

You Have a Mighty Source

Challenge of Holiness

I. God Rules ---the Law of Moses

A. Decorating Tips ---No Images

Exodus 20:4 (NASB)

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

B. Culinary Suggestions

Deuteronomy 14:6, 8, 9-10 (NIV)

⁶ You may eat any animal that has a split hoof divided in two and that chews the cud. . . . ⁸ The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses. . . . ⁹ Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales. ¹⁰ But anything that does not have fins and scales you may not eat; for you it is unclean.

C. Holiday Schedules

Deuteronomy 16:1-3 (NIV)

¹ Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because in the month of Abib he brought you out of Egypt by night. ² Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the Lord will choose as a dwelling for his Name. ³ Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste--so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt.

Deuteronomy 16:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴ **Be joyful at your Feast**--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.

D. Financial Planning

Deuteronomy 14:22 (NIV)

²² Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

Deuteronomy 15:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ Set apart for the Lord your God every firstborn male of your herds and flocks. Do not put the firstborn of your oxen to work, and do not shear the firstborn of your sheep.

E. Crime & Punishment

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 (NIV)

²² If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, ²³ you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, **because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.** You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

II. Jesus met the requirements of the Law

A. Keeper of the Law

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

B. Agitation with Religious Leaders

Matthew 23:25-26 (NIV)

²⁵ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside

they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

C. Disciples' Confusion

Matthew 15:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'" ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

D. Moses' Rules served a purpose

Galatians 3:24-26 (NASB)

²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

E. Jesus Exhausted the Curse of Sin

Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus,

III. Our Response to God?

A. Prepare to Meet Creator

2 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be?** You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

B. Tendency toward ungodliness

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

C. Choose to be holy

Hebrews 12:14-17 (NIV)

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶ See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for caring for me. Your concern and interest in my life are beyond understanding. I rejoice today that Almighty God has chosen me. My choice is to honor you. May the words of mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you. Help me to live in this age for the glory of my Lord, Jesus of Nazareth. May your word take root in my heart. Grant me a boldness to declare Jesus as Lord. May the power of your Spirit direct my steps. I rejoice in my Lord and redeemer, Amen.