

## Living With Hope

Presentation 6: Ten Commandments

*There's Hope for Your Driving*

Last Revision: 6/12/2009



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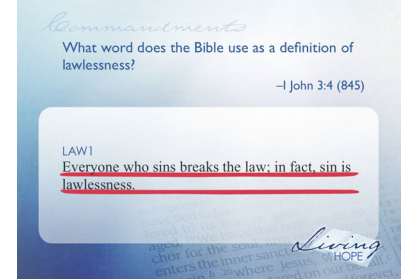
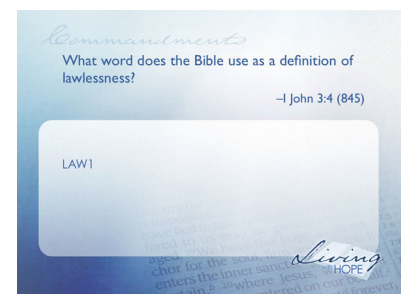
A classroom of elementary students were startled by their teacher when he informed the class that for the next hour there would only be one rule—that there would be no rules. Slowly at first the students tested the teacher by putting their feet on their desks, sliding chewing gum into their mouths, and talking out loud. The teacher remained stoical as he continued to lecture. Bolder students drew artwork on the chalkboard, stood on their desks, and one student even started a water fight. By the end of the hour the room was a wreck and the students were like a hive of angry bees. To their relief the teacher ended the moratorium on rules and led the class in a discussion about how to enjoy absolute freedom by following the rules.<sup>1</sup>

► **LAW1** What word does the Bible use as a definition of lawlessness? **I John 3:4 (845)**

► *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.*

I want you to close your eyes for a moment and imagine what the answers to the following questions would be like. What would it be like if there were no traffic laws at all? How far would you get if each driver decided whether they would drive on the left or right side of the road?

What would it be like if there were no building codes? How would you know if the



house you were buying was safe or not? Maybe the floor joists would snap throwing you into the basement. Maybe the house would catch on fire because the wiring was the wrong size. How much would it cost to heat if there were no insulation in the walls or attic?

What would it be like if there were no laws against stealing? Only the strongest people would own anything because they could take it from the weak. And the stronger people would take from other stronger people to find out who was really the strongest.

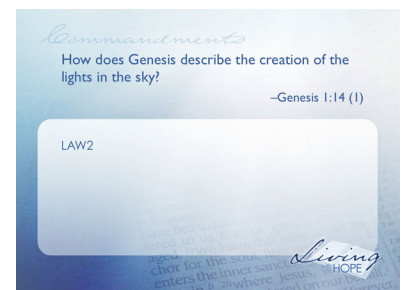
What would it be like if there were no policemen, no judges, no courts, no prisons? Human life would not exist as we know it. Rules, regulations, laws are all established to describe an orderly universe, whether it be the relationship between planets, the relationship between people and God, or the relationship between people and people.

### Natural

Imagine now that you are driving down the road. You see a yellow sign with an arrow curving to the right with the characters '35 mph'. What does that mean? It means that there is a curve ahead and if you go around that curve at less than 35 miles per hour you will safely navigate the corner. What if you try to go around the corner at 45 mph? 55 mph? 75 mph? No doubt your car will either slide or flip or do both and will not make it around the corner.

In fact that sign is simply describing another law, a law of physics known as momentum.  $p = mv$ . Momentum is the product of the mass and velocity of an object.<sup>2</sup> In fact the entire universe operates under complex, intricate, interrelated natural laws.

