THE BALANCES’ STANDARD WEIGHT

The stone (‘eben, Hebrew) is being translated as “weight” in KJV. The stones were usually made into cubes for its certain weight for the balances use. The Ten Commandments were written in stones, the sure and just weight to judge the path of every man. It is the codified image of God which counterweight man’s image. God’s word is the standard of weighing every thought and action. It is the constitution of God’s kingdom, the perfect weight inscribed on the stone (Exodus 24:12). Solomon in his conclusive speech said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil” Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. King Solomon declared, “A just weight and balance are the LORD’S: all the weights of the bag are his work” “Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD” “A false balance [is] abomination to the LORD: but a just weight [is] his delight” Proverbs 16:11; 20:10; 11:1. The changing of God’s law, the weight of the balances is the work of abomination, the work of the Anti-Christ (see Daniel 7:25). God’s law added with human laws or traditions nullifies its authority (see Matthew 15:1-9). Jesus came to defend the standard weight of God and bid His followers to do the same (see Matthew 5-7). James said, “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty” James 2:12. God proves if man stayed in the path of equity and preserved righteousness. In His judgment we learn righteousness as Isaiah recorded. “The way of the just [is] uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just. Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of [our] soul [is] to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments [are] in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” Isaiah 26:7-9.

1. OBEDIENCE IS THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE—THE SHARING OF VALUE

   A. God’s commandments are expressed in love which implies equity (—as thyself)
   “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40.

   Does man appreciates the image, the righteousness God gave him? Or is he rebelling against it? Obedience to the law means man’s acceptance, acknowledgement, and appreciation of God’s love, the value He gave to mankind. The law of God is the law of love, the principles on how to retain and how to express acknowledgment of the value God gave to mankind. The righteousness and the love of God are expressed in the form of the Ten Commandments. This law is the path of equity, the two way path: The first section, we say the first tablet of stone expresses how to acknowledge fully in God’s dealing with man in whom He created in His image. It guides how man should express appreciations and acceptance to the moral value God had invested in him. The second tablet reveals how man should deal with fellowmen in equity. As they have received the same moral value from God, they have to deal
each other as their own self. The phrase “as thyself” is the expression of equity; your value is as mine, and my value is as yours; our value is the same which we received from God, His image, the value of his own-self and life. When Christ came here on earth He demonstrated how God values mankind by giving His own life at the cross. The value God gave at the creation was finally ratified at His Son’s death. Christ had fulfilled the whole law and sacrifice His life that we might have His righteousness, the restoration of the rejected life that we might be reconciled with God and be sustained with eternal life.

1. The commandments of reciprocity: God gave it all or whole and must be acknowledged as thus;
“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Deuteronomy 6:5.

2. The commandments of fairness or justice:
“And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man” Genesis 9:5.
“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.” James 3:9.

3. The commandments of equity: (as thyself)
“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.” Leviticus 19:18.
“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” Leviticus 19:34.

4. The commandments of unmerited love (not earned by merit, given by choice)
“And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.” Deuteronomy 5:10.
“The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people.” Deuteronomy 7:7.

5. The commandments with condition or purpose (can be rejected and withdrawn or be retained with its blessings)
“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” Exodus 19:5.
“Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.” Exodus 23:21.
“But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.” Exodus 23:22.
“A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day.” Deuteronomy 11:27
“And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.” Deuteronomy 11:28.
“Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his
voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.” Deuteronomy 13:4.

But notice here that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love. The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life? When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, "I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” Hebrews 10:16. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? Obedience--the service and allegiance of love--is the true sign of discipleship. Thus the Scripture says, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 5:3; 2:4. Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience."¹

B. Obedience is not a substitute to faith to receive righteousness from God

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” Romans 4:3.

"Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:3-5). Righteousness is obedience to the law. The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law; but he is incapable of rendering it. The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light. He can say with rejoicing, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).”²

C. Obedience to all God’s commandment the key to retain righteousness

Obedience is not the means to receive righteousness but to retain-to-attain and not to obtain-to-retain on what God gives to anyone who has faith in Him. Without obedience or works the righteousness will not become ours fully and permanently. Faith is to receive-to-retain; it to lead us to obedience or works as the following verses shows:

¹ SC 60.2
² 1SM 367.1
“And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” Deuteronomy 6:25.

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” James 2:21-23. 
(See Obedience, the fruit of faith)

D. There were righteous people, they who walked in all the commandments and ordinances of God

“There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” Luke 1:5,6.

“Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” Genesis 26:5.

E. Obedience is the expression of love

“And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:6.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments… He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:15, 21.

“And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” 1 John 1:6.

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:8-10.

“The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God.”³

³ COL 97.3
F. Obedience, the Fruit of Faith

“And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” 1 John 3:23, 24.

“The faith which avails to bring us in vital contact with Christ expresses on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire consecration. This faith works by love and purifies the soul. It works in the life of the follower of Christ true obedience to God's commandments; for love to God and love to man will be the result of vital connection with Christ. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9).”

“Obedience--the service and allegiance of love--is the true sign of discipleship. Thus the Scripture says, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments" (1 John 5:3). "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him," (chap. 2:4). Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience.”

“We do not earn salvation by our obedience, for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the fruit of faith. "Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not" (chap. 3:5, 6). Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our feelings, our thoughts, our purposes, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law. "Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (verse 7). Righteousness is defined by the standard of God's holy law, as expressed in the ten precepts given on Sinai.”

