

10 - WHAT HAPPENED TO RIGHT AND WRONG?

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1

Does It Really Make a Difference?



2

(Video: 7 sec)

Have you noticed how crime is rising in cities all over the world?

It is showing up in surprising ways.



3

A man stormed into police headquarters one day, very upset. Someone had broken into his home and gotten away with several valuable items. He had managed to catch a glimpse of the burglar and demanded that the police do something about it.

So the officer in charge led him over to a stack of mug-shot books. He helped the man look through the pictures of people with criminal records, to see if he recognized the burglar.



4

Suddenly the officer said, "Wait a minute." He slapped his hand down on a page and took a careful look — from the photo in the mug-shot book to the man's face and back again. "That's you!" the policeman exclaimed, "And it says there is an outstanding warrant for your arrest!"

As it turned out, the outraged homeowner, who had stomped into the police station demanding justice, ended up unwittingly identifying himself as a wanted criminal!



5

Crime and violence are everywhere, even where you do not expect it. It is in the work place, in factories, in our villages, towns and cities.



6

In some countries riots, revolution and robbery are common. The streets have become unsafe. Assassinations, high-jackings, terrorist bombings, muggings, rapes, burglaries, embezzlements and government corruption are reported every day in countries all over the world.

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Why is crime rising?

What's behind the unprecedented rise in lawlessness?

What has happened to our world?



7

In the Western world and more affluent countries of the world, a whole new generation of youth have emerged – youth who are questioning, skeptical and challenging.

God is calling adults to be role models for their children. Children imitate the behavior of the society around them. Who will be their spiritual examples?



8

Fathers cheat at work or on their taxes, mothers seek abortions, and both parents cheat on each other.



9

The children see it all!

And the broken homes are leaving ugly scars!

Who is to instill a sense of right and wrong if parents cannot or will not?

Surely, parents cannot leave so great a responsibility to the schools!

Many schools don't teach or support moral living.

A general feeling seems to exist that we have outgrown the Bible's moral standard!



10

Even some churches today are teaching that God's standard of right and wrong no longer applies.



11

His commandments, they say, have been abolished,

10 - WHAT HAPPENED TO RIGHT AND WRONG?

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12

or they are no longer relevant,



13

or they are impossible to keep.



14

As a result, many people are doing their own thing—and society is reaping a bumper harvest of broken homes, uncontrolled children, and violent crimes.



15

(Text: Hosea 8:7)

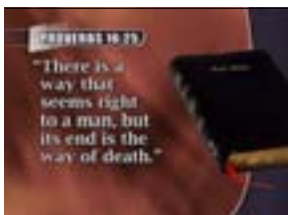
In the words of Hosea, the prophet,
“They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind.”



16

But the question must be asked: Who determines when a situation is right or wrong?
Isn't the moral judgment of even good people often imperfect at times?

If there is no standard of right and wrong outside of ourselves, we can justify almost anything.



17

(Text: Proverbs 16:25)

But the Bible reminds us that we are not good judges of what is right and what is wrong: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Proverbs 16:25.



18

(Text: 2 Timothy 4:3, 4)

The apostle Paul predicted: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires,

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19

because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;



20

and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”
2 Timothy 4:3, 4.



21

Yes, sad to say, we are discovering that we do not get freedom by throwing out the rules!
Remove the standard of right and wrong, and chaos follows.



22

If you removed all the traffic signs and signals, there would be chaos on the roads and highways.



23

What are the rules?
Can we know what is right or wrong?



24

A long time ago God gave us a formula for a crime-free society.
And had it always been followed, crime would never have existed!
Everyone would be safe and happy any place on Earth.



25

(Text: Exodus 20:2)
When the children of Israel camped at Mount Sinai, the Lord came down to meet them and said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Exodus 20:2.



26

(Video: 6 sec) First the Lord identified Himself as their deliverer from slavery.
He was the One who had opened up the Red Sea before them; He was their protector.

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In other words, He was saying, “I care for you. You can trust Me.”



27

Then He spoke His divine law so that man could know how to live in peace and safety—so he would know what was right and what was wrong.



28

Let's take a quick look at a list of the Ten Commandments which He spoke atop Mount Sinai:

(Text: 10 Commandments from Exodus 20)

“You shall have no other gods before Me...



29

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down to them...



30

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...



31

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor... but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God....



32

“Honor your father and your mother...



33

“You shall not murder...

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“You shall not commit adultery.

34



“You shall not steal.

35



“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

36



“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbors wife, nor his male servant,

37



nor his female servant nor his ox nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” Exodus 20:3-17.