▶▶ **LAW2** What natural laws are described in the creation story? **Genesis 1:14 (1)**



▶▶ *And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years..."*

The precision of these natural laws are amazing. The way that objects in the sky affect one another is so precise that NASA can launch a rocket and send out a Mars Lander that will safely land within a 10 meter spot even though planet earth is traveling 67,000 miles per hour and Mars is traveling 43,500 miles per hour. It's a bit like trying to throw a dart at an object that is anywhere from 35 million to 250 million miles away and you are blowing by it at 27,500 mph. The speeds are astounding but the natural laws are so precise that NASA is able to pull it off.<sup>3</sup>

### Divine

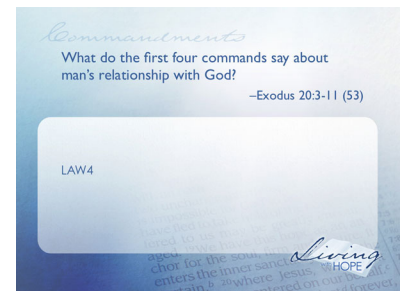
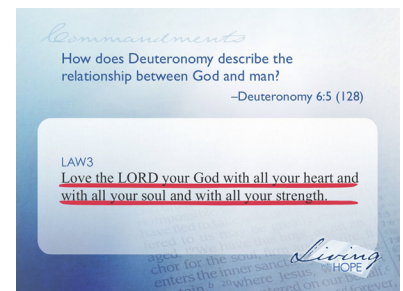
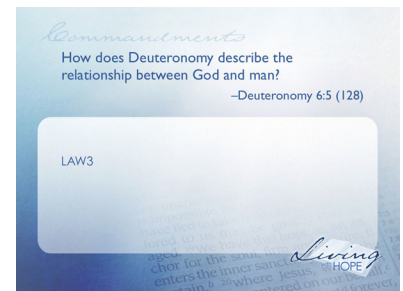
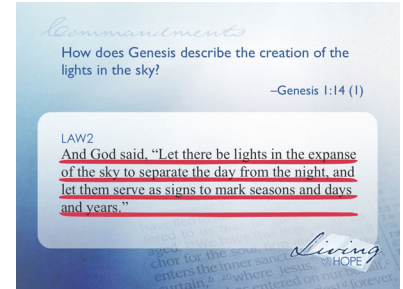
Besides natural laws God also developed laws that describe the relationship between God and man.

▶▶ **LAW3** How does Deuteronomy describe the relationship between God and man? **Deuteronomy 6:5 (128)**

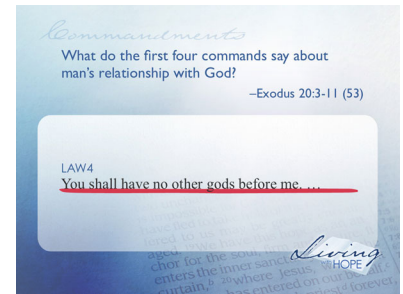
▶▶ *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

This is a summary statement of the first four commands in the Decalogue. Take a moment to review the original commands.

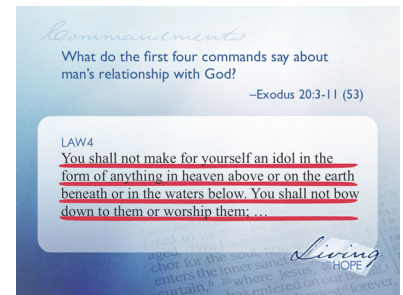
▶▶ **LAW4** What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God? **Exodus 20:3-11 (53)**



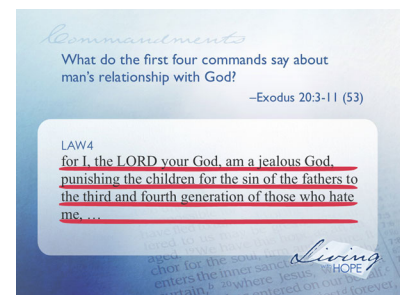
▶▶ "You shall have no other gods before me.