Note: God is faithful with the obedient people

“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he [is] God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.” Deuteronomy 7:9.

2. THE TRIPLE A OF OBEDIENCE: ACCEPTANCE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND APPRECIATION OF THE VALUE GOD GAVE TO HUMANITY

a. Acceptance (Accepted God and accepted by God)

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6, 7.

“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee [shall be] his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.” Genesis 4:7.
“So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite [and] Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.” Job 42:9.

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” Ephesians 1:5, 6.

“But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Acts 10:35.

“Our claim to Christ's righteousness is without a flaw, if we meet the conditions upon which it is promised. God has bestowed upon us all heaven in one rich gift, and whatever that gift includes is ours, if we accept Christ as our personal Saviour. Plead the name of Jesus, not your own righteousness, and please your Saviour by leading a blameless life. Speak of Jesus, educate the tongue to speak of his mercy, to tell of his power, showing forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. You are the property of Christ, both by creation and redemption, and the glory of God is involved in our individual success. Christ is our Advocate, and he has undertaken to plead our case in the courts of heaven.”

### b. Acknowledgement

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6.

"How much owest thou unto my Lord?" If we enquire, we shall find this a hard problem to solve. Every specification is given in every dispensation. God lays His hand upon all our possessions, saying: "I am the rightful owner of the whole universe; these are My goods. Consecrate to Me the tithes and offerings. Bring in these specified goods as a token of your loyalty, as an acknowledgement of My intrusted goods, and your submission to My sovereignty, and you will be free to retain your portion. My blessing shall increase your substance, and you will have abundance.”

“Tithes and offerings for God are an acknowledgement of his claim on us by creation, and they are also an acknowledgement of his claim by redemption. Because all our power is derived from Christ, these offerings are to flow from us to God. They are to keep ever before us the claim of redemption, the greatest of all claims, and the one that involves every other. The realization of the sacrifice made in our behalf is ever to be fresh in our minds, and is ever to exert an influence on our thoughts and plans. Christ is to be indeed as one crucified among us.”

### c. Appreciation

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Romans 6:17, 18.

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7 Yi, July 12, 1894 par. 1
8 AUCR, October 15, 1898 par. 6
9 PH004 29.4
“...Let us observe his commandments as obedient children, and then rest upon his word, trusting that he will surely do as he said he would. Jesus loves us; and if we commit the keeping of our souls to him, he will not disappoint our hopes. He is waiting to be gracious to those who feel that they are weak and unworthy. He loves to bless them; for they will appreciate his blessings. But he will not intrude his presence; he will not force the will nor compel obedience.”

3. CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS—HIS OBEDIENCE FOR THE RESTORATION OF OUR VALUE

a. Christ’s obedience made for sinners—to make the righteous-obedient

“Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Romans 5:18,19.

“The obedience that Christ rendered is exactly the obedience that God requires from human beings today. It was the obedience of a son. He served His Father in willingness and freedom, and with love, because it was the right thing for Him to do. "I delight to do Thy will, O My God," He declared; "yea, Thy law is within My heart." Thus we are to serve God. Our obedience must be heart-service. It was always this with Christ. If we love Him, we shall not find it a hard task to obey. We shall obey as members of the royal family. We may not be able to see the path before us, but we shall go forward in obedience, knowing that all issues and results are to be left with God.”

b. Christ’s righteousness is the only hope of the sinner

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us].” Ephesians 2:12-14.

“To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27.

“The human race do not stand in the righteousness of character which Adam possessed at his creation. Although neglect to keep the requirements of God is sin, and the wages of sin is death, yet there is no claim made that man may have eternal life except through the obedience and righteousness of Jesus Christ, who is the representative and head of all humanity. The sinner can find hope only through dependence upon the perfection of Christ. We are to avail ourselves of the merit of the sinless offering that was made through the death of the only-begotten Son of God. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now

10 ST, March 5, 1885
11 ST, January 25, 1899 par. 9
are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”  

**c. Christ’s righteousness—our new life**

“Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Romans 5:17.

“Out of the heart are the issues of life. The inward fountain of life must be cleansed, purified. The will must yield its helm to the command of Christ. Paul, the great apostle, describes this as putting "on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" [Eph. 4:24]. The evidence we bear of this new creation in Christ Jesus is to love righteousness and to hate iniquity.”

"In order to be candidates for heaven we must meet the requirement of the law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" (Luke 10:27). We can do this only as we grasp by faith the righteousness of Christ. By beholding Jesus we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus. Thus Christ makes an end of the curse of sin, and sets the believing soul free from its action and effect.”

**d. Christ’s righteousness our means of reconciliation with God**

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Romans 5:10.

“And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

“Christ alone is able to do this, for "in all things it behoved him to be made 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 the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:17, 18). Reconciliation means that every barrier between the soul and God is removed, and that the sinner realizes what the pardoning love of God means. By reason of the sacrifice made by Christ for fallen men, God can justly pardon the transgressor who accepts the merits of Christ. Christ was the channel

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12 ST, June 11, 1894 par. 11
13 18MR 277.2
14 1SM 395.1
through which the mercy, love, and righteousness might flow from the heart of God to the heart of the sinner. "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)."

**REFLECTION**

“In keeping God's commandments there is great reward, even in this life. If we are obedient, our conscience does not condemn us. Our hearts are not at enmity with God, but at peace with Him. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is Thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward." "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them."  

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15 ISM 395.2  
16 ST, January 25, 1899 par. 10