

## ***“Against the Law”***

John 1:14, *“The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”*

Romans 5:20, *“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more”*

Tonight we want to speak about 2 very different and yet related topics – the Law of God (the 10 commandments) and the Grace of God. The Law of God was given through Moses over 3,000 years ago on 2 pieces of stone (Exodus 20). The Grace of God, however, is a concept that is often missed. Think of some contrasts:

<b>Law</b>	What I can do	Deserved	Earned
<b>Grace</b>	What God can do	Undeserved	Given

We want to emphasize the need for the law to show us our sinfulness, but our deeper need for grace to overcome our weakness. We want to see that grace is better than law.

### ***A BROKEN LAW***

The law of God was written on 2 pieces of stone. Thus it is:

**Hard** – it was written on stone to symbolize that God will not allow it to be broken. God does not accept sin at all.

**Heavy** – it was heavy to carry symbolizing that pleasing God is not an easy thing. See Romans 3:20.

**Broken by one crack** – like a window or a stone, as soon as it is broken once, it is ruined. James 2:10 says, *“Whoever keeps the whole law, and offends in one point – he is guilty of the whole law.”*

If going to heaven depends on law and what I do, I am in big trouble.

**Do I deserve heaven?** No, God’s standard is too high for me to deserve being with Him – I have offended Him.

**Can I earn heaven?** Heaven is too good a place for me to earn with good works – and my sins, even the “small” ones, would ruin heaven. See Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Responsibility?** That is the big problem, I am responsible for my bad deeds and words and thoughts.

There are many examples of grace in our world – can you think of some?

Ultimately, in the spiritual world **we need grace because we have broken God’s law and we have no way to escape His punishment on our own.** The only person who never broke the Law is the Lord Jesus. 1Peter 2:22 tells us, *“He did no sin.”* Because of His perfection, He is able to be the Saviour of the world.

### ***THE TRUTH ABOUT “SMALL” SINS IS THAT THERE ARE NO SMALL SINS***

We sometimes grade sins and think that some sins are not too bad and others are really bad. But when we start thinking beyond things that we do to *things that we say or think*, we must realize that sin is a really deep and big problem in our lives. See Romans 3:14, Proverbs 4:24 and Psalm 144:8 for examples of sins of the tongue/mouth.

A number of the 10 Commandments relate to these “small” sins of the mouth and mind:

Number 3: “You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain”

Number 9: “You shall not bear false witness (lie)”

Number 10: “You shall not covet” (greed/discontent – see also 1Timothy 6:6-10; Matthew 6:33).

We need to have our sins blown up, magnified up large, so that we can see them the way God sees them. Romans 7:13 tells us, “Sin by the commandment becomes exceeding sinful.”

### ***THE TRUTH ABOUT “BIG” SINS IS THAT WE HAVE ALL DONE THEM***

Adultery (Command 7) is a big sin in our world, with divorce rates rising rapidly in North America and in other areas of the world, and with attitudes towards sexuality becoming very casual. What was once viewed as sacred and special and private (marriage and sexuality), has been desecrated and polluted and broadcasted for everyone to see.

But the Lord Jesus taught that adultery takes in much more than sleeping with someone other than a spouse. It refers to many sexual sins committed beyond the scope of the marriage relationship. Notice

how the Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:27-28 takes adultery beyond an action to include *sexual desire in the mind for a person who does not belong to me* (for example, flirting, experimenting, pornography and sexual fantasies).

The same is true of murder (Command 6). Murder is taking life, which is a sacred gift from God that no one has a right to destroy. But according to the Lord in Matthew 5:21-22, it is possible to have murder in my mind, and even though it is never carried out and performed, it is still *mental murder*, and it is very serious. In this sense, we have all been guilty of murder, because the standard of God goes beyond our actions to our thoughts!

***“The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses use from all sin” 1John 1:7***