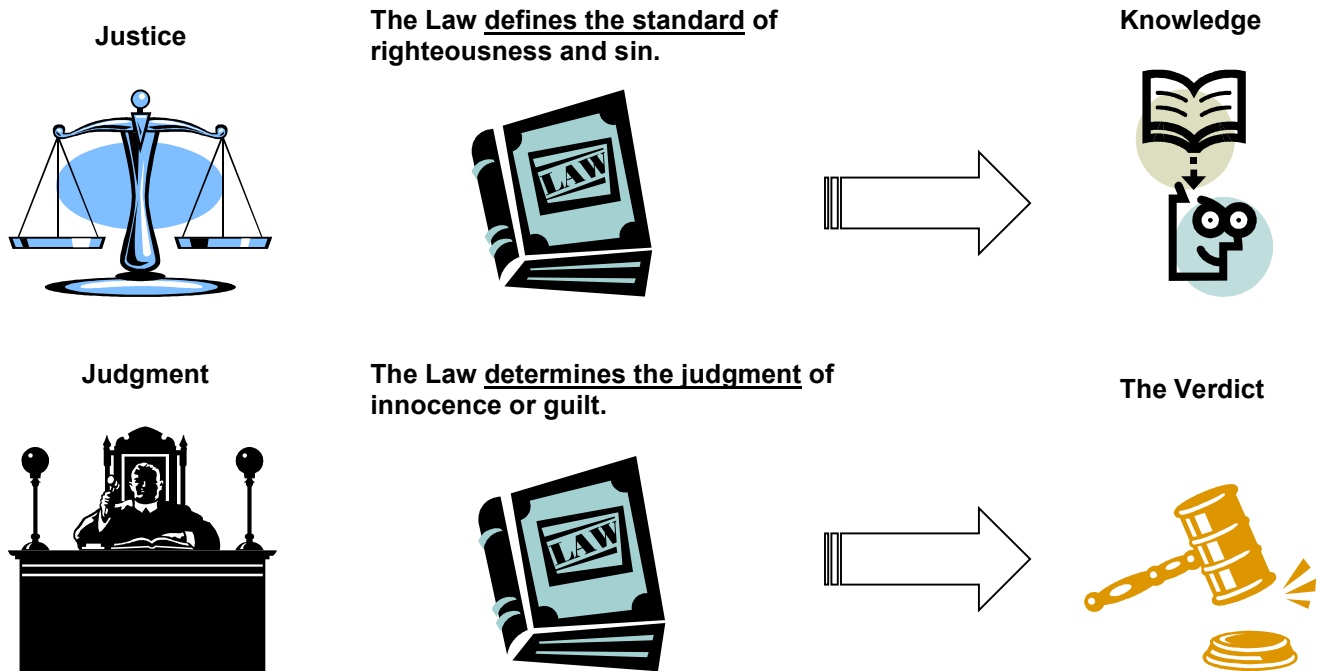


**WEEK #4 THE ROAD TO THE CROSS – next stop = Righteousness Required!****KEY TRUTH THIS WEEK: The Gospel was designed to *reveal* the righteousness of God.****Consider this – the outcome of judgment depends on the standard written in the law.**

*“The Law is our ablest auxiliary. The Law serves a most necessary purpose. They will never accept grace, until they tremble before a just and holy Law.” -- Charles Spurgeon*

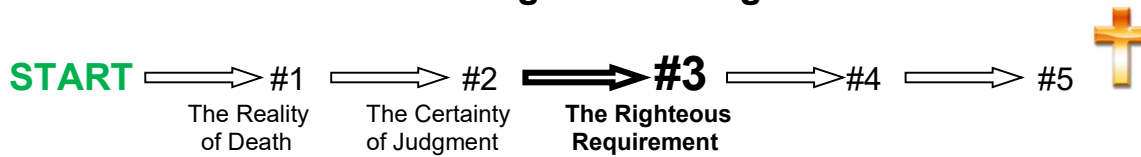
*“I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law. The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man’s heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it.” -- Charles Spurgeon*

*“Conscience is the internal perception of God’s Moral Law.” -- Oswald Chambers*

*“It is the ordinary method of the Spirit of God to convict sinners by the Law. It is this which, being set home on the conscience, generally breaks the rocks in pieces. It is more especially this part of the Word of God which is quick and powerful, full of life and energy and sharper than any two-edged sword.” -- John Wesley*