38



(Video: 10 sec) As the people of Israel listened, they were greatly moved.

If that was God’s will, they determined to do it!

39



But then, knowing how forgetful we humans can be, God wrote all of the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone with His own finger:

40



(Text: Exodus 31:18)

“When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai,

41

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42

He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony,



43

the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.”
Exodus 31:18



44

Even though this was the first time God had given His law in written form, it had existed from all eternity.

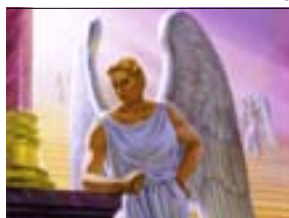
Long before Sinai, or even before Adam and Eve, the eternal, unchangeable standard of right had been the basis of God’s heavenly government.



45

In fact, even the angels were governed by God’s commandments.

They were given the choice of either following God’s law or ignoring it and rebelling against it.



46

Satan and his angels chose to “do their own thing”—to make their own rules.

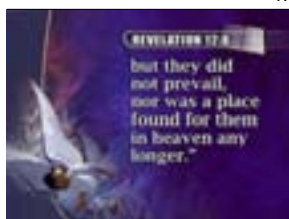
And this rebellion led to their expulsion from heaven.



47

(Text: Revelation 12:7-9)

The Bible says, “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,



48

but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

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49

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;



50

he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Revelation 12:7-9.

But there were angels who chose to follow God and remain loyal to His law.



51

(Text: Psalm 103:20)

"Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments."

Psalm 103:20



52

Adam and Eve had a knowledge of God's law in Eden, for they felt the emotions of shame and guilt after they sinned.



53

And when Cain became angry because God accepted Abel's offering and not his, the Lord asked him,



54

(Text: Genesis 4:6, 7)

"Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"



55

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door." Genesis 4:6, 7.

God's law had to be in effect at the time, for we are told,



56

(Text: Romans 4:15)

"...where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15.

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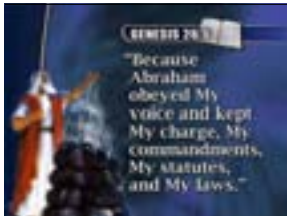
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Webster's New World College Dictionary says,
"Transgression...breach of a law, duty, etc.; sin."



58

Abraham knew and obeyed the law of God long before the law was spoken on Sinai.



59

(Text: Genesis 26:5)
God said He would bless Abraham and his descendants,
"Because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My Commandments, My statutes and My laws."
Genesis 26:5.



60

Of course, long before Sinai, Joseph's sensitive conscience led him to meet the temptation of Potiphar's wife by saying,



61

(Text: Genesis 39:9)
"My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife."



62

How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"
Genesis 39:9.



63

Joseph knew that adultery was sin; he knew God's standard of right and wrong.
He had firmly determined not to transgress God's holy Law!



64

(Video: 4 sec) The children of Israel had been instructed to serve and obey God, but during their cruel captivity in Egypt, they forgot God's law.

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65

After the Exodus, just a few weeks before they reached Sinai, the Lord rebuked Moses because the Israelites were breaking His law by attempting to gather manna on the Sabbath:



66

(Text: Exodus 16:28, 30)

“And the Lord said unto Moses, ‘How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?’”



67

So the people rested on the seventh day.”

Exodus 16:28, 30.

So you see, the fourth commandment was recognized before Sinai.



68

Yes, God’s law is the eternal standard of right for the universe. And really, should it surprise us that God has a law governing His kingdom?



69

(Text: 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)

The apostle Paul wrote: “For God is not the author of confusion...”



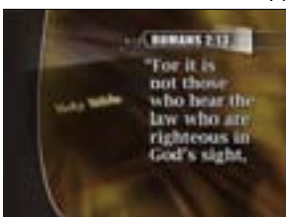
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“Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.



71

No orderly government can exist without laws. No harmonious, happy, safe society can function without rules. Nature itself has laws; even children cannot play games without rules!



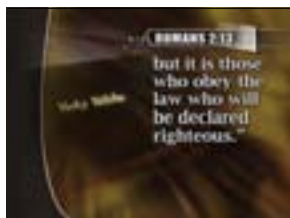
72

(Text: Romans 2:13)

The Bible says, “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight,

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73

but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.” Romans 2:13.

You see, not only is it important to know the commands of God, we must also respond.



74

(Text: John 14:15)

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15.

In fact, Jesus, quoting from the Old Testament, pointed out that love is the basis for keeping all the commandments.



