

INTRODUCTION: CHRISTIAN LAW (1Cor.9:21; see *perfect*-Mt.5:17f,48; *royal*-Jms.2:8; *liberty*-Jms.2:12; Gal.5:13f; Rom.6:18,14; 8:3)

- A. DESCRIPTION: THE LAW OF GOD IN THE GARDEN** (Gen.1,2; “creation ordinances”; *Princ.of Conduct*, Murray)
- B. CHARACTER: TO NATURE** (created) **vs. CONDITION** (innocent/fallen/redeemed/perfected; Rom.2:14,15; 8:23)
- C. SIGNIFICANCE: BLESSING & CONTINUITY** (Gen.1:28/1:28,29; 9:1-3; Ex.20:1-17; Mt.5:17-48; Rom.13:8f)
- D. SUMMARY: THE LAW THAT APPLIES DIRECTLY & COMPLETELY TO US**
 - 1. *Mosaic ordinances: according to a temporary, immature condition* (see Gal.3:19,24,25; see Heb.8:13,etc.)
 - 2. *creation ordinances: according to a permanent, basic created nature* (Gen.1,2; Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:17f)
 - 3. *summary: the creation ordinances apply directly and completely to all men in all conditions*
- E. CONCLUSION: NOT RIGHT/LEFT, +/-, LEGALISM/LAWLESSNESS** (Deut.4:2; 5:6f,22,32; Mt.5:17-20)

I. THE COMMAND TO LABOR

- A. IMPLICIT IN GOD’S EXAMPLE** (Gen.1:27; 2:2; see Ex.20:9,11)
 - 1. *man: the image of His being* (Gen.1:27)
 - 2. *man: the imitator of His doing* (Gen.2:2; Ex.20:9,11; Deut.5:6f)
- B. IMPLICIT IN OTHER COMMANDMENTS** (Gen.1:28/Ex.20:15 with Eph.4:28)
- C. EXPLICIT IN GOD’S PURPOSE** (Gen.2:15; cultivate & protect)
- D. COMMANDMENT UNCHANGED BY MAN’S FALL INTO SIN**
 - 1. *commandment repeated* (Gen.1:28,29; 9:1,2,3; Ex.20:9)
 - 2. *obedience continued* (Gen.2:15,19; 3:23; 4:2,3; 9:20, etc.)
 - 3. *blessing sustained* (Gen.1:28; 8:22; Ps.126:5,6; 128:2; 2Thes.3:8,10,12; sow & reap; eat fruit of labor)
- E. CONDITIONS OF LABOR RADICALLY CHANGED BY MAN’S FALL INTO SIN**
 - 1. *original condition: submission, cooperation* (Gen.1:28; 2:8,9,15)
 - 2. *fallen condition: rebellion* (Gen.3:16,18,19; Rom.8:20,21)
 - 3. *note: ground cursed, not work* (Gen.3:17; 5:29; Rom.8:20)

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BLESSED LABOR

- A. WHY: PURPOSEFUL & MEANINGFUL** (to glorify God; 1Cor.10:31; *Col.3:24*; *Eph.6:6*; 1Pt.4:11)
 - 1. *by declaring His work in our labor* (Ps.9:11,1; 145:4)
 - 2. *arts & natural sciences: declare His work (creation; eg; IMITATING: vis.arts, perf. arts/ EXTENDING: children, trades, agric., manufact.; see Gen.4:20,21; 6:14f; Ex.31:1-11/ declare His beauty, power, order, faithfulness; Ps.19:1-6; Rom.1:18-20)*
 - 3. *law & historical sciences: declare His work (providence: e.g., courts; journalism-media: declare His justice, mercy, severity, compassion; see Eph.1:11; 2Cor.13:1; Lk.1:1f; Acts1:1f)*
 - 4. *worship: we declare all His work, especially of redemption* (Ps.75:9; 19:1f,7f; 1Cor.11:26; Lk.4:16f)
 - 5. *significance: we all broadcast His work in our work* (see Mt.5:16; Acts 8;4,5/ see Ps.19:1-6; 104:23,1f)
- B. WHAT: ACCORDING TO HIS GIFTS** (ability, desire, opport.; Rm11:29; 1Pt4:10,11; 1C7:7; 2C10:9,13; Prv31:10-31)
- C. HOW: WITH VIEW TO HIS OVERSIGHT & JUDGMENT** (Col3:22f; Eph6:5f/ 1Cor10:31; Rom14:7f/ Mt7:22f)
- D. WHEN: SUSTAINED** (Gen.1:31; 2:1,2; Ex.20:9/ weekends, retirement; see 1Tim.5:13; 2Thes.3:11; Rom.13:12-14)
- E. HOW LONG: NIGHT, 7TH/1ST, MOON, FEASTS; DEATH** (Jn.9:4; Ps.104:22,23; Ps.127:2 / Gen.2:1,2; Ex.20:9; 1Cor.16:2; Rev.1:10 / Num.29:6 / Lev.23,esp. 6f,33f / Rev.14:13; but see Col.2:16)

III. THE BLESSINGS OF LABOR

- A. THE BLESSING IN OBEDIENCE** (*Jn.4:34*; Ps.19:11; Jn.13:17; see *Eph.6:5-8*; *Col.3:22-25*)
- B. THE BLESSINGS FROM OBEDIENCE**
 - 1. *satisfaction* (Gen.1:4f,31; see Eccl.2:24; 3:13)
 - 2. *enjoyment* (Ps.128:2; Eccl.2:24,25; 3:13; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7; 2Thes.3:10)
 - 3. *sharing* (Ps.128:3,5,6; 1Tim.5:4,8; Prov.31:10f,15,20/ Eph.4:28; 1Tim.6:17-19; Acts 20:35)
 - 4. *resting* (Eccl.5:12/ Gen.2:2; Ex.20:9,10)
 - 5. *a good judgment* (Mt.25:14f; see Eph.6:5-8; Col.3:22-25)

IV. THE CURSINGS OF IDLENESS

- A. FROM WORK; IN WORK** (“idleotry”; Prov.6:6f; 26:13f; 2Th.3:11; 1Tim.5:13; Heb.6:12 /Eph.6:5f; Col.3:22f /Ex.20:15)
- B. THE CURSING IN DISOBEDIENCE**
 - 1. *contrary to God* (Gen.1:27,28; 2:15; Ex.20:9)
 - 2. *contrary to self* (Gen.1:26,27; 2:2a; Ex.20:9&11)
- C. THE CURSING FROM DISOBEDIENCE**
 - 1. *results in further disobedience* (Eph.4:28; 2Thes.3:11; 1Tim.5:13; Tt.1:12; see 2Sam.11:4,14f; 12:9)
 - 2. *leads to suffering, death & hell* (see III; ie,not!/ Prov.19:15; 21:25,26; Mt.25:20; 2Thes.3:10; 1Tim.5:8; Jms.2:17)

V. WORK... IS GOOD!

- A. CONFESS THAT YOUR WORK IS A BLESSING FROM GOD, NOT A CURSE FROM THE DEVIL!** (Rom.12:1,2/ Gen.1:28; 2:15; Ps.128:1f; 104:1f,23)
- B. DO YOUR WORK TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO DECLARE “LOOK WHAT GOD HAS MADE” AND “HEAR WHAT GOD HAS DONE”!** (See Ps.9:11; 145:4; see II,A,3&4 above)
- C. DISCOVER, DEVELOP, DEPLOY & DELIGHT IN THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU FOR WORK!** (1Thes.4:11; 1Pt.4:10; see Rom.11:29/ see Gen.1:28-31; 2:15; Mt.25:24f; incl. manual work gifts & mental word gifts)
- D. HATE IDLENESS AND FLEE FROM IT!** (Ps.97:10/ 1Tim.6:11; 2Tm.2:22; see IV above)
- E. LOVE LABOR AND DO IT DILIGENTLY!** (see Ex.20:9; Eph.6:6,7; Col.3:23; 1Tm.4:15; 2Tm.2:15)

Discussion question:
Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)