

What is the connection between faith and works ?

Part Two

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:29



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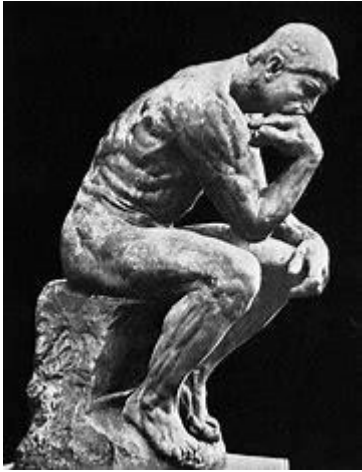
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20



So what does God want us to do ?

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
James 1:22



The place of the OT for us

The O.T. ceremonial requirements have been fulfilled in the Messiah Jesus



Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Hebrews 13:15

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

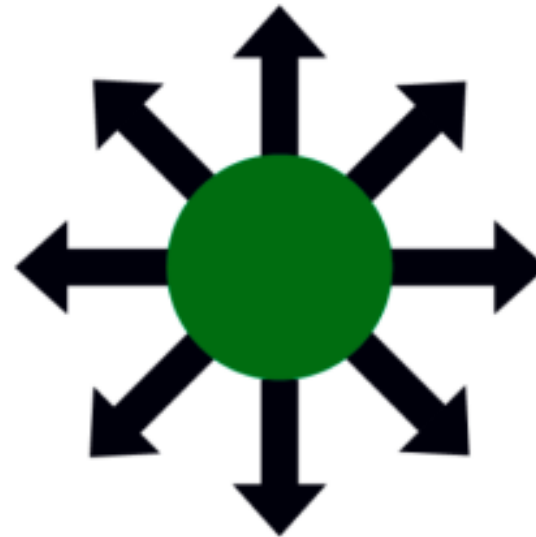
The place of the OT and NT commands with us

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

... "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31: 31, 33

OUTSIDE-IN VS. INSIDE-OUT



The place of the commands for Jesus?



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Matthew 5:17 -18

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22

The greatest commands – a summary



"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 neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

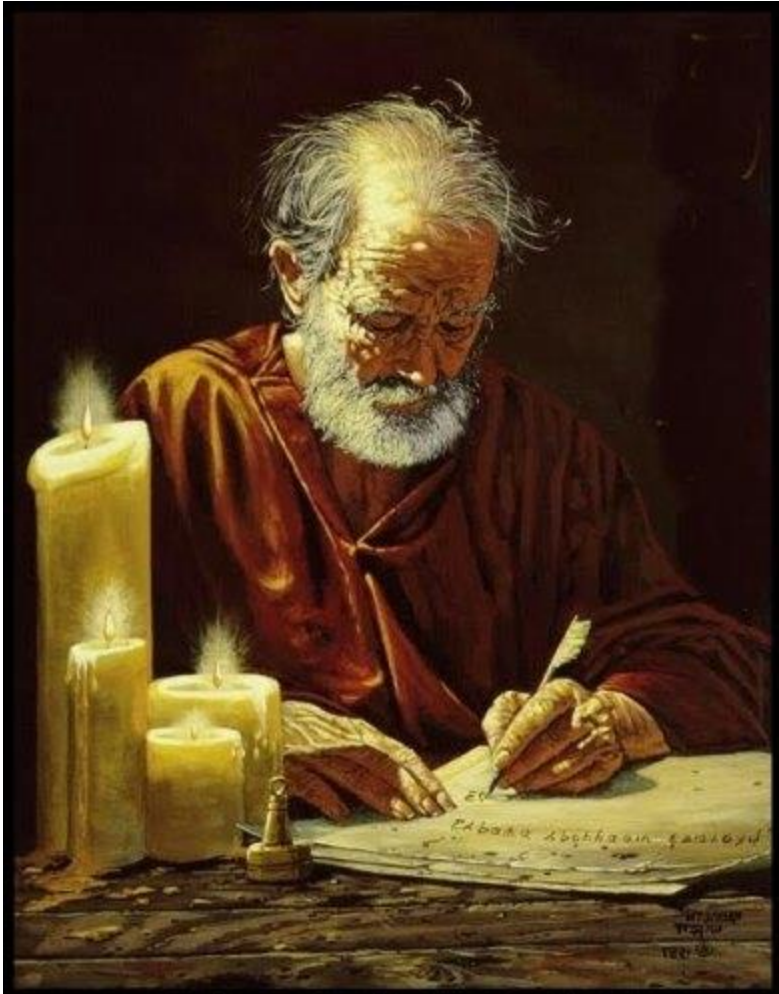
Matthew 22:36 - 40

Paul's overview of the OT commands



Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8 - 10

The detail of the NT letters



As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. Ephesians 4:17

These are more than hopeful suggestions !



