

What Do Most People Think of God’s Law?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, October 10, 2010
Psalm 19:7-14

“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”
(Psalm 19:7—NASB-U).

“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple”
(Psalm 19:7—NRSV).

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”
(Psalm 19:7—KJV).

Some manmade laws, rules, and regulations manifest their injustice because they favor special interests or empower a few to rob from the many. Unjust manmade laws often lead to anger and distrust in the hearts and minds of those governed.

By contrast, the law of God is perfect, for it commands us to love God, others, and ourselves. The law of God does not favor a special few, for God commands all people to love the LORD with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength (see Deuteronomy 6:5 and Mark 12:30). Moreover, God’s law requires that we treat others the way we would like to be treated; thus promoting what is best for all concerned (see Luke 6:31 for The Golden Rule). No wonder when we contemplate God’s law and its rightful application it revives our souls. We can also rejoice when we think about a new world coming, where everyone will obey God’s law of love under His supreme sovereignty.

God’s decrees or testimonies are sure and trustworthy. A “decree” may be an “order usually having the force of law.” We can trust that God’s decrees will always be in the best interests of all concerned and not just a privileged few. A “decree” may be a “foreordaining will” or decision by God that certain events in human history will take place at His command. When believers meditate on God’s law of love and His decrees (whether rules we should obey or divine decisions in the Bible), believers will become more intelligent than they might have otherwise become apart from the knowledge of God and His moral character. — Copyright 2010 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Questions for Further Thought

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1. As you were reading the Bible, have you ever felt the encouragement, love, and protection from God that he wants you to experience as his Holy Spirit confirms the truth of his Word to you? Does this experience encourage you to read the Bible more often, especially when you feel that you need to draw closer to God?
2. If you do not feel love for someone (perhaps an enemy) or loving toward someone (perhaps someone who has hurt you), how can you still love them as the Lord commands?
3. How can you love someone without condoning their actions, behavior, or words?
4. Why is it important to truly love someone before you try to influence them to change their behavior to what the Lord commands? How might you pray for the Lord to help you love them and make them ready to listen to you?
5. In what ways can you meditate on the Word of God with both your heart and your mind? Why does God want us to fill our minds with truths from the Bible and think about them as our form of Christian meditation? How do truths from God’s Word have an effect upon our heart?