75

(Text: Matthew 22:37-40)

“...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.



76

This is the first and great commandment.”



77

Then Jesus said, “The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



78

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40.



79

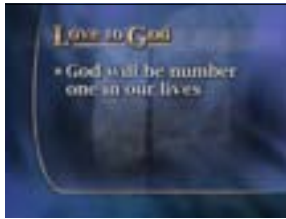
If we truly love God with all our hearts, minds, and soul,



80

we certainly will express that love by keeping the first four commandments:

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God will be number one in our lives

81



Our worship will be reserved for him alone

82



We will respect and reverence His Holy Name

83



We will be anxious to keep our appointment with Him each Sabbath

84



And if we really love our fellow men as we love ourselves, we will surely:

85



Respect and honor our parents

86



Value life

87



Preserve morality

88

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89

Respect the property of others



90

Be honest in our relationships with each other



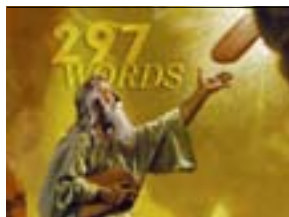
91

Not covet that which belongs to another



92

Estimates indicate that more than 35 million laws have been drafted by man to control behavior.



93

But in the Ten Commandments, God drafted a code of conduct that truly covers all human behavior.

Only God could write such a perfect law. The Bible says:



94

(Text: Psalm 19:7)

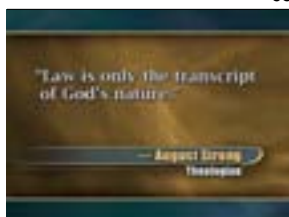
"The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul. Psalm 19:7,



95

(Text: Psalm 19:11)

"And in keeping them there is great reward." Psalm 19:11



96

**A Bible scholar named August Strong wrote:
"Law is only the transcript of God's nature."**

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97

Today we would say, “The Ten Commandments are but a profile of God’s character—a character that is unchangeable”!



98

You see, any change in the law of God would make it less than perfect.
Being a perfect law, it can never be altered.



99

(Text: Luke 16:17)

That is the truth Jesus spoke when He said:

“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle [tiny part] of the law to fail”

Luke 16:17.



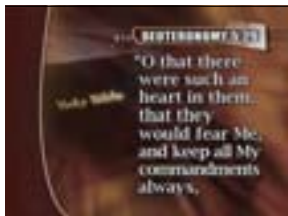
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But, you say, “I’ve always felt that the Ten Commandments restricted my happiness—sort of fenced me in.”
God never meant His law to be a burden to man or to restrict his happiness.



101

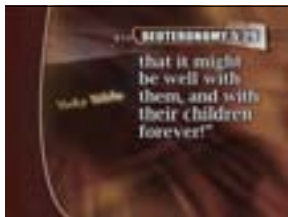
On the contrary, God intended it to be a wall of protection shielding us from sorrow and guilt.
He intended that His law would ensure everyone’s freedom and safety everywhere.



102

(Text: Deuteronomy 5:29)

The Lord said, “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always,



103

that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!”
Deuteronomy 5:29.



104

Just as we build guardrails on bridges and mountain roads to protect us from danger, God gave us His law to protect and guard us on the road of life.

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105

(Text: Romans 3:20)

But there is another reason God gave man His law: "...by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20.



106

(Text: Romans 7:7)

As Paul said, "...I would not have known sin except through the law.



107

For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet'." Romans 7:7.



108

A story is told about a princess who had been led to believe by her subjects that her beauty was unsurpassed.

However, one day a trader came to her village and sold her a mirror.

When she looked into the mirror she was horrified by her appearance and smashed the mirror to pieces!



109

God's law is like a mirror, and as we look into it, like the princess, we may not be pleased with what we see,



110

but destroying the law or ignoring it won't change our condition.



111

The law points out our sins!

It is a guide to help us have a happy, guilt-free life if we follow His instructions in His law.

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112

The law cannot give us power to overcome sin or remove guilt. No amount of good we can do in the future will erase sin committed in the past.

How then can we receive forgiveness?

How can we be saved from the penalty of a broken law, which is death?



113

At the very gates of the Garden of Eden, God instituted a graphic reminder that disobedience brings death—either to the disobedient or to an innocent substitute.

A lamb was to be offered to show the faith of the sinner in God's plan to save man.



