

John Wesley establishes the keeping of GOD'S (YAHWEH) LAW

By Wiesmullan Von Bruggen



John Wesley (1703-1791) founder of the Methodist Movement in England, in following the Protestant Reformation, taught that the law of the ten commandments must be kept by the faith of Jesus and obeyed by the justified Christian. So that obedience to the law was essential in Holiness and sanctification which He greatly emphasized. And this is the truth as stated in the bible, about the true saints and the people of God: "Here is the patience (endurance) of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus." (Rev 14:12). Thus there is no truth in "making void the law through faith, No "God forbid".... We should by faith "establish the law" (Rom 3:31).

The Modern Evangelicals and so-called Protestant churches are the false brand of Christianity existing and they are definitely "fallen from grace" and are "under the condemnation" of God's Holy Law, because according "To the Law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word (it is) because there is no light in them." (Isa 8:20). These churches of fallen Christianity claim to have roots in the Reformation, yet they proved to be anti-law (anti-nomians) in their teachings. A brief look at some statements will prove this fact: (a) "To faith, or in the state or things of faith, there is no obligation, or use of the Law." **E.F. Kevan - The Grace of Law pg. 168.** Thus faith is used here to reject obedience to the law. (b) "From the moment a person is redeemed God does not deal with them on the basis of law, but on an entirely different basis and this is according to grace... The law has nothing more to say."

J.F Strombeck - So Great Salvation pg. 50. Here redemption and grace are separated from the law; it is of no use. (c) In this last statement the law is made impossible to be kept. "To be a doer of the law means to keep it at every point - completely, absolutely...Paul is not saying that anyone can (is able to) keep the law..." **D.N Steele and C.C Thomas - Romans An Interpretive Outline pg. 21.** John Wesley shows the validity and establishes the law (all quotes are from "The works of the Rev. John Wesley Vol. 5 (4th Ed.).

1. Wesley identifies the law as originating in God and revealing His divine nature. "Now this law is an incorruptible picture of the High and Holy one that inhabiteth eternity." "What is the law, but divine virtue and wisdom assuming a visible form?" **Ibid. pg. 411.** "The law of God (speaking after the manner of men) is a copy of the eternal mind, a transcript of the divine nature." **Ibid. pg. 412.**
2. He declares that the law bears fruit when written in the heart of man. "And it is good in its effects, as well as in its nature. The fruits of the law of God, written in the heart are "righteousness, and peace, and assurance forever." Or rather, the law itself is righteousness, filling the soul with peace which passeth all understandings, and causing us to rejoice evermore in the testimony of a good conscience toward God." **Ibid. pg. 415.**
3. Wesley further adds that faith does not do away with the law, but establishes it "...an objection which might be made and which has in fact been made in

all ages; namely that to say we are justified without the works of the law, is to abolish the law. The apostle, without entering into a formal dispute, simply denies the charge. "Do we then," he says "make void the law through faith? God forbid! Yes, we establish the law." **Ibid. pg. 421.** "Therefore, that we are justified by faith, even by faith without works, is no ground for making void the law through faith..." **Ibid. pg. 426.**

4. Now John Wesley goes on to show how we must "establish the law," the Moral Law (a) "We establish the law, first by our doctrine, by endeavoring to preach it in its whole extent, to explain and enforce every part of it in the same manner as our great Teacher did while upon earth. We establish it whenever we speak in his name..." **Ibid. pg. 431.** (b) "We establish the law, secondly, when we so preach faith in Christ as not to supersede, but produce holiness, to produce all manner of holiness, negative and positive, of the heart and of the life." **Ibid. pg. 434.** (c) "And this naturally brings us to observe, thirdly, the most important way of establishing the law, namely, the establishing it in our own hearts and lives." "How may we establish the law in our own hearts, so that it may have its full influence on our lives? And this can only be done by faith." **Ibid. pg. 436.**

In all these statements John Wesley proves that "The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul" (Ps 19:7). Hence conversion is based on law keeping and that "the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit." (Rom 8:4). Thus the spiritually minded person keeps the law. And as Jesus Christ said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." (Jn 14:15). For also "This is the love of God that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not grievous" (1Jn 5:3). Thus there should not be a cry that the law is a burden to keep as spoken by false Christianity. For these Evangelicals and false Protestants are "They that forsake the law praise the wicked" (Pro 28:4). But with John Wesley he is as "such that keep the law contend with them." (Pro 28:4). Wesley describes these law haters as "It is well... if this practical antinomianism, this unobserved way of making void the law through faith, has not affected thousands of believers." **Ibid. pg. 428.** "...for, generally speaking, they are the Pharisees who make the Antinomians." **Ibid. pg. 426.**

Finally, John Wesley is proven to be sound in bible doctrine and will be as with all of those who truly belong to God's church in all ages "Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev 22:24). Amen.

Thusia Seventh Day Adventist Church
P.O Bag 59, Morvant, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I
Tel No 1-868-625-0446
Email address: immanuel71@hotmail.com