

# For Deeper Study

1. What is the biblical definition of sin (see 1 John 3:4)?
2. What is it that will cause a sinner to agree with our message? (See Romans 2:15,21,22.)

3. Charles Spurgeon warned, “I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law. The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man’s heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it.” Explain what a needle does for thread, and then what the Law does for the gospel (see Romans 5:20; 7:13).
  
4. In his book *Holiness*, J. C. Ryle wrote, “Let us expound and beat out the Ten Commandments, and show the length, and breadth, and depth, and height of their requirements. This is the way of our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. We cannot do better than follow His plan.” In Matthew 5:21–37, note where Jesus “beat out the Ten Commandments.”
  
5. Study Matthew 15:19,20 and identify each Commandment to which Jesus refers.

# Words of Encouragement

I recently returned from Brazil where I shared the gospel with many people. I started with creation, telling them that God created them and everything they see, but that man rebelled against God. I told them God gave His Law to show us that we have sinned against Him, then I went through the Ten Commandments one by one. In almost every home I preached in, the people were somewhat unconcerned until I went through the Law. It was so incredible.

The guys who were with me noticed the same thing. They saw the "deer in the headlights" look on people's faces when I brought out the Law. They realized why I shared the Ten Commandments before I could explain it. They knew, simply because of the reaction of the people when I got to that point in the message. What a testimony to the conviction of the Holy Spirit through the Law.

Only two people (out of about 50-70) rejected the gospel during the week I was there. The first home I preached in, one couple broke down crying when I went through the Law. The woman was a witch, but she came to Christ. Another lady who was studying at the Seventh Day Adventist church broke down crying when I continued to press her, "Why would God let you, a sinner, into heaven on the Day of Judgment?" She yielded her life to Christ. Jehovah's Witnesses who came to Christ set up meetings with their friends within two days because they wanted their friends to hear the gospel presented to them. It was incredible. —*Ky F., Louisiana*

Do the same thing with Mark 10:17–22.

6. Read Romans 7:7. How did Paul gain an understanding of the true nature of sin?

Based on Paul's statement (and 1 John 3:4), is there any way people can know they have sinned against God, other than by the Law?

Some people think that sinners have an inherent understanding of their sin and therefore don't need the Law. What do Ephesians 4:18 and Romans 3:11 tell us about the understanding of the lost?

7. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." To know what standard Paul was referring to when he said "the glory of God," we need to understand the context of verse 23. Read verses 19–31; what subject did Paul say was "established" (or "upheld")?

For another clue, let's look at 2 Corinthians 3:7. What does Scripture say is "glorious" ("came with glory") that was engraved on stones?

Based on these answers, what then is the standard from which we all fall short ("the glory of God")?

8. When we use Romans 3:23 in witnessing, why should we be sure to specify that it is *the Law* from which we all fall short? What effect do you think it has on the lost when we fail to do so?

#### MEMORY VERSE

**"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."**

**MATTHEW 5:27,28**