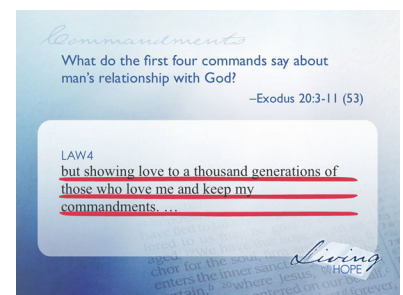
▶▶ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;



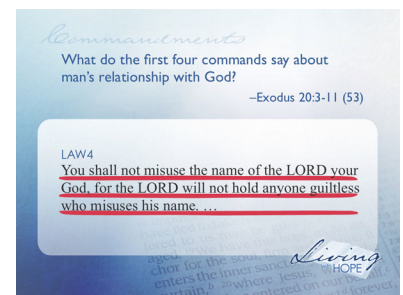
▶▶ for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,



▶▶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.



▶▶ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.



▶▶ *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.*

*Commandments*  
What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God?  
—Exodus 20:3-11 (53)

LAW4  
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God....

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▶▶ *On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.*

*Commandments*  
What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God?  
—Exodus 20:3-11 (53)

LAW4  
On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates....

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▶▶ *For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.*

*Commandments*  
What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God?  
—Exodus 20:3-11 (53)

LAW4  
For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day....

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▶▶ *Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*Commandments*  
What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God?  
—Exodus 20:3-11 (53)

LAW4  
Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

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### Human

▶▶ **LAW5** How does Leviticus describe the relationship between people? **Leviticus 19:18 (83)**

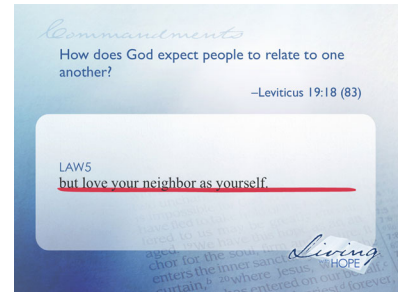
*Commandments*  
How does God expect people to relate to one another?  
—Leviticus 19:18 (83)

LAW5

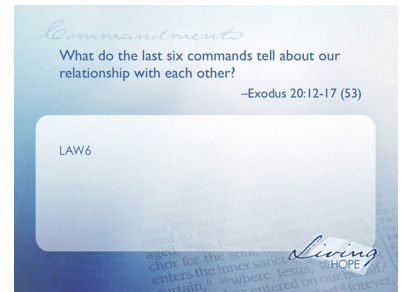
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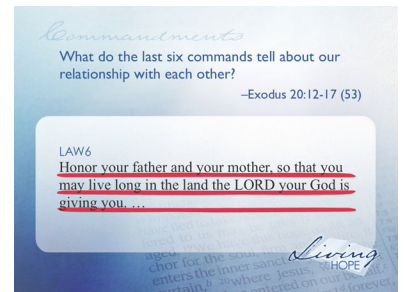
▶▶ *but love your neighbor as yourself.*



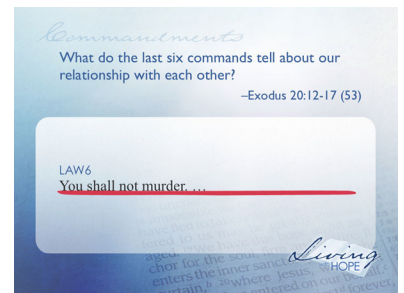
▶▶ **LAW6** What do the last six commands tell about our relationship with each other? **Exodus 20:12-17 (53)**



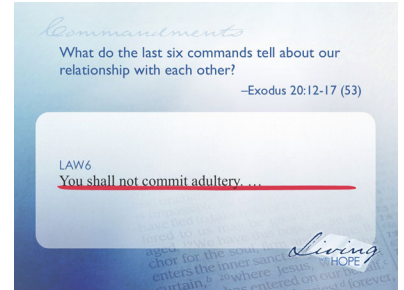
▶▶ *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*



▶▶ *"You shall not murder.*



▶▶ *"You shall not commit adultery.*



▶▶ "You shall not steal.

