

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values



1

My topic tonight is **Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values**



2

Years ago the home was a place of refuge and security.
Down through the centuries it has been a haven of stability.



3

The home was a place people could flee from the trials, the troubles and the difficulties of life.

Enter the doors of your home and you feel secure.
Warm loving embraces and hugs produce a sense of well being.



4

Home has been the traditional place of family togetherness.



5

The home has changed in the last 20 years.

Twenty-first century homes are often a battlefield.



6

Words like abuse, conflict, anger and hostility are commonplace when describing the home.

We read about families who spend very little time at home; children eating on the run.



7

At best they rush home for a meal before they leave again.
The home has become simply a place to eat and sleep.

The number of single parents is growing in our society.



8

The structure of the home is different today

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Many parents are seriously concerned about what is coming into their home via the internet.



9

The home used to be a safe sanctuary but today all that is changed.

Through television and the internet excessive violence, sex and a total lack of decency and morals have invaded our homes.

A distortion of values is occurring right in the home. Things are changing dramatically.



10

A high tech, media savvy society which offers sex, violence and greed as its prime time viewing is in serious trouble.

Hollywood images penetrate the home. The messages communicated produce tragic behaviors in our young people especially.



11

Our children are exposed to various versions of right and wrong.

There are **competing values** for the minds of our children.



12

The average 18-year-old has witnessed 200,000 violent acts on television and movies, including 40,000 murders.



13

You might be wondering, does the form of entertainment we watch make any difference in our thinking process does it really produce some of the violent behaviors we have witnessed in recent years?

Without a moral compass our society is thrown in to a state of confusion.

This society says, "Your own mind is the standard."
This society says, "There is nobody who can tell you what to do."



14

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Our society's motto seems to be, "if it feels good do it."
If it brings you pleasure, do it.

Why is it that we such high rates of crime?
Why is violence so commonplace?

The Bible provides some concrete answers.

That is why we have chosen this theme for our meetings:
If it's in the Bible, I believe it.
If it disagrees with the Bible,
It's not for me.



15

The wise man Solomon makes it plain in these words.
Proverbs 28:26.

"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool."

You see, the mind can deceive you.
You can justify almost anything if you depend on your own
thought processes.



16

In fact **Hosea 8:7** puts it this way—

"They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind."

If you sow the wind you will reap the whirlwind.



17

We've been sowing the wind of violence in the media and we
are reaping the whirlwind of crime.

We've been sowing the wind of immorality and we've been
reaping the whirlwind of divorce, rape, and child abuse.



18

There is a cause and effect relationship.

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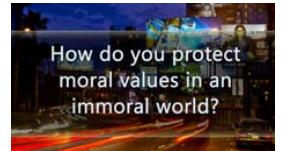
How do you protect moral values in an immoral world?

We have sown the wind and we are reaping the whirlwind.

How can you protect your mind?

How can you protect the minds of your children— Your grandchildren?

How can you be moral in an immoral world?



19

The Book of Revelation provides some clear cut answers.
The Book of Revelation is the Revelation of whom? Jesus!

The last book of the Bible, Revelation, has a message for the last generation of men and women living on a planet called earth.

The Book of Revelation has a message for you and me.

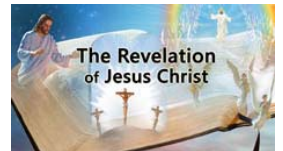
It calls us to morality.

It calls us back to the standards of God.

We have been studying Revelation.

This message is as urgent for us to understand in our day as Noah's message was in his day.

It is a final message for all humanity.



20

Revelation 14:6

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. . .”

Here is an urgent message.

Here is a universal message.

Here is a message that leaps across geographical boundaries.

Here is a message that penetrates language groups.

It is a message that races from North to South, East to West.



21

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It goes to the ends of the earth.
What does this message say? **Verse 7—**

“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;



22

“Fear God” does not mean to be afraid of God.
It means reverence, respect and obey God.

Give glory to Him is a call to give glory to God in your lifestyle. Why? It goes on to say—

and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”



23

But did you notice in that Bible passage the urgency of it all?
Let's look at it again.

“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come.”



24

This passage in Revelation answers the question of moral responsibility.

Why is there so much crime and violence in society?
Why is there so much immorality?
Why is there so much lawlessness?

It revolves around the issue of moral responsibility.

The judgment calls us to accountability for our actions.
Judgment implies responsibility and moral choices.



25

If I am not responsible for what I do, how can God's judgment hold me accountable for those actions?

People reason, “If I have no responsibility;
if I am an alcoholic because my father was an alcoholic and my grandfather was an alcoholic,
then I'm not responsible.”



26

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Many excuse themselves, "If I am a drug addict because I was abused as a child then I'm not responsible."



27

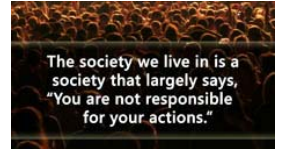
If I'm a criminal because my genetics made me that way, I'm not responsible."



28

The society we live in is a society that largely says you are not responsible for your actions.

It also declares right and wrong is something every person determines in their own mind. The idea is, "I am responsible only to myself. I'm not responsible to a higher power—God."



29

When you take the position that you are not responsible to any higher power and that there is no judgment, then you have no certain moral standards to guide your life.

Judgment implies responsibility and moral choices.

In the last days of earth's history, God is calling men and women to judgment.



30

Does God have a standard of morality and a basis for His final Judgment?
He does.

God's law is the basis of morality and the standard of judgment.

The Book of Revelation speaks to a society that says, "My mind is my highest standard. There is no judgment