. Fire flashed from heaven, and consumed the sacrifice. But Cain, disregarding the Lord's direct and explicit command, presented only an *offering* of fruit. There was no token from heaven that it was accepted. Abel pleaded with his brother to approach God in the divinely prescribed way; but his entreaties only made Cain the more determined to follow his own will. As the eldest, he felt above being admonished by his brother, and despised his counsel.

"Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the necessity of sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgement of weakness to follow the exact plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Savior. He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and *mingle* its blood with his offering, but would present *his fruits*, the products of *his labor*. He presented his offering as a favor done to God, to which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but he rendered only partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of a need of a Redeemer, was left out.

"So far as birth and religious instructions were concerned, these brothers were equal. Both were sinners, and both acknowledged the claims of God to reverence and worship. To outward appearances their *religion* was the same up to a certain point; *but beyond this* the difference between the two was great.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.' Heb. 11: 4. Abel grasped the great principle of redemption. He saw himself a sinner, and he saw SIN, and its penalty death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificial life, thus acknowledging the **claims of the law** that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; and trusting the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous, and his offering accepted.

"Cain had the same opportunity of learning and accepting these truths as had Abel. He was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose. One brother was not elected to be accepted by God, and the other to be rejected [as taught in Predestination]. Abel chose faith and obedience; Cain, unbelief and rebellion.

"Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail of themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the virtue of divine mediation, and thus is not able to bring men into favor with God." – Ibid, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 72, 73:

The Sodomites were "sinners before the Lord exceedingly.'

"Abram [not yet Abraham] dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. *But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.*" Gen. 13: 12, 13, KJV.

"And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass growth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom and

Gomorrah, Admah and zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.” Deut. 29: 23.

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 7.

“And as it was in the days of Noe [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day that the Son of man is revealed. Luke 17: 26, 28-30.

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them with and overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly. And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation [conduct, NKJV] of the wicked. (For that righteous man dwelleth among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.” 2 Pet. 2: 4, 5, 6-9.

See **Gen. 19: 1-11** for the specific type of the revolting sin of *breaking the seventh commandment* by the sexually-deviant Sodomites and the violent nature that comes with it, “adding iniquity to their iniquity” (Ps. 69: 27; Isa. 30: 1), bringing down the fires of God’s wrath on the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Compare these to Apostle Paul’s warning against committing specific sins and wickedness he listed in his epistle to the Romans and repeated briefly in his epistle to the Corinthians. Note:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who *suppress the truth in unrighteousness* For this reason God gave them up to *vile passions*. [see Eph. 5: 12]. *For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.* And even when they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are *worthy of death*, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Rom. 1: 18, 24-32, N.K.J.V.

“Do you not know that the *unrighteous* will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. *Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor thieves, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners* will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Cor. 6: 9, 10, N.K.J.V.

Unless we thoroughly repent, confess to God and forsake any of the sins enumerated

above, even if we went to pray in the mosque every Friday or worshipped every seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible or attended church on Sunday of the Christian mainstream, if we are guilty of any of the sins enumerated above, which are all transgressions of the law of God from the very earliest history of fallen mankind to this very day, and refuse to accept the Holy Spirit's merciful invitation to "turn away from our sins" we definitely will not inherit the kingdom of God. We condemn ourselves and earn its painful and wretched temporal consequences as well as merit its reward of eternal damnation. We will not be part of the happy throng of the eternally redeemed that will hear Christ say these sweetest words that ever fell on human ears: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." Matt. 25: 21.

(To be continued in the next issue, God willing)