

VII. Law of God.

LESSON XXXV.

GOD'S LAW A REVELATION OF HIS CHARACTER.

1. God's moral law is summarily contained in the decalogue. Ex. 20: 3-17; 24: 12.

2. It was spoken and written by him who led Israel out of Egypt, and that was Christ. Ex. 20: 1-3; Neh. 9: 12, 13; 1 Cor. 10: 1-4.

3. The following proves that this law is founded on the attributes of God, and hence a revelation of his character:

(a) God is righteous. Ps. 145: 17. All his commandments are righteousness. Ps. 119: 172.

(b) God is love. 1 John 4: 8, 16. His law is based upon love. Matt. 22: 36-40.

(c) God is holy. Lev. 11: 44. His law is holy. Rom. 7: 12.

(d) He is a God of truth. Ps. 31: 5. His law is truth. Mal. 2: 6.

(e) He is a God of peace. Rom. 16: 20. Obedience to God's law brings peace. Ps. 119: 165; Isa. 48: 18.

(f) God is a spirit. John 4: 24. The law is spiritual. Rom. 7: 14.

(g) God is perfect. Matt. 5: 48. His law is perfect. Ps. 19: 7; James 1: 25.

(h) God is immutable or unchangeable. Mal. 3: 6; James 1: 17. His law is unchangeable. Ps. 111: 7, 8; Matt. 5: 17-19; Luke 16: 17.

4. Since all of God's attributes are perfect and unchangeable, it follows that the law, which is an expression of these attributes, must also be perfect and unchangeable.

5. Obedience to this law will therefore develop on unchangeable character in harmony with God's will or character.

QUESTIONS.

1. What does the decalogue contain?
2. By whom was this law spoken and written? Give two references.
3. Of what is this a revelation?
4. Explain how this law is a revelation of the following attributes of God: (*a*) Righteousness; (*b*) love; (*c*) holiness; (*d*) truth; (*e*) peace; (*f*) spirituality; (*g*) perfection; (*h*) immutability.
5. Since God's attributes are perfect and unchangeable, what, then, must the law be which is an expression of God's character?
6. What will obedience to this law develop?

LESSON XXXVI.

ONE LAW FOR ALL.

1. Sin is the transgression of the law. 1 John 3:4.
2. Sin is not imputed when and where there is no law. Rom. 5:13; 4:15.
3. Since sin is imputed only when and where a law is transgressed, therefore, whenever and wherever we find sin, there we will find the law of God binding upon intelligent beings, angels in heaven, or Jew or Gentile on earth. Rom. 3:23; 2 Peter 2:4.
4. Since sin has been imputed to all mankind, since the fall of man, therefore the principles of this law must have been binding upon all since the fall. Rom. 3:9-20.
5. The law of God existed before the Exodus; for—
 - (*a*) God tested Israel's obedience to his law at the wilderness of Sin before they came to Sinai. Ex. 16:1, 4.
 - (*b*) It was in existence, in Abraham's time, for he kept it. Gen. 26:5.
6. The Sabbath command was a part of this law. Ex. 16:4, 22, 28.
7. Israel and strangers—Gentiles—have one and the same law. Ex. 12:49; Num. 15:15, 16, 27-29; Rom. 3:9-20.
8. All, Jew and Gentile, were required to worship God in the same sanctuary, according to the same law and on the same Sabbath days, which proves that everybody in the world is amenable to the same law. Isa. 56:6, 7; 1 Kings 8:41-43; Jer. 12:14-16.

QUESTIONS.

1. What is sin?
2. When and where is sin not imputed?
3. Of what is sin an evidence?
4. How can you prove that all mankind have transgressed the law? Paragraph 4.
5. Give two texts which prove that the law existed before the Exodus.
6. Prove that the Sabbath command was a part of that law. Paragraph 5.
7. Give two references which prove Jew and Gentile have one and the same law.
8. At which place and when were all to come to worship God, and what does that prove?

LESSON XXXVII.

LAW IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

1. The Old Testament teaches that God would not change the law spoken by his own mouth. Deut. 4:12, 13; Ps. 89:34.
2. God has positively forbidden man to change his law. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6.
3. In the New Testament Christ taught that every jot and tittle of the law would remain unchanged as long as heaven and earth remain. Matt. 5:17, 18; Luke 16:17. Commit these verses to memory.
4. He taught that the law was still binding, and that it must be kept. Rom. 3:31; 2:13.
5. James taught that all of the commandments must be kept. James 2:8-12.
6. John taught obedience most emphatically to the commandments of God. 1 John 2:4-6; 5:3.
7. The true saints of God keep his commandments. Rev. 14:12; 22:14.

QUESTIONS.

1. Will God ever change the law which he has spoken with his own mouth?
2. Give two texts proving man may not change it.

3. What does Christ say about the perpetuity of the law?
4. What did he say about obeying the commandments?
5. State what Paul taught about obeying God's law. Give two texts.
6. What does Jesus teach about the law?
7. Does John teach perfect obedience to God's precepts? Give one text.
8. What will true saints always do?
9. What is one condition of entering the city of God?

LESSON XXXVIII.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON LESSONS XXXV TO XXXVII.

1. By whom was the decalogue spoken and written? Name two proof-texts.
2. Explain how the law is based upon the attributes of God, or is expressive of his character. Lesson XXXV, paragraph 3 (*a*) to (*h*).
3. Are these attributes changeable or unchangeable? *Ibid*, paragraph 4.
4. What, then, must be the character of that law which is a revelation of these attributes?
5. What kind of a character will be developed through obedience to such a law? *Ibid*, paragraph 5.
6. What is sin? When and where imputed? Lesson XXXVI, paragraphs 1-3.
7. Of what, then, is sin always an evidence? *Ibid*, paragraph 4.
8. Is there any evidence to prove that the law of God existed before promulgated from Sinai? *Ibid*, paragraphs 4, 5 (*a*), (*b*).
9. Give three texts proving Jew and Gentile were both amenable to this law. *Ibid*, paragraphs 6, 7.
10. What does the Old Testament say about changing the law? Name three texts. Lesson XXXVII, paragraphs 1, 2.
11. What does Christ teach concerning the immutability of the law? Quote two texts.
12. Name two verses in Romans proving that the law is still in force and should be kept.
13. State what James and John say about the law.
14. How can you prove that true saints will observe the commandments of God?