Overview:

Master, which [is] the great commandment in the law? 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. Matt. 22:36-40

God and His relationship to the creation are being described by the law. God in Christ is the focus of these divine words and revelations that we may be reconciled to Him. As it is being said “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.” Rom. 5:19, 20.

Theme: GOD IN CHRIST, REVEALED BY THE LAW

1. THE TRANSCRIPT OF GOD'S CHARACTER

1Jn. 4:8; Rom. 13:10; Matt. 22:37-40 God's character is the manifestation of the law of the universe.

COL315 "God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. This infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His kingdom. The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God's law, and when those who claim to be children of God become Christlike in character, they will be obedient to God's commandments. Then the Lord can trust them to be of the number who shall compose the family of heaven. Clothed in the glorious apparel of Christ's righteousness, they have a place at the King's feast. They have a right to join the blood-washed throng."

1Jn. 4:7-12 Those who love knows God's character.

See: God and His Law(-characteristics) and God's law a transcript of God's character

2. THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT
Isa. 33:22; Heb. 8:10; Ps. 89:14; Isa. 51:4-8 There is no government without law. God's
government has the immutable standard and unchangeable law.

PP34 "The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all
intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness.
God desires from all His creatures the service of love--service that springs from an appreciation
of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of
will, that they may render Him voluntary service."

GC66 "God had set fast the mountains and girded them with strength; no arm but that of Infinite
Power could move them out of their place. In like manner He had established His law, the
foundation of His government in heaven and upon earth."

3. THE EXPRESSION OF GOD'S WILL AND IDEA

DA329,330 "The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in
Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds
the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just
where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his
attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He
desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ
Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is
within My heart." Ps. 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of
Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity,
brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This
principle He bids us adopt."

MB109 "'Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6:10 . The will of God is
expressed in the precepts of His holy law, and the principles of this law are the principles of
heaven. The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and
to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers."

ISM235 "The Law is an expression of God's idea. When we receive it in Christ, it becomes our
idea. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to
sin. 'Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them' Ps. 119:165--
cause them to stumble."

DA308 "The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our
thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead
to sin. God desires us to be happy, and He gave us the precepts of the law that in obeying them
we might have joy."

4. THE PART OF GOD HIMSELF
EW101 "The holy law spoken by God from Sinai as a part of Himself, and holy men who are its strict observers will alone honor Him by teaching it to others."

See Matt. 5:18,19.

5. IT IS EQUAL WITH GOD HIMSELF

Man cannot disobey God's law without violating God Himself.

RH.1885-11-17 p.11 (2SM50) "None need be deceived. The law of God is as sacred as his throne, and by it every man who cometh into the world is to be judged. There is no other standard by which to test character."

MB54 "The law of God is as holy as He is holy, as perfect as He is perfect. It presents to men the righteousness of God. It is impossible for man, of himself, to keep this law; for the nature of man is depraved, deformed, and wholly unlike the character of God."

1SOP23 "Not so the mind of God, who had made laws and exalted them equal to himself. The happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law. Each had his special work assigned him; and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmonious action in Heaven."

6. THE DEFINITION OF RIGHT AND WRONG

1Jn. 3:4; Isa. 51:7; Rom. 7:7; 1Tim. 1:9 The law points out our sins. It shows what is right and wrong.

GC467,468 "The law reveals to man his sins, but it provides no remedy. While it promises life to the obedient, it declares that death is the portion of the transgressor. The gospel of Christ alone can free him from the condemnation or the defilement of sin. He must exercise repentance toward God, whose law has been transgressed; and faith in Christ, his atoning sacrifice. Thus he obtains "remission of sins that are past" and becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is a child of God, having received the spirit of adoption, whereby he cries: "Abba, Father!"

