

tools

Gal 2:15-16 NKJV

We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

The Right Tool for the Job at Hand

If the **job at hand is the "eternal salvation of a human soul" the only tool that works is God's grace producing faith in Jesus Christ. If the **job** is "living a high quality life" then the appropriate tool is God's law (the Torah or teaching as properly explained by Jesus Christ - this law is summarized by the 10 Commandments or Decalogue.)*

Chief Commandment #1 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and spirit.

You Will Live a Higher Quality Life if :

1. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. ie
 - a. make knowing, loving, and serving God your sole passion in life
 - b. trust in God and His principles rather than in yourself and others
 - c. abide in God by thanking Him in all circumstances

2. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. ie
 - a. don't embrace false religious beliefs
 - b. don't pursue material wealth
 - c. obey God's commands out of love for Him

3. 7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. ie
 - a. don't take God for granted at any time
 - b. don't speak evil of God or those created in His image
 - c. don't use the Kingdom of God for personal gain

4. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ie
 - a. rest in the Lord and trust that He is still working on your behalf
 - b. avoid activities that stress your body, soul, or spirit
 - c. connect deeply with the family God has given you

Chief Commandment #2 - And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

5. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ie

- a. treat your mom and dad as though they are precious (be kind and thoughtful to them)
- b. don't speak evil things to them or about them
- c. help them in their times of need

6. 13 "You shall not murder. ie

- a. don't take another's life without just cause
- b. don't murder another with your words (anger)
- c. don't think murderous thoughts (bitterness and unforgiveness)

7. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. ie

- a. don't have sex with anyone but your spouse
- b. guard your eyes and don't entertain adulterous thoughts
- c. don't flirt

8. 15 "You shall not steal. ie

- a. don't take anything that doesn't belong to you
- b. don't cheat anyone or any institution
- c. create transactions that are "win-win"

9. 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. ie

- a. don't lie; don't even exaggerate
- b. don't slander or libel another person
- c. don't participate in gossip

10. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." ie

- a. don't long for what is another's
- b. don't compare yourself to another
- c. don't hope for evil to befall another

**A person who lives a life in accordance with God's law lives as fully as a person can live on this earth. He is moral and ethical, benefiting himself and others and pleasing God. If a person ignores God's law, his quality of life is diminished. If he follows it, his life is enhanced. "The people of God obey Him (and thus the Law), not to earn salvation, but out of gratitude and love for Him." -- from The Dictionary of Christian Tradition*

Deut 6:24 NKJV

And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