114

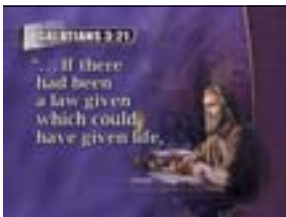
This was God's way of helping Adam understand how the innocent Son of God must die to satisfy the claims of a broken law.

Christ, the Lamb of God, would take man's punishment, and suffer his death.



115

You see, the law could not save anyone from sin.



116

(Text: Galatians 3:21)

The apostle Paul said,

"If there had been a law given which could have given life,



117

truly righteousness would have been by the law." Galatians 3:21.

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**It is not the law that brings forgiveness and salvation—it is God's grace!
Only through Christ's sacrifice can we have eternal life.**

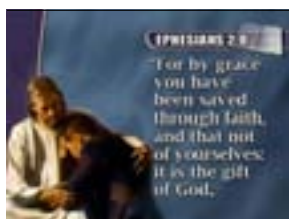


118

(Text: Romans 6:23)

**For, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23.**

Salvation cannot be earned by keeping the law:



119

(Text: Ephesians 2:8, 9)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,



120

**not of works, lest any man should boast."
Ephesians 2:8, 9.**



121

If we are saved by grace, are we free then to live a life of disobedience? NEVER!



122

(Text: Romans 6:1, 2)

Paul wrote: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"



123

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Romans 6:1, 2.

Salvation is offered to those who want to be saved from sin and want to be a part of God's kingdom.

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124

There are those people who believe that the law of God is done away with. Think of it for a moment. If there is no law, there is no sin, because sin is the “transgression of the law.”



125

If there is no law, we do not need grace, since grace is God’s loving mercy when we have broken God’s law.



126

If we don’t need grace, we can do away with the cross.



127

If there is no need for the cross, we certainly don’t need a Savior.

If you do away with the law, you also do away with ...Sin, Grace, the Cross, and a Savior

How we need a Savior who died on the cross to save us by His grace so sin’s debt can be paid, because we have broken His law. This is the gospel. Grace does not do away with God’s law.

By God’s grace we desire to keep God’s law.



128

If a prisoner awaiting death



129

receives a pardon and is set free, does that mean he is now free to live a lawless life? To do his own thing? Not at all!

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130

Because he was pardoned, he should feel more than ever his obligation to uphold the laws of the land.



131

Most important, God's law points out our sins and helps us feel the need of a Savior.

As we accept Christ as our Savior and Lord, He provides forgiveness and also the power to keep His commandments, for He promised:



132

(Text: Hebrews 8:10)

"...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts..."

Hebrews 8:10.



133

It is easy to do something you love to do, isn't it?

And that is what the Lord promised to those who choose to follow Him.

He will write His law in their heart so they will love to keep it.



134

(Video: 8 sec) That is the only way man will be able to obey and follow God.

It was because of His love for His Father that Christ was able to keep the commandments,



135

(Text: John 15:10)

for He said, "I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

John 15:10.



136

(Text: John 14:15)

And Jesus asks us to show our love for Him by keeping His commandments: "If you love me, keep my commandments."

John 14:15.

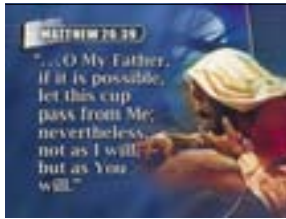


137

The greatest demonstration of love and obedience to the will of God was vividly portrayed one cold, dark night under an old olive tree in a garden.

With drops of blood trickling down His face, the Son of God prayed,

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138

(Text: Matthew 26:39)

“...O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will....”

Matthew 26:39.

The fate of the human race hung in the balance—a guilty world was to be saved or lost.



139

Would this young Galilean put all desire for life and human fulfillment aside and die at Calvary?

He could wipe the sweat from His brow and say, “Let the sinner suffer the consequence of his own sins.”



140

Or He could carry the cross for us.

As He made that choice He died for our sins. He shed His blood so that we could be pardoned. He died the death that was ours so that we could live eternally with Him.



141

Since Christ paid the price for our sins, we can receive pardon through His sacrifice right now.



142

The old rugged cross on a hill called Mount Calvary is an eternal memorial of the price God was willing to pay to satisfy the claims of the broken law and save guilty man.



143

If God's law could have been abolished or changed, Jesus would not have needed to die.

Calvary would have been unnecessary.



144

But God could not ignore guilty man's sins!

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145

He couldn't change His law.



146

**So sinful man needed a Savior.
And thank God for His love in consenting to give His only-begotten Son to die as our substitute!"**



147

**(Text: John 3:16)
"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son,**



148

**that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16.**



149

The book of Revelation describes the people who are ready to meet Jesus at His second coming and go home with Him to spend eternity in that Heavenly City.



