

Communion Meditation 11/14/10 The Rule of our Obedience

Question 40 and 41:

40: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

41: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience, or the measure of his obedience?

In the beginning, Adam knew the moral law (Rom 2.14,15), not in the form which God gave to Moses at Mt Sinai, but Adam had the knowledge and the substance of it, but he broke the law first, followed by all of us. He had the work of the law written on his heart as the rule of his obedience, in his conscience. So he, and all of us, have no excuse (Rom 1.20) because the law written on our consciences testifies against our evil deeds. And we now have the law, the rule or measure of our obedience, summarized clearly in the 10 commandments.

This word “rule” has to do with the standards, guidelines, and boundaries we live by, which create an orderly system. Def: “a principle or regulation governing conduct”.

1. Self-rule: And as believer’s in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must individually learn and comprehend and obey God’s moral law as the rule of our obedience. Without it we have anarchy in our life and heart.

“Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.”
Proverbs 25.28.

Back then, when a cities’ walls were broken down, they were vulnerable to attack and destruction. And so is a person without the guidance of the moral law and the power of the Holy Spirit to keep it. The enemy will have a field day in attacking that person. We were not made to be autonomous, but theonomous, subject to the law of God, which is also the law of liberty.

2. Family-rule: God has called the husband and wife to establish the rule of their home, and the husband/father has the authority and responsibility to uphold them in love. Without the rule of God’s moral law in the family, we have anarchy in our family. And anarchy leads to chaos. And by chaos I don’t mean just a messy house. My garage is an example of chaos, I am not sure who rules it right now! But chaos in the authority structure or the discipline of the home, in the moral leadership of the home, leads to broken relationships and danger for each individual in it.

1 Tim 5.8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Husbands and fathers are responsible to provide the financial means to support the family, but also in a general sense, with their wives, to establish and maintain a system of rule in the home which reflects the order and glory of God. And that rule must be based on the moral law of God. Outside of that, rule can become selfish, weak, autocratic, and ineffective. It might become based on opinion or self, but not on God's authoritative and effective law. And God's law really works!

3. Rule of law of our country, the Constitution, which is now kind of "selectively" being kept, with natural consequences. Without the rule of law based on the 10 commandments, our country, or any country, will eventually devolve into anarchy or to one of the other kinds of rule such as oligarchy (influential, prominent, families or groups), socialism, tyranny, mob rule, totalitarianism, etc.

Judges 17 says "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." And so Israel decayed and became weak, and they were subject to the attack of their enemies, as we are when we as individuals, or those in our home, or those in society do what is right in their own eyes.

So self rule, family rule and civic rule should be based on the rule of God's moral law. We must rule ourselves by it, our families must be guided by it, and our society needs to be applying it at all levels. This is an absolute rule which we should obey, given to us by the grace of God, and we ignore it at our peril. The law drives us to Christ to be saved, and then Christ brings us to the law because we are saved. It is all applicable today.

God's commandments are a rule, a standard, by which we must live, by which we know if we are obeying the living God or not. The Pharisees liked adding man-made rules to His law, but in God's mercy, He gave us clear and absolute truth, based on His character, which pleases Him and protects us! And if we guide ourselves by them, we can enjoy Him and He will bless that obedience.

Joshua 1.6-8 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

We come now to the table of the Lord as forgiven law-breakers empowered now to be law-keepers.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your mercy and kindness in revealing your will through your law. We praise you for showing us that we are sinners through your law, and for saving us by the only One who could keep it perfectly, our Lord Jesus Christ. May we love your law more and more, and obey it joyfully for the glory of Your Name.