The love of God will never lead to the belittling of sin; it will never cover or excuse an unconfessed wrong. Achan learned too late that God's law, like its Author, is unchanging. It has to do with all our acts and thoughts and feelings. It follows us, and reaches every secret spring of action. By indulgence in sin, men are led to lightly regard the law of God. Many conceal their transgressions from their fellow men, and flatter themselves that God will not be strict to mark iniquity. But His law is the great standard of right, and with it every act of life must be compared in that day when God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil. Purity of heart will lead to purity of life. All excuses for sin are vain. Who can plead for the sinner when God testifies against him? {SD 214.3}

7. THE REVELATION OF MAN'S DUTY

Gal. 5:14 The fulfillment of the law.

DA498 "This do, and thou shalt live," Jesus said. He presented the law as a divine unity, and in this lesson taught that it is not possible to keep one precept, and break another; for the same principle runs through them all. Man's destiny will be determined by his obedience to the whole law. Supreme love to God and impartial love to man are the principles to be wrought out in the life."

DA608 "The ritual service was of no value, unless connected with Christ by living faith. Even the moral law fails of its purpose, unless it is understood in its relation to the Saviour. Christ had repeatedly shown that His Father's law contained something deeper than mere authoritative commands. In the law is embodied the same principle that is revealed in the gospel. The law points out man's duty and shows him his guilt. To Christ he must look for pardon and for power to do what the law enjoins."

8. THE TEST OF CHARACTER

1Jn. 4:7-21 God's law is the standard of character.

GC467 "The first step in reconciliation to God is the conviction of sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law." By the law is the knowledge of sin." 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20. In order to see his guilt, the sinner must test his character by God's great standard of righteousness. It is a mirror which shows the perfection of a righteous character and enables him to discern the defects in his own."

9. THE STANDARD OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Eccl.12:13,14; Jas. 2:8-12 The Ten Commandments are the standard of God's judgment.

GC.482 "The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment. Says the wise man: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment." Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. The apostle James admonishes his brethren: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:12"

(See #5: 2SM50)

10. THE WAY OF LIFE

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life." Prov. 6:23.

Prov. 13:14. "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."
MH114 "Let it be made plain that the way of God's commandments is the way of life. God has established the laws of nature, but His laws are not arbitrary exactions. Every "Thou shalt not," whether in physical or in moral law, implies a promise. If we obey it, blessing will attend our steps. God never forces us to do right, but He seeks to save us from the evil and lead us to the good."

11. THE CONDITION OF ETERNAL LIFE

Lk. 10:25-37 The Jews were directed to love their neighbors, the Samaritans.

Matt. 19:16-22 The rich young ruler was bid to obey the law fully.

COL391 "Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life--the same condition that was required of Adam before his fall. The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden--harmony with God's law, which is holy, just, and good."

12. THE WALL OF PROTECTION

Isa. 58: 12-17 The repairer of the breach keeps God’s commandments

Deut. 7:12-15; 8:1 The law of God is the protection and blessing if kept faithfully

ST.1900-04-04 p.19 MS153,1899 "In the Ten Commandments God has laid down the laws of His kingdom. Any violation of the laws of nature is a violation of the law of God. The Lord has given His commandments to be a wall of protection round His created beings, and those who will keep themselves from the defilement of appetite and passion may become partakers of the divine nature. Their perceptions will be clear. They will know how to preserve every faculty in health, so that it may be presented to God in service. The Lord can use them; for they understand the words of the great apostle: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

13. THE TEN PROMISES

MS41,1896 (HM.1897-07-01 p.11) "These promises are all given on conditions. The ten commandments, "Thou shalt," and, "Thou shalt not," are ten promises, assured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Here is the sum and substance of the law of God. The terms of salvation for every son and daughter of Adam are here outlined."
"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." This promise is given on condition: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The ten commandments, Thou shalt, and, Thou shalt not, are ten promises secured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe."

Letter 89,1898 "The ten holy precept spoke by Christ upon Sinai's mount were the revelation of the character of God, and made known to the world the fact that He had jurisdiction over the whole human heritage. The law of ten precepts of the greatest love that can be presented to man is the voice of God from heaven speaking to the soul in promise, `This do, and you will not come under the dominion and control of Satan.' There is not a negative in that law, although it may appear thus. It is do, and live."

