

# THE LAW OF CHRIST:

God's Will  
for  
New Testament Believers

by

George R. Law

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To all those who have instructed me in righteousness  
and  
to those who love Christ's appearing,  
so that we can rejoice with exceeding joy  
when we see Him  
(1 Pet 4:12-13).



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## PREFACE

A dozen new books are currently available which offer their readers various “40-Day Journeys.” The spiritual journey offered by this book is unique because it provides a spiritual journey which explores God’s will for New Testament believers. God’s instructions concerning the daily activities of New Testament believers are detailed in Christ’s New Covenant Law. In Christ’s Law, He gives ten new Commandments for those who aspire to be ambassadors of His Kingdom. This “new Torah” for New Testament believers is essential knowledge for those believers who desire to do God’s will as they serve Christ.

In the Bible, the “40 Day” motif was used for many different purposes. In the case of Noah’s flood, man’s sin precipitated God’s judgment in the form of 40 days and nights of rain and flooding. The flood was God’s provision for a fresh start for mankind (Gen 7:4, 12, 17, 8:6). For Moses, 40 days were a time of personal instruction from God (Ex 24:18; 34:28). For the twelve spies of Israel, 40 days indicated a time of searching the Land of Canaan to see if God’s promises were true (Nm 13:25). In the story of Elijah, the angel of the LORD prepared a meal which strengthened Elijah for 40 days (1 Kgs 19:8). In Jonah’s prophecy of Nineveh’s destruction, 40 days of warning allowed the people of Nineveh time to repent and escape imminent ruin (Jon 4:4). In the New Testament, 40 days designated a time of testing in the wilderness when Christ used the Word of God to thwart Satan’s attacks (Mt 4:2; Mk 1:13; Lu 4:2). Finally, after Christ’s resurrection, He instructed His disciples for 40 days before ascending back to Heaven (Acts 1:3).

As you read this devotional study, you might discover that God has one of these purposes for your 40-day spiritual journey:

- 1) God’s Word can be searched and found true, just as the

twelve Israelite spies searched the Promised Land and found God's words to be true.

2) God's Word can warn you of your sin and error so that you can repent, seek God, and avert the imminent ruin of your life, as did the Ninevites in response to God's.

3) God can cleanse you and provide a fresh start for your life, just as God used Noah's Flood to cleanse the earth and provide a new start for Noah's family.

4) God's commands can instruct you concerning His will for your life, as God instructed Moses.

5) God's Word can be spiritual food which gives you strength, as God's provision strengthened Elijah.

6) God's Word can help you ward off temptation, just as God's Word was used by Christ against Satan's temptation.

7) Christ's commands can instruct you concerning your work as an ambassador of His coming Kingdom, as Christ's commands instructed His disciples.

This seventh purpose, Christ's instruction of His disciples, is the heart of this book. We have no record of most of Christ's instructions to His disciples during the 40 days after His resurrection. But in Matthew's Gospel, God gives us a first-hand record of Christ's New Covenant Law containing His initial instructions to His apostles and the multitudes of disciples who followed Him (Mt 5-7). The day Christ chose "the Twelve" to become His apostles was the same day that He handed down God's New Covenant Law.

If you read this book as a daily devotional, my prayer is that it will help you understand God's will and how to better serve Christ. If you want to make this book a 40-day spiritual journey, the following suggestions might be valuable to your study.

First, understanding what Christ taught in the New Covenant is the primary goal of this book. Therefore, reading Scripture in context is of primary importance. Reading four chapters of Matthew each day would allow you to read the whole book each week. Or, reading two chapters a day would take you through the book almost three times during the study. In addition, a daily reading of the specific chapter covered by that particular

week's study would be very helpful: Chapter Five for weeks 1-3; Chapter Six for week 4; and Chapter Seven for weeks 5 and 6.

Second, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for understanding each time you begin your daily study. Our responsibility is to study the Word of God. The Holy Spirit's work is to illuminate God's truth in our minds. Without the Holy Spirit's illumination, men are left to their own thoughts concerning the Word of God and can fall into error.

Third, find a friend who would be willing to take this spiritual journey with you. It is not good for man to be alone; man was made for fellowship. Finding a like-minded brother or sister with whom you can share your daily spiritual discoveries will be helpful and will also develop your ability to explain the meaning of God's Word to others.

Finally, make the key verse(s) for each day's lesson that day's meditation and memory verse(s). Hiding God's Word in your heart will provide strength for your service and the ammunition necessary to ward off Satan's attacks. If you memorize Scripture, you can quote it when you are tempted, just as Christ did when He was tempted. Furthermore, if you memorize the key verse(s) for each day, you will know the key points and commands of Christ's Law and carry in your heart the principles of His will for your daily life of spiritual service.