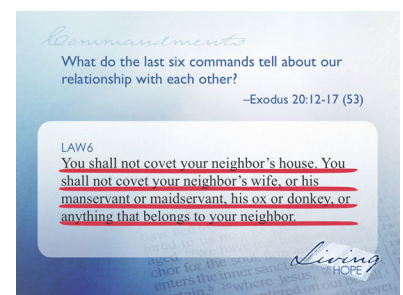
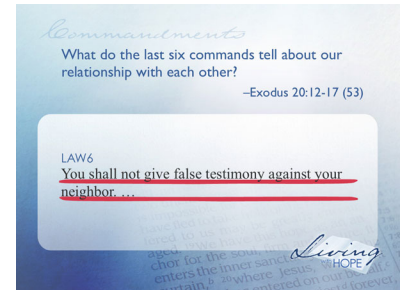
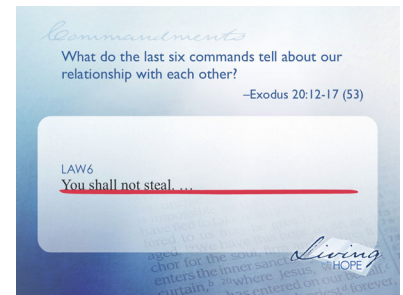
▶▶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

▶▶ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

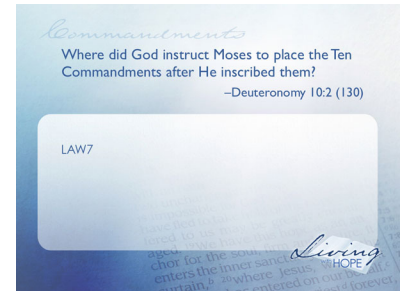
These Ten Commandments are the basis of most modern law. Yet these aren't the only laws and regulations given in the Old Testament. There are also the instructions for the sacrificial system that were fulfilled by Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.<sup>4</sup>

There are also civil laws concerning the operations of the country of Israel. Although Israel was destroyed and the laws of the land expired with the nation, the principle of obeying civil laws is still a good one to keep in mind today. Finally in the Old Testament there are health regulations.<sup>5</sup> Many of these health principles still make sense today.

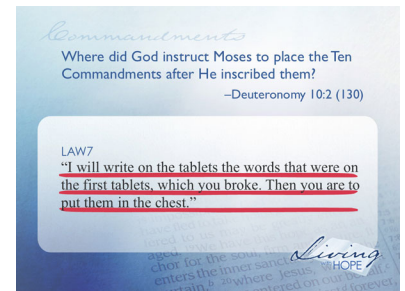
But even though these auxiliary laws were for an ancient nation, the Ten Commandments had no expiration date. Their place above the sacrificial, civil, and health laws of the Jews is clearly stated in the torah. They stand unique as the only words handwritten by the finger of God.



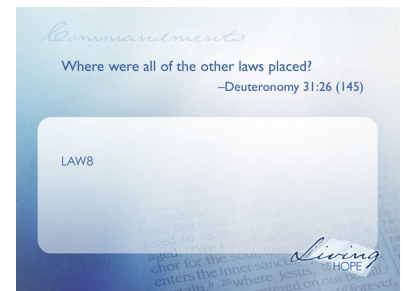
▶▶ **LAW7** Where did God instruct Moses to place the Ten Commandments after He inscribed them? **Deuteronomy 10:2 (130)**



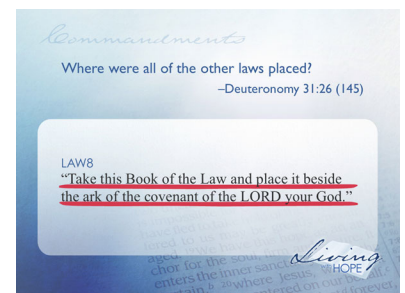
▶▶ *"I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Then you are to put them in the chest."*



▶▶ **LAW8** Where were all of the other laws placed? **Deuteronomy 31:26 (145)**

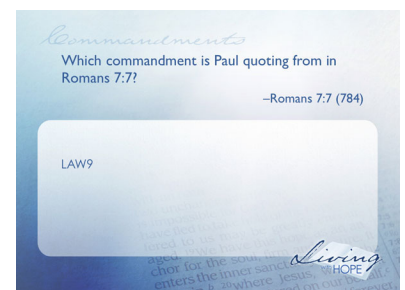


▶▶ *"Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God."*



Even though the Ten Commandments are not completely restated in the New Testament they are summarized and quoted by both Jesus and Paul.