*“When once God the Holy Spirit applies the Law to the conscience, secret sins are dragged to light, little sins are magnified to their true size, and things apparently harmless become exceedingly sinful. Before that dread searcher of the hearts and trier of the reins makes His entrance into the soul, it appears righteous, just, lovely, and holy; but when He reveals the hidden evils, the scene is changed. Offenses which were once styled peccadilloes, trifles, freaks of youth, follies, indulgences, little slips, etc., then appear in their true color, as breaches of the Law of God, deserving of condign punishment.” -- Charles Spurgeon*

## LANDMARK #3: Reveal the Righteous Judgment of God



1. We must **reveal** that the requirement for Heaven is **RIGHTEOUSNESS** – not being good.

**Romans 1:16-17** – For I am not ashamed of *the gospel of Christ*: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed* from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**Proverbs 11:4** – Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but *righteousness delivereth from death*.

**Matthew 5:20** – For I say unto you, That *except your righteousness shall exceed* the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 5:48** – *Be ye therefore perfect*, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

**Matthew 19:17** – And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: *but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments*.

**Galatians 3:20** – Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for *if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law*.

**Romans 2:2** – But we are sure that *the judgment of God is according to truth* against them which commit such things.

**Romans 10:3** – For they being *ignorant of God's righteousness*, and going about to establish their own righteousness, *have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God*.

**Philippians 3:9** – And be found in him, not having mine own *righteousness, which is of the law*, but *that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith*:

2. The Law tells us what **SIN** is – by it we get **knowledge** of how we have broken God's Law.

**Galatians 3:19** – Wherefore then serveth *the law? It was added because of transgressions...*

**1 John 3:4** – Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for *sin is the transgression of the law*.

**Romans 8:4** – That *the righteousness of the law* might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Romans 3:20** – Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for *by the law is the knowledge of sin*.

**Romans 7:7** – What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, *I had not known sin, but by the law*: for *I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet*.

**James 2:9-13** – But if ye have respect to persons, *ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors*. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and *yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all*. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that *shall be judged by the law* of liberty.

**KEY** It is our aim to make sure that people are “convinced of the law as transgressors.” If they do not see their sin for what is truly is – **breaking God's law** – they will not see their sin in its **true light** before our holy God.

3. The Law is **GOOD** – if you use it lawfully – for the purpose for which it was designed by God.

**1 Timothy 1:8** – But *we know* that *the law is good, if a man use it lawfully*;

So, what was the Law (10 commandments) designed for? The very next verse tells us...

**1 Timothy 1:9-11** – Knowing this, that *the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine*; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

The Law was designed as an **evangelistic tool** – to make sin exceedingly sinful!

**Romans 5:20** – Moreover *the law entered, that the offence might abound*. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

**Romans 7:9-13** – For *I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died*. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, *I found to be unto death*. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. **But sin, that it might appear sin**, working death in me by that which is good; **that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful**.

The Law was designed as an **evangelistic tool** – 10 cannons strong – to **stop the mouth** of justification and leave the whole world (not just Jews) **guilty** before God!

**James 2:10** – For whosoever *shall keep the whole law*, and *yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all*.

**Galatians 3:21-22** – Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: **for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin**, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

**Galatians 3:10** – For as many as are *of the works of the law are under the curse*: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them**.

**Romans 3:19-20** – Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God**. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

**Romans 2:1** – Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man**, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

The Law was designed as an **evangelistic tool** – to lead sinners to Jesus Christ!

**Galatians 3:24** – Wherefore *the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ*, that we might be **justified by faith**.

**Matthew 5:17** – **Think not that I am come to destroy the law**, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil**.

**Acts 13:39** – And **by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses**.

**Romans 10:4** – For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth**.

**Hebrews 7:19** – For *the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

## **BIBLICAL EVANGELISM**

### **Using the Divine Law** The Ten Commandments

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect converting the soul...

- #1           Thou shalt have no other gods before me**  
*(Has God always been #1 – always and at all times – in your life?)*
  
- #2           Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image**  
*(Have you ever worshipped anything other than God?)*
  
- #3           Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain**  
*(Have you ever used your lips to dishonor God?)*
  
- #4           Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**  
*(Have you ever neglected the things of God?)*
  
- #5           Honor thy father and thy mother**  
*(Have you ever dishonored your parents?)*
  
- #6           Thou shalt not kill – in the NT God equates hatred with murder**  
*(Have you ever hated someone?)*
  
- #7           Thou shalt not commit adultery – in the NT Jesus considers lust the same**  
*(Have you ever looked upon a woman or man with lust?)*
  
- #8           Thou shalt not steal**  
*(Have you ever stolen anything or cheated on a test?)*
  
- #9           Thou shalt not bear false witness (lie)**  
*(Have you ever told a lie?)*
  
- #10          Thou shalt not covet**  
*(Have you ever wanted what others have?)*

We see the work of God's Law illustrated in civil law. For example, when there is no visible sign of the law on a freeway, motorists often transgress the speed limit. Apparently each speedster says to himself that the law has forgotten to patrol his part of the freeway. He is transgressing the law by only 15 mph, and besides, he isn't the only one doing it.

