

**ETERNAL PRINCIPLES**

Genesis 3:16-19

## INTRODUCTION

- A. The OT contains some principles that are eternal.
  - 1. GE 3:17-19.
  - 2. GE 3:16
  - 3. The principles of earning food by hard labor and bearing children in birth pangs have never been repealed.
- B. The rule that the physical body of man is made of dust and is to return to dust is eternal. GE 2:7; EC 12:7.
- C. GE 9:6 is unending.
- D. Ageless rules never end.
- E. There are "eternal principles" which have been in force in every dispensation – the same principles being in force during every dispensation. Why?
  - 1. Because God is infinite. PS 90:2; IS 57:15; DT 32:27; 1 TI 1:17.
  - 2. God is infinite in goodness. God is good in that He is perfect – MT 5:48; God is good because He is holy – IS 6:3; God is good because He is righteous and just – DT 32:4.
  - 3. God always acts in harmony with His own nature.
  - 4. God cannot deny Himself – 2 TI 2:13; HE 6:18; TS 1:2; 1 SA 15:29.

## DISCUSSION

- I. ETERNAL PRINCIPLES. (AM)
  - A. Certain "eternal principles" have characterized each of the 3 great systems of religion that God has set forth in the Bible – Patriarchal Age, Mosaic Age and the Christian Age.
  - B. In each of these systems the following "eternal principles" are seen.
    - 1. It has been impossible for God to lie.
    - 2. It has been impossible for God to be unjust.
    - 3. It has been impossible for God to do anything out of harmony with His very nature.
  - C. In each of these systems God has required that responsible beings be characterized by and "obedient faith" – a faith in God which compels mankind to make proper response to God's will.
    - 1. In the Patriarchal Age: GE 6:22 – Noah; HE 11:8; JA 1:21-22 – Abraham.
    - 2. In the Mosaic Age: EX 40:16 – Moses obeys; NU 20:12; 27:14 – Moses disobeys.
    - 3. In the Christian Age: RO 1:5; 16:26; HE 5:8, 9 emphasizes the necessity of an obedient faith.
  - D. Micah 6:8 – "eternal principles" – God has always required and does now require that mankind (1) do justly, (2) love mercy – kindness, and (3) walk humbly with God.
- II. CERTAIN SPECIFICS. (AM)
  - A. Even though there are "eternal principles" which are seen in each of the 3 great systems of religion that God has set forth in the Bible (Patriarchal Age, Mosaic Age, and the Christian Age) there are specifics which differ, there are specifics which are the same, and there are specifics which are peculiar to the Christian Age.
  - B. Examples.
    - 1. In the Patriarchal Age there was no specified place of worship. In the Mosaic Age there was the specified place of worship DT 16:16; 12:5. In the Christian Age, there is no specified place of worship. (JN 4:21-24).