▶▶ **LAW9** Which commandment is Paul quoting from in **Romans 7:7? (784)**





▶▶ *For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."*

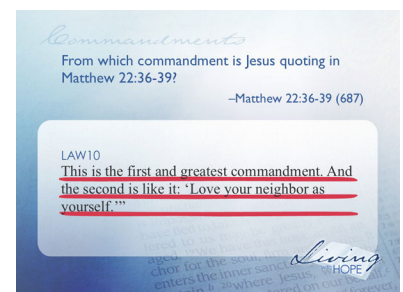
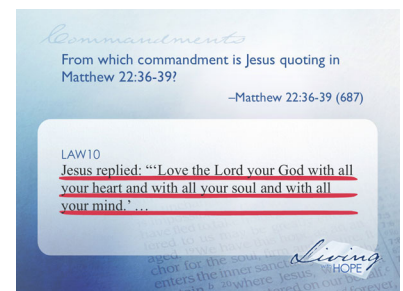
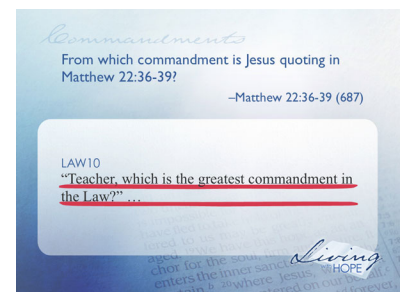
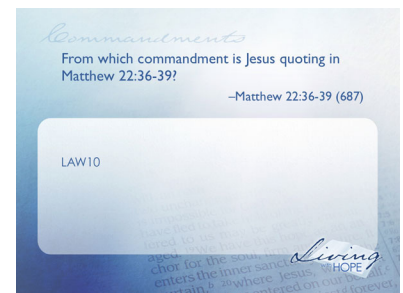
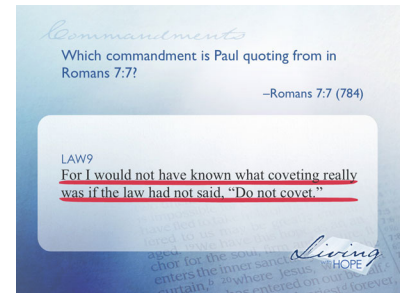
If you answered that Paul is quoting from the last of the Ten Commandments then you are correct.<sup>6</sup>

▶▶ **Law10** Which commandment is Jesus referring to in **Matthew 22:36-39?** (687)

▶▶ *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

▶▶ *Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*

▶▶ *This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

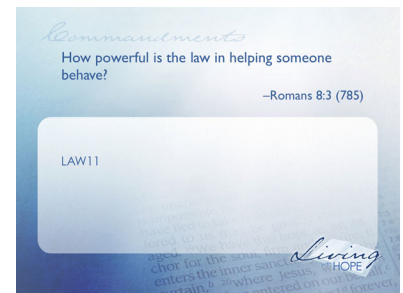


If that sounds familiar you are correct. Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 resulting in a summary statement of the Ten Commandments.

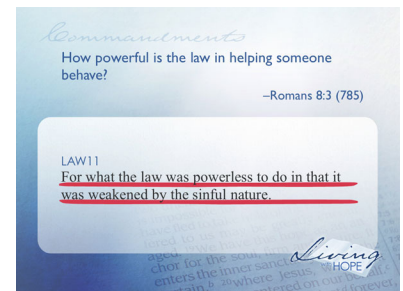
### Law Doesn't Provide Empowerment

Even though the laws were valid in New Testament times there was a misunderstanding that Paul had to work through in his concept of the purpose of the law.