Notice what happens when the law enters the fast lane, with red lights flashing. The speedster's heart misses a beat. He is no longer secure in the fact that other motorists are also speeding. He knows that he is **personally** as guilty as the next guy, and **he** could be the one the law pulls over. The fact that there are other people doing it is irrelevant. Suddenly, his "mere" 15 mph transgression doesn't seem such a small thing after all; **it seems to abound**.

Look at the freeway of sin. The whole world naturally goes with the flow. Who hasn't had an "affair" (or desired to) at one time or another? Who in today's society doesn't tell the occasional "white" lie? Who doesn't take something that belongs to someone else, even if it's just a little "white collar" crime? Sinners know they are doing wrong, but their security is in the fact that so many others are just as guilty, if not more so. It seems God has forgotten all about sin and the Ten Commandments; the sinner says in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hideth his face; He will never see it."

**Psalm 10:11** – He hath said in his heart, **God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.**

Now watch the Law enter with red lights flashing. The sinner's heart skips a beat. He lays his hand upon his mouth. He examines the speedometer of his conscience. Suddenly, it shows him the measure of his guilt in a new light – the light of the Law. His sense of security in the fact that there are multitudes doing the same thing becomes irrelevant, because every man will give an account of **himself** to God. Sin not only becomes personal, it seems to "abound". His mere lust becomes **adultery of the heart** (Matthew 5:27, 28); his white lie, **false witness** (Revelation 21:8); his own way becomes **rebellion**; his hatred, **murder** (1 John 3:15); his "sticky" fingers make him a **thief** – "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound." Without the Law entering, sin is neither personal, nor is it evident. Sin was dead.

**Romans 5:20** – Moreover **the law entered, that the offence might abound**. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

**Romans 7:8** – But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. **For without the law sin was dead.**

It was the "commandment" that showed Paul sin in its true light – that it is "exceeding sinful" (Romans 7:13).

**KEY** It is our aim to get people to see their sin as "exceeding sinful" – the conscience will bear witness to the truth as God designed. When you see it, you will glorify God!

*"If the giving of the Law, while it was yet unbroken, was attended with such a display of awe-inspiring power, what will that day be when the Lord shall, with flaming fire, take vengeance on those who have willfully broken that Law?" -- Charles Spurgeon*

*"The trouble with people who are not seeking for a Savior, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a man's mind and conscience. That is why great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the Puritans, and 200 years ago in the time of Whitefield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary 'Law work.'" -- Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

**Here is how to use the Divine Law (the Ten Commandments) as an evangelistic tool when speaking to an unsaved person:**

- The Bible says that on Judgment Day, God will judge every person according to His perfect standard of righteousness.
- God has given us a simple way to know what that standard is – we know it as the Ten Commandments.

**NOTE** God has also written His perfect standard on the heart of all people and has given every person a conscience which will testify of what is right and wrong.

- Let me ask you a question...have you ever told a lie?
- **ANSWER: Yes**
- What does that make you?
- **ANSWER: A liar**
- Have you ever stolen anything...regardless of its value...or cheated on a test?
- **ANSWER: Yes**
- What do you call someone who steals stuff?
- **ANSWER: A thief** (not a “stealer”...that is someone who plays football in Pittsburgh)
- Have you ever used God’s name as a curse word?
- **ANSWER: Yes**
- The Bible calls that **blasphemy**. Do you know what you are doing? You are taking the name of the Creator who has given you life and breath...and you are using it as a filth word to express disgust. If you used my mom’s name as a curse word, how do you think that would make me feel? How much more God the Righteous Judge.
- Jesus said that if you look with lust upon another person, you have committed **adultery** in your heart. Have you ever **looked with lust**?
- **ANSWER: Yes**
- John, **by your own admission**, you are a **lying, thieving, blaspheming, adulterer** at heart (and we have only looked at 4 of the Ten Commandments) and you are going to face God on Judgment Day.
- John, **when YOU** face God on Judgment day and He judges **YOU** based on the Ten Commandments, will **YOU** be **INNOCENT** or **GUILTY** of breaking God’s Law?
- **ANSWER: Guilty**

**NEXT WEEK:** So, will you go to Heaven or Hell?