2. In the Patriarchal Age there was tithing (GE 14:20; 28:22). In the Mosaic Age there was tithing (LE 27:30, 32). In the Christian Age there is no specific requirement for tithing. 2 CO 9:7; 1 CO 16:1, 2.
  3. In the Patriarchal Age there was no observance of the Sabbath day. In the Mosaic Age there was the law for the Jews to keep the Sabbath (EX 20:8-11; DT 5:12-15). In the Christian Age there is no requirement for mankind to keep the seventh day – the Jewish Sabbath.
  4. In the Patriarchal Age there was the requirement for Abraham and his descendants to keep the covenant of circumcision (GE 17:10). In the Mosaic Age, there was the requirement for the males to be circumcised (LE 12:3). In the Christian Age there is no requirement for male Christians to be circumcised.
  5. In all 3 Ages there was /is special emphasis upon the father's responsibility in training his children (Patriarchal Age – GE 18:19; Mosaic Age – DT 4:9, 10; 6:7; and the Christian Age – EP 6:1-4.
  6. In all 3 Ages God required that mankind practice justice (Patriarchal Age – GE 18:19; Mosaic Age – DT 16:18=20; and the Christian Age – PH 4:8.
- C. There are certain specifics required in the Christian Age which are not found in the Patriarchal Age or the Mosaic Age.
1. In the Christian Age, we have the New Covenant of the Christ – a covenant founded upon better promises, sealed with His own blood, made effective by His all-sufficient sacrifice (HE 9:26).
  2. In the Christian Age, we have the NT Church – God's only soul-saving institution. MT 16:18; Acts 2:47.
  3. In the Christian Age, we have the possibility of and the means of actual forgiveness of sins. HE 9:22; Acts 2:38; HE 10:4.
  4. In the Christian Age, we have specified worship on the first day of the week. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 CO 16:1, 2.
  5. In the Christian Age, we have baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, for the remission of sins. MT 28:18-20; MK 16:5-16; Acts 2:38.
  6. In the Christian Age, we have the Lord's Supper, observed in the Lord's Kingdom, on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 CO 16:1, 2; EP 5:19; CO 3:16.
- D. Abraham, Noah, and Moses will not be lost eternally because (1) they were never baptized into Christ, (2) never assembled with the saints on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, and (3) never observed the Lord's Supper.
1. Why?
  2. Every accountable person will be judged finally according to that sacred law from God under which he or she lived and died. RO 2:12-16.
- III. QUESTION: "WHY DID BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES NEED THE GOSPEL?" (PM)
- A. The answer is simple: Because both Jews and Gentiles had sinned. Having sinned they could not save themselves apart from the grace of God. Forgiveness can be obtained only by the blood of Jesus Christ. HE 9:11-17; 10:3-4; EP 1:7; RO 6:23.
- B. Jews and Gentiles sinned by violating the law to which each was amenable, but after the New Covenant (the Gospel) came into force all mankind sinned by violating the Gospel – which was and is addressed to "all men", MK 16:15-16.
1. How had the Gentiles been guilty of sin? They violated the Patriarchal law.
  2. How had the Jews been guilty of sin? They violated the Mosaic Law.

3. How are Jews and Gentiles guilty of sin today? Gentiles are not under the Patriarchal law and the Jews are not under the Mosaic Law – both are under the New Covenant (the Gospel). MK 16:15-16; MT 28:18-20; LK 24:45-49.
- C. Why are both, the Jews and the Gentiles, under the New Covenant (the Gospel)?
  1. The Patriarchal law ended for the Jews with the giving of the Mosaic Law but it did not end for the Gentiles.
  2. The Mosaic Law was not a universal law – it is not addressed to all men, it was addressed to the Jews.
  3. The New Covenant (the Gospel) is a universal message – it is addressed to “every creature” in “all the world.”
- D. “The Gospel,” “the faith,” “the truth” and “the New Covenant,” etc., all refer to one and the same body of doctrine. Each of these embraces the truth in all of its parts (all that is required for one to become a Christian and all that is required for one to live faithfully after becoming a Christian). RO 10:15, 16; RO 1:5; 2 TH 2:10-13; HE 8:8, 13; 12:24.
- E. How does “eternal principles” relate to Patriarchal Law, to the Law of Moses, and to the Law of Christ (the Gospel)?
  1. The “eternal principles” are a part of the Patriarchal Law; the “eternal principles” are a part of the Mosaic Law; and the “eternal principles” are a part of the Law of Christ (the Gospel).
  2. The “eternal principles” are common to every Law which God ever gave to mankind – but today we are amenable to them because they – “the principles” are a part of the Law of Christ (the Gospel). The Law of Christ (the Gospel) is in force for all mankind who lived/live from Pentecost to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Christ.
- F. The “eternal principle” – if one violated the law that God has given – whether it was the Patriarchal law, or the Mosaic Law, they deserved eternal punishment. They needed the law of Christ (the Gospel).
- G. Therefore, the “eternal principle” – that all mankind are amenable (accountable) to God applies. The law of Christ (the Gospel) includes the truth in all of its parts for all mankind living today – all mankind are under (amenable to) the law of Christ (the Gospel). When any one sins today, he violates the law of Christ, the New Covenant, the Gospel, the faith.
- H. THEREFORE, RO 1:16.

#### CONCLUSION

- A. There are certain “eternal principles” common in the Patriarchal Age, the Mosaic Age, and the Christian Age.
- B. In each of these – it has been (and now is) impossible:
  1. For God to lie.
  2. For God to be unjust.
  3. For God to do anything out of harmony with His very nature.
- C. God has required:
  1. That mankind be characterized by an obedient faith.
  2. That mankind do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.
  3. That mankind have the right attitude toward God, toward their fellow-man, and toward themselves.