14. THE DEFINITION OF LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS


DA498 "...Supreme love to God and impartial love to man are the principles to be wrought out in the life."

15. THE LAW IS AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S HOLINESS.

ST.1895-12-12 p.2 "The glory of Christ is his character, and his character is an expression of the law of God. He fulfilled the law in its every specification, and gave to the world in his life a perfect pattern of what it is possible for humanity to attain unto by cooperation with divinity. In his humanity Christ was dependent upon the Father, even as humanity is now dependent upon God for divine power in attaining unto perfection of character. God's law is an exponent of his character, an expression of his holiness; but, viewed by him who has fallen through sin, it is a voice of condemnation, a ministration of death. It is not in the province of law to pardon the transgressor; for "by the law is the knowledge of sin." "By the law shall no flesh be justified." No ray of hope shines forth from the law to the sinner, and its transgressor can find no answer from the law to his anxious inquiry, "What shall I do to be saved?" "How shall I be just with God?"


Ex. 20:3-17 The ten commandments define the prerogative of God as the Creator and the nature and position given to man, His creatures.

Isa. 40:18-31;46:5-9; Ex. 20:4-6 God is incomparable to the creatures and idols.
The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God"--because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. "The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten."--J. N. Andrews, History of the Sabbath, chapter 27. It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, "Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment."

ST.1901-06-05 p.5 "As Creator of all, God is governor over all, and He is bound to enforce His law throughout the universe. To require less from His creatures than obedience to His law would be to abandon them to ruin. To fail to punish transgression of His law would be to place the universe in confusion. The moral law is God's barrier between the human agent and sin. Thus infinite wisdom has placed before men the distinction between right and wrong, between sin and holiness."

17. THE LAW DEFINES THE DISTINCTION AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FELLOW CREATURES.

Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:8, 9 Love toward our neighbor explained by the law

1MCP 244 "Enfolds Human Brotherhood in God's Embrace.-- Sanctified love for one another is sacred. In this great work Christian love for one another--far higher, more constant, more courteous, more unselfish, than has been seen--preserves Christian tenderness, Christian benevolence, and politeness, and enfolds the human brotherhood in the embrace of God, acknowledging the dignity with which God has invested the rights of man. This dignity Christians must ever cultivate for the honor and glory of God.--Lt 10, 1897. (5BC 1140, 1141.)"

18. THE LAW REVEALS THE SET RELATIONSHIPS (AS MENTIONED ABOVE) AND ON HOW TO KEEP THOSE RELATIONSHIPS.

The Ten Commandments a) is the testimony of the established relationship between God and man and between men among themselves. And, b) it expresses how to keep those relationships.
Gal. 5:14 Love is the fulfillment of the law. The Ten Commandments is the guide on how to love or how to relate ourselves with others.

Note: The Son of God had established the relationship and how to keep it since the beginning of creation.

19. THE LAW IS THE TESTIMONY OF THE DIVINE COMMITMENT TO THE CREATION

The law is God's commitment to the creatures to minister to them as their Creator; Sustainer of their needs and preserver; Ruler and Savior. The law testifies that through the Son of God, His commitment is being guaranteed. God serves the creation and in return the creation serves Him. Service to God is just a sign of our acceptance to His ministry in us. Our service is God's ministry out of us. We can see the tip of the iceberg floating on the vast ocean, and we cannot see the biggest portion of the iceberg where the tip relies upon its weight. It is the same with the law of God. Our service to Him is relying upon His ministry to us. This ministry of Christ is being rejected by transgression of God's laws. Sin is an effort to live without Christ.

PP.311 "These laws were to be recorded by Moses, and carefully treasured as the foundation of the national law, and, with the ten precepts which they were given to illustrate, the condition of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel."

20. THE STANDARD OF THE CREATURES NEEDS AND DESIRES OR WANTS

The Ten Commandments express our needs and what to desires or what our wants should be.