150

**(Text: Revelation 14:12)
God says this about them:
"Here is the patience of the saints: here are those who kept the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."
Revelation 14:12.**



151

**(Text: Revelation 14:14)
In verse 14, God says, "Then I looked, and behold a white cloud and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man,**



152

**having on His head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle."
This is a description of the Lord coming to harvest the earth.**

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153

In the great prophecy that Jesus gave John in the book of Revelation about the history of the church, He says that the remnant of the last true part of God's church on this earth is described like this:



154

(Text: Revelation 12:17)

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring



155

who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
Revelation 12:17.



156

There you have it in the last book of the Bible!



157

God's people love their Creator and their Redeemer so much that they want to do all that He asks or desires.
They want to show their love for Him by doing His will.

They recognize that His will is contained in His commandments.

They respond in obedience to the one who did so much to save them from their sins.

With outstretched arms Jesus is calling, “Come!”
He is still calling us!
He wants to give us power to live for Him.



158

(Text: Revelation 22:17)

He wants to wash away our sins.

His pleading voice is still calling, “...And Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22:17.

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159

A preacher visited a home in one of the suburbs of a large city. The lady of the house was courteous but firm: “I am not interested in the Bible or in Christianity — not at all,” she said,

“but if you care to call back some evening, you will find my husband very interested to learn more about it. I would really like you to return and meet him.”

The preacher returned on a Saturday evening. Since it was not a working day, the woman’s husband had followed his custom of spending the afternoon gambling with friends at a hotel.

He was in a talkative mood, but well under the influence of that spirit that makes a man talk much more but say much less.

“I have a Bible,” he said. “You must see my Bible. Mother put it in the case when I left home to marry. Where is my Bible, dear?” A long search for the Bible produced only a prayer book. He never did find the Bible.



160

But alcohol was only one of his problems. Gambling was equally destructive, and he was also a heavy smoker. These, plus other habits, had widened a gap between him and his wife. She had her bags packed, ready to leave home.

They were planning to separate. Things were in poor shape. But a strong desire for something better was in that man’s heart. Even strong drink couldn’t drown it. The preacher made an appointment to meet him again on Monday evening, and at that time, a series of weekly Bible studies began.



161

Week by week, as the topics from the Word of God were presented, the appeal of the cross began its work. Christ, by His Spirit, was moving into yet another needy home.

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Wonderful was that evening when the man said, “You must stay a little longer tonight. My wife will retire now. Can’t you and I have a little chat together, man to man?”



162

Then, frankly, he unfolded to the preacher the sad story of a life that had started well. He had been born into an active Christian home, but had allowed the urges of youth to get out of control. Another prodigal had taken to the road, the ruts of which are deep and lead only to that far country.

The church was soon forgotten, the Bible ignored. Christ was appealed to only in idle oaths.

“But what I want to know, preacher, is — what have you done to me? I haven’t had a drink or made a bet for four weeks now.

Nor have I sworn or used God’s name in vain for that long.” Then, as he pitched a half-smoked cigarette into the fireplace, he went on. “My cigarettes have become distasteful to me. I know I am about to quit.

But there is a greater marvel than even all that. My wife has unpacked her bags. She did it three weeks ago now. This morning she followed me to the gate and, for the first time in years, kissed me goodbye.

Yes, she did! I was shocked, preacher, and quite amazed when she smiled into my face and said, ‘I like the new Jack.’ “Now, what has happened to me? I am sure it is connected with our Monday evening Bible studies.”



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The preacher said, “I have done nothing whatever personally, but I do believe that the Bible can explain it all.” Then, turning to 2 Corinthians 5:17, he began to read: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Slowly the “new Jack” read the text for himself. “A new creature — a new Jack! That’s it! A new Jack! And if you really knew me, preacher, that’s exactly what I am tonight.” Yes, friends, Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, and only He has the power to change men and women.

10 - WHAT HAPPENED TO RIGHT AND WRONG?

This Jesus wants to change your life too. He wants to give you the grace and power to keep His law. You may feel weak, but Jesus is strong. No matter what you have done in the past, Jesus will forgive you and cleanse you. He will give you His strength to live a new life. Don't let anything hold you back.

Jesus is calling. He is calling you to come home. Would you like to quietly kneel and say, "Lord, yes, I am coming?" Right now simply slip to your knees. Forget about the audience. Think only of Jesus as you kneel. Say, "Yes, Jesus, I am coming. I am coming right now."