



## Advent Truth Newsletter November 2013



The most important message of the Bible is the gospel or good news that we can be saved only by Jesus. This message is the centre of the three angels' message (Rev. 14:6). The laws of God are holy, good and just (Romans 7:12). These laws are a reflection of God's character and principles with which we should form our life and character.

Yet despite our best efforts no one can be justified by keeping the law (Romans 3:20), we need the righteousness of Christ to save us and his blood to atone for our sins. This is the righteousness of God, not of the law (Romans 3:31), which is imputed to the sinners who confesses his sin and trusts in the merits of Jesus. So we are delivered by God's righteousness (Psalm 31:1), and by his grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:8-9).

This grace is transforming and we are to move away from the world and by God's power become more like Jesus (Romans 12:2). The grace of God is not a license to sin or to break the moral law, for shall we sin so grace may abound, certainly not! (Romans 6:1). Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), and the ten commandments are found in the temple in heaven where Jesus ministers as our High Priest (Rev. 11:19).

We must strive to keep the Ten Commandments, not to earn salvation but because of God's mercy and the infinite gift of His Son (John 3:16); we are to keep the commandments because we love God (John 14:5).

We should not think that if we deliberately live in violation of the Ten Commandments that we can be saved (1 John 2:3-4).

Paul gives Abraham as an example of a "righteous" person. He kept God's commandments (Genesis 26:5), yet in the absolute sense he was still a sinner in need of justification (Romans 4:1-5).

As Jesus ministers as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 7:25), he presents his blood for repentant sinners, and those who avail themselves of this provision are covered by the robe of his righteousness. Even our faith and repentance do not give us any merit, because it is all of grace, a merciful gift; we are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).

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