All of us agree that God's Word is profitable and is written for the believers' maturation and for equipping him to serve our Lord Christ (2 Tim 3:16-17). Most of us will agree that even those things in Scripture not written directly to us can provide principles which can be applied to the circumstances of a Christian's life. Therefore, I hope that those who might disagree with the underlying premise of this book will still find valuable principles from Christ's teaching which will help to mature them and equip them for His service.

I want to state my belief that the God of Heaven has really spoken in time and space, and that the Bible is the complete record of God's Word, which can be trusted and which is necessary for man to find reconciliation with God. Anything that tends to

undermine one's confidence in the Word of God is just another deceptive ploy of the Adversary, whose doom is sure. Furthermore, I acknowledge how unworthy I am to serve Him.

As believers, our confidence is in God's Word. In the Old Testament, the oracles of God were entrusted to the Jewish nation and recorded the world's events in preparation for the first advent and incarnation of Christ. The New Testament records Christ's New Covenant and the details of Christ's work as the Messiah, His rejection and crucifixion, and the events which followed.

God's promise to King David, a promise extended to Israel, is that the Messiah will be established on David's throne and rule an everlasting Kingdom. This promise will not be realized until Christ's Second Coming. My prayer for the people of Israel is first, that they might recognize their Messiah, Jesus Christ, the son of David, and second, that they might accept the New Covenant God promised them and the grace it offers (Rom 11:26ff.).

Even so, Christ's New Covenant expresses the current will of God the Father for all believers, not just for the Jews, that we might become godly and be light and salt, so that others will "see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16).

My prayer is that this focus on the New Covenant will invigorate our love for our Savior.

My hope is that this book will inform New Testament believers of their present, day-to-day duties as ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ and His New Covenant. The New Covenant Law of Christ provides details of the New Testament believers' responsibilities. These responsibilities are actually opportunities of service which will reveal God's love and the gospel to those in darkness. Furthermore, the Law of Christ also sets the standards for the believers' accounting at the Bema Seat of Christ. While the Old Covenant Law could only bring condemnation, the New Covenant Law of Christ offers grace, specifically, rewards and heavenly treasure for the obedient and faithful.

Those readers who might be interested in some of the technical details of the New Covenant, including an outlines of its elements and its procedure, will want to read the information provided in the Appendix: "Introduction to the New Covenant."

Prologue of the New Covenant Law:

## Christ's Nine Beatitudes

1. Blessed are **the poor in spirit**,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are **those who mourn**,  
for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are **the meek**,  
for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**,  
for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are **the merciful (compassionate)**,  
for they shall receive mercy.
6. Blessed are **the pure in heart**,  
for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are **the peacemakers**,  
for they shall be called sons of God.
8. Blessed are **those who are persecuted for righteousness sake**,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
9. Blessed are **you when people insult you and persecute you,  
and say falsely all kinds of evil against you for My sake.**  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for great is your reward in heaven;  
for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

(Mt 5:3-12)



## General Stipulations of the New Covenant Law:

# Christ's Ten Commandments

1. **Unity:** “reconcile with your brother”  
-Maintain unity, fellowship among brothers (Mt 5:21-26)
2. **Wisdom:** “if your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out”  
-Wisdom to remove the source of temptation (Mt 5:27-30)
3. **Loyalty:** “[do not] put away your wife”  
-Be loyal to your covenant commitments (Mt 5:31-32)
4. **Truth:** “let your communication be ‘Yea, yea’”  
-Be honest in your communication with all men (Mt 5:33-37)
5. **Grace:** “resist not evil. . . . give to him that asks”  
-Repay evil with good (Mt 5:38-42)
6. **Love:** “love your enemies . . . pray for them”  
-Compassion for all men, even your enemies (Mt 5:43-48)
7. **Almsgiving:** “do in secret and your Father . . . shall reward you”  
-When doing God’s work seek His approval, not man’s (Mt 6:1-4).
8. **Prayer:** “pray to your Father in secret. . . . in this manner”  
-Focus your prayers on God’s will and work for His Kingdom and glory (Mt 6:5-15).
9. **Fasting:** “when you fast . . . appear to men not to fast”  
-Fast before God who can grant your request, not before men who cannot (Mt 6:16-18).
10. **Heavenly Treasure:** “lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven”  
-Trust your heavenly Father to provide your earthly needs as you do His work (Mt 6:19-34).