▶ **LAW11** How powerful is the law in helping someone behave?  
**Romans 8:3 (785)**



▶ *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature...*



The law is like road signs that give you factual advice on speed and direction. But the road signs don't keep you on the road. It is the person controlling the steering wheel, the brakes, and the accelerator that keep the car on the road.

And yet even that is problematic. Even if we know where the wheel and the pedals are, and know what to do with them, sometimes we don't have the willpower to be able to stay on the road. In fact, paradoxically, the signs sometimes almost work perversely to invite us to violate them.

In the book entitled "yes" scientists discovered that when a prohibition is given, lots of people just like to test it out.<sup>7</sup> When you see a sign that says 'wet paint' what are you tempted to do? Touch it! When the sign on the road says curve ahead, 35 mph what are you tempted to do? Try it at 45 mph to see if you're a better driver than the engineer of the road predicted that you would be.

Paul experienced this with the Ten Commandments.

▶▶ **LAW12** How did he describe the relationship between the law and sin? **Romans 7:8-10 (784)**

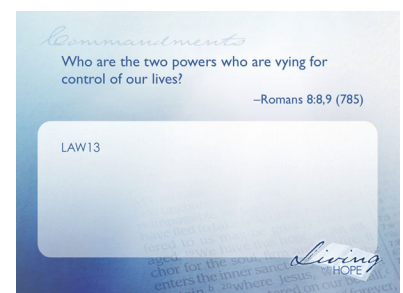
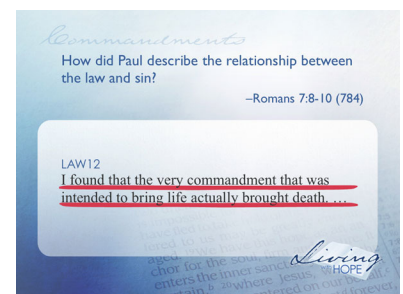
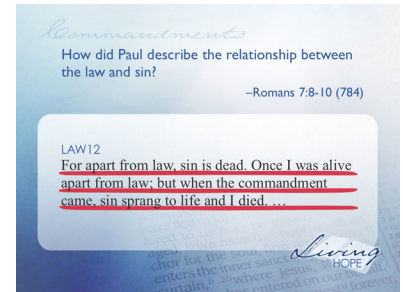
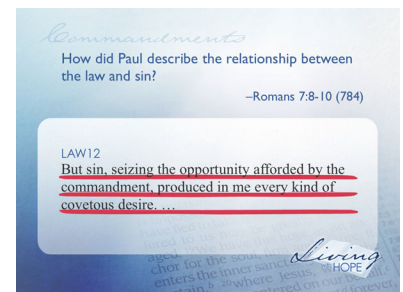
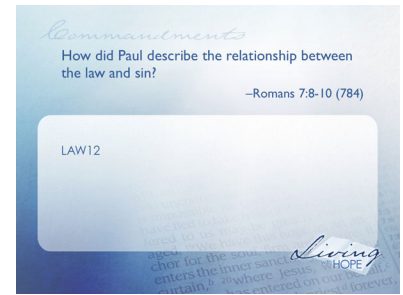
▶▶ *But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire.*

▶▶ *For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.*

▶▶ *I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.*

So if signs aren't enough, and steering wheels and pedals aren't enough, what is the best way to stay on the road? Perhaps its time to consider turning the driving over to someone else!