The letters give the details - how to grow as a believer in Jesus



You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:22- 32

The place of the commands in our lives ?

John 14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands. "

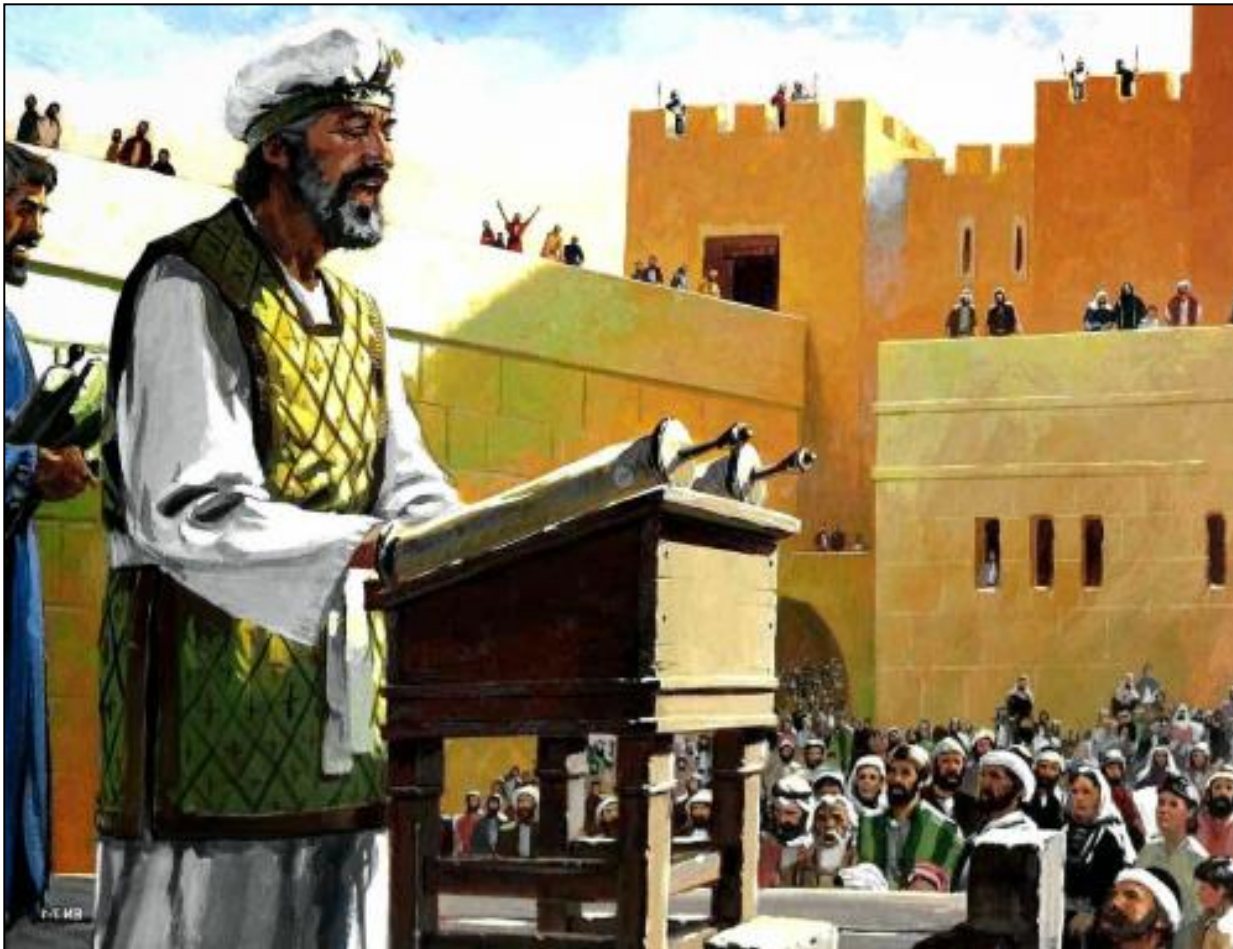
**I cannot work my soul to save
For that my God has done.
But I shall work like any slave
For love of His dear Son.**



Not a job but a joy.

Will you follow Ezra's SLS 'method' ?

For Ezra had devoted himself to the **study** and **observance** of the Law of the LORD, and to **teaching** its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra 7:10



He had “set his heart”
=
by Faith to ...

- 1, **Study** the Word
- 2, **Live** the Word
- 3, **Share** the Word