The psalmist prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." The Lord heard him, for how full of assurance are the words, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Ps. 119:18, 103; 19:10.). And as the Lord heard and answered David, so He will hear and answer us, making our hearts full of gladness and rejoicing. {TMK 196.5}

{COL 162.1} The life in which the fear of the Lord is cherished will not be a life of sadness and gloom. It is the absence of Christ that makes the countenance sad, and the life a pilgrimage of sighs. Those who are filled with self-esteem and self-love do not feel the need of a living, personal union with Christ. The heart that has not fallen on the Rock is proud of its wholeness. Men want a dignified religion. They desire to walk in a path wide enough to take in their own attributes. Their self-love, their love of popularity and love of praise, exclude the Saviour from their hearts, and without Him there is gloom and sadness. But Christ dwelling in the soul is a wellspring of joy. For all who receive Him, the very keynote of the word of God is rejoicing. 

{PH086 4.2} "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more
understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth. Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. "I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me."

21. THE STANDARD OF LIBERTY

Jas 1:25; 2:12; Ps 119:44,45 The law is the law of liberty. Anybody who walks according to its principles are walking in liberty.

DA 466 "The only condition upon which the freedom of man is possible is that of becoming one with Christ. "The truth shall make you free;" and Christ is the truth. Sin can triumph only by enfeebling the mind, and destroying the liberty of the soul. Subjection to God is restoration to one's self,--to the true glory and dignity of man. The divine law, to which we are brought into subjection, is "the law of liberty." James 2:12."

22. THE STANDARD OF CONVERSION

Psalm 19 the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul

Self must die if we would be counted as the followers of Christ. The apostle says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. . . . For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is created; and he loves the things that God loves; for his life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises, to the life of Jesus. His heart is drawn out after God. His prayer is, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." In the immutable standard he sees the character of the Redeemer, and knows that though he has sinned, he is not to be saved in his sins, but from his sins; for Jesus is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. It is through the blood of Christ that he is brought nigh unto God. As he beholds the righteousness of Christ in the divine precepts, he exclaims, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." As the sinner is pardoned for his transgression through the merits of Christ, as he is clothed with the righteousness of Christ through faith in him, he declares with the psalmist, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." This is conversion. When the Spirit of God controls the mind and heart, it turns the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. The law of Jehovah will then be regarded as a transcript of the divine character, and a new song bursts forth from the heart that has been touched by divine grace; for he realizes that the promise of God has been fulfilled in his experience, that his transgression is forgiven, his sin covered. He has exercised repentance toward God for the violation of his law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ who has died
for his justification. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." {RH, June 21, 1892 par. 6}

**REFLECTION**

The Law of God is a heavy yoke to the sinners and the unbelieving, but those who love Him it is freedom, the expression of love and specially the Divine assurance of commitment to them. The way we understand the law is the way we know and understand God. To obey the law is to honor God’s power in Christ and by this we accept His Divine character. No one can continue to live in sin without dying for it is a rejection of the life that comes from God which is Christ, the life of mankind.

Self must die if we would be counted as the followers of Christ. The apostle says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. . . . For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is created; and he loves the things that God loves; for his life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises, to the life of Jesus. His heart is drawn out after God. His prayer is, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." In the immutable standard he sees the character of the Redeemer, and knows that though he has sinned, he is not to be saved in his sins, but from his sins; for Jesus is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. It is through the blood of Christ that he is brought nigh unto God. As he beholds the righteousness of Christ in the divine precepts, he exclaims, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." As the sinner is pardoned for his transgression through the merits of Christ, as he is clothed with the righteousness of Christ through faith in him, he declares with the psalmist, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." This is conversion. When the Spirit of God controls the mind and heart, it turns the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. The law of Jehovah will then be regarded as a transcript of the divine character, and a new song bursts forth from the heart that has been touched by divine grace; for he realizes that the promise of God has been fulfilled in his experience, that his transgression is forgiven, his sin covered. He has exercised repentance toward God for the violation of his law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ who has died for his justification. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the
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