▶▶ **LAW13** Who are the two powers who are vying for control of our lives? **Romans 8:8,9 (785)**



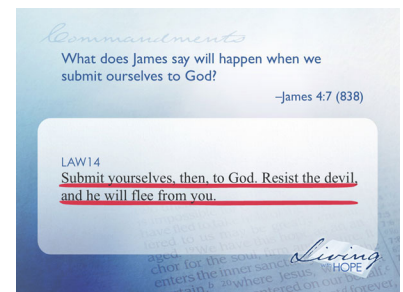
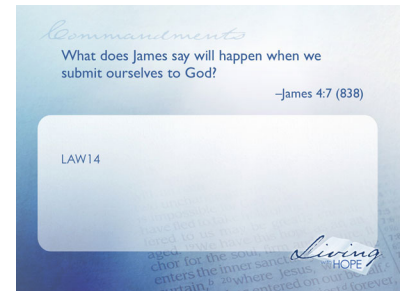
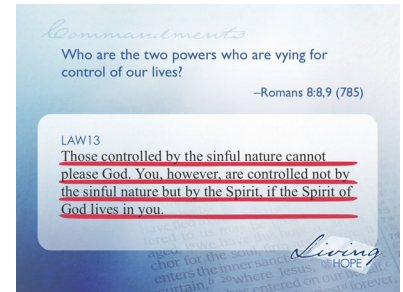
▶ *Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.*

We can let our sinful nature control our destiny or we can submit to the Spirit of God. In fact submission is implied in any law. For the laws of the land we are submitting to the government with the hopes that we will be safer. Most of these are laws that deal with interpersonal relationships. We have to yield a bit of our desires to someone else so that collectively we can all get a bit of what we want.

But when it comes to our relationship with God, it's not just a compromise so that we can get a piece of what we want to have a bit of happiness; God wants us to turn everything over to him so He can get what He wants; and the irony is that when we give Him everything He doesn't just give us a bit of happiness He gives us undiluted joy!

▶ **LAW14** What does James say will happen when we submit ourselves to God? **James 4:7 (838)**

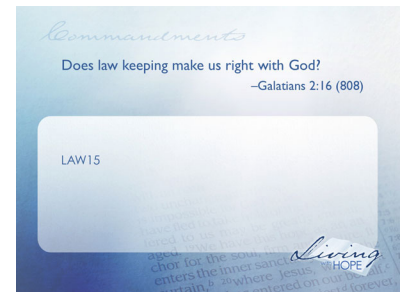
▶ *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*



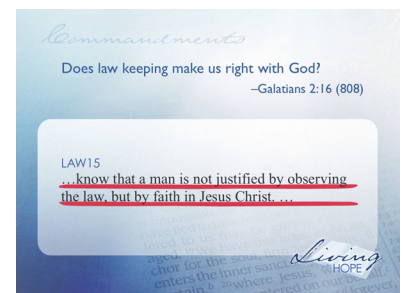
### Law Abiding Doesn't Earn Salvation

There is sometimes confusion between the role of the law and how we get to heaven. Paul had to deal with Jews in Galatia who believed that you still needed to keep the law to be saved.

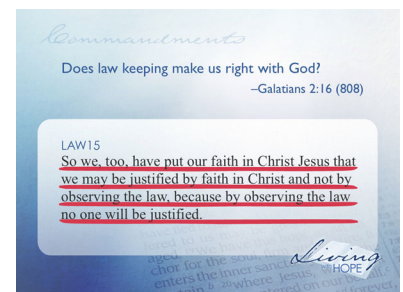
▶▶ **LAW15** Does law keeping make us right with God? **Galatians 2:16 (808)**



▶▶ *...know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.*

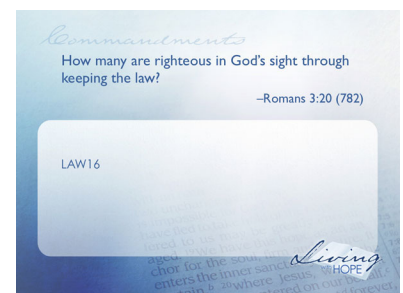


▶▶ *So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

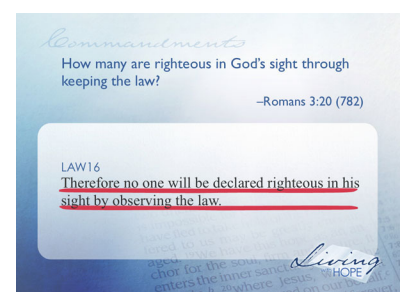


The problem with keeping the law to be saved is that we never know how well we are keeping it because no one keeps it perfectly.

