

## Holy, and Just, and Good

*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*  
Romans 7:12

### REVIEW

In this verse we see the Scriptures survive yet another attack. Attacks on the Word of God started in Gen. 3:1-5 and have continued ever since. They have been perpetrated by a relentless array of false prophets, false teachers, false apostles, liars, and deceivers. So today. From where does liberalism come but a low view of the Scriptures – the doubting of their inerrancy and sufficiency?

In a recent survey of people professing to be Christian, 45 percent said that Satan is not a living being but a symbol of evil. Thirty-four percent believed that if a person is good enough, he'll earn a place in heaven. Twenty-eight percent agreed that while He lived on earth Jesus committed sins just like everybody else. Fifteen percent claimed that after Jesus was crucified and died He did not return to life physically. Twenty-six percent maintained it doesn't matter what faith one follows because they all teach the same thing. All these beliefs reveal a disparaging of the Word of God.

Some attacks come from scholars. John MacArthur explains: "It all comes out of German liberalism, the higher criticism theory that left a legacy that swept through the major denominations, swept through the colleges, universities, and seminaries, and smashed and crushed the concept of biblical inspiration."

Some attacks come from false religions ... Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Theosophy, Unitarianism, all the way down the line to bizarre smaller cults. These groups do not accept the Word of God and its accurate interpretation but want to add other writings as authoritative.

Then there are those who love their sin and want it justified, so they repudiate the Bible. We read a partial list of the sins loved in Romans 1:27ff.

Anyway, in today's verse, Romans 7:12, we see the Scriptures survive yet another attack. The verse answers two charges:

1. The Law doesn't do what it should (justify people).
2. The Law does what it shouldn't (provoke people to sin).

Paul's answer: "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

1. "Law" refers to the whole body of Scripture. "Commandment" refers to particular edicts.
2. The three descriptive words may be explained in part by direction:
  - a. "Holy" – upward, a perfect extension from our God
  - b. "Just" – outward, perfect in application to the activity of man
  - c. "Good" – inward, perfect in impact on morals
3. The words are also sometimes associated with the 3 kinds of law:
  - a. "Holy" – ceremonial law
  - b. "Just" – judicial law
  - c. "Good" – moral law

A significant message in the Book of Romans is that there is so much we do not know but that the Word of God can teach us. We have seen, for example, that we may not know how sinful we are, how to be restored to God, or how to live a life of victory once restored.

Biblical history is laden with people lacking knowledge.

1. Abraham went out, not knowing where he went.
2. Israel didn't know what manna was when they found it.
3. Moses didn't know his face shone from talking to God.
4. Sampson didn't know the Lord had departed from him.
5. Joseph and Mary didn't know Jesus needed to be about His Father's business.
6. Disciples of John the Baptist had not so much as heard there was a Holy Spirit.
7. Paul didn't know if he was in or out of the body when he saw Paradise.

So we thank God for revelation in the Scriptures. Psalm 19 speaks of the wonders of this revelation.

The Bible tells us that the Scriptures should be:

1. The standard of teaching – I Pet. 4:11
2. Believed – John 2:22
3. Appealed to – I Cor. 1:31
4. Read – Deut. 17:19
5. Known – II Tim. 3:15
6. Received with meekness – James 1:21
7. Searched – John 5:39
8. Laid up in the heart – Deut. 6:6
9. Taught to children continually – Deut. 6:7
10. Obeyed – Matt. 7:24

True saints:

1. Love the Scriptures exceedingly – Ps. 119:97
2. Delight in the Scriptures – Ps. 1:2
3. Regard the Scriptures as sweet – Ps. 119:103
4. Esteem the Scriptures above all things – Job 23:12
5. Long after the Scriptures – Ps. 119:82
6. Stand in awe of the Scriptures – Ps. 119:161
7. Keep the Scriptures in remembrance – Ps. 119:16

8. Grieve when men disobey the Scriptures – Ps. 119:158
9. Hide the Scriptures in their hearts – Ps. 119:11
10. Hope in the Scriptures – Ps. 119:74

Is there a commitment to the Scriptures you would be willing to make for 2016?

1. Read every day this year for at least 5 minutes?
2. Memorize at least 52 verses this year (1 per week)?
3. Read through the Bible this year?
4. Meditate on the Scriptures day and night?

## DISCUSSION

1. Do you love the Scriptures? Why?

2. What are some of your favorite verses? Why?

3. The psalmist said rivers of water ran down his eyes because people do not keep the Law (Ps. 119:36). Are you grieved by worldly ways of thinking that contradict God's Law? Give examples and cite Scriptures which the worldly thinking contradicts.