▶▶ **LAW16** How many are righteous in God's sight through keeping the law? **Romans 3:20 (782)**

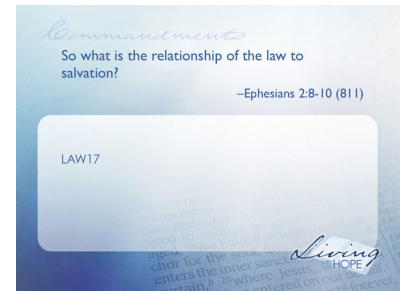


▶▶ *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law;*

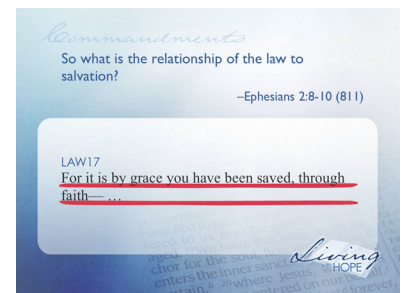




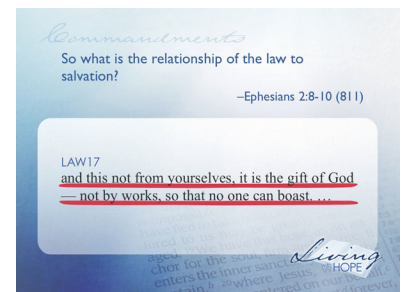
▶▶ **LAW17** So what is the relationship of the law to salvation?  
**Ephesians 2:8-10 (811)**



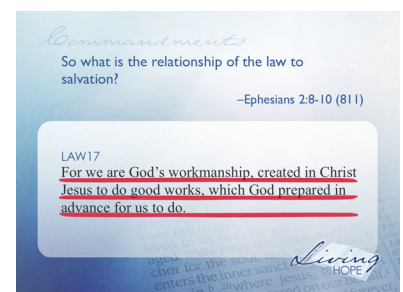
▶▶ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—*



▶▶ *and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*



▶▶ *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*



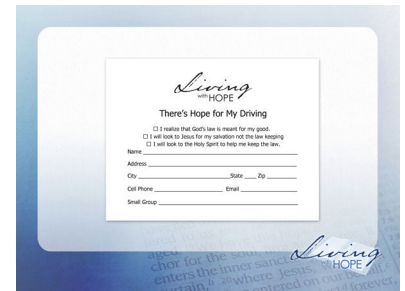
Paul again makes it clear that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. But then he ends this section by stating clearly the place for works. He says, “we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” God wants us to keep the law. God wants us to do good works not to save us but because we are saved and because it is safe.<sup>8</sup>

## There's Hope for Your Driving

Have you been trouble following the road signs of life? Have you found yourself running off the road once in awhile and getting hurt? Maybe its time to turn the driving over to Jesus.

- ▶  I realize that God's law is meant for my good.
- I will look to Jesus for my salvation not law keeping.
- I will look to the Holy Spirit to help me keep the law.
- I would like to be baptized.

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Blake, Searching for a God to Love, Chapter Ten

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Momentum>

<sup>3</sup> [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/27may\\_approachingmars.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/27may_approachingmars.htm)

<sup>4</sup> See the lesson “the Open Window” for a more comprehensive teaching on the fulfillment of the sacrificial system.

<sup>5</sup> See the lesson “the Drive of Your Life” for a more comprehensive teaching on Biblical health principles.

<sup>6</sup> Exodus 20:17

<sup>7</sup> Noah J. Goldstein, Steve J. Martin and Robert B. Cialdini, Yes!

<sup>8</sup> Here is the teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Law of God:

“The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is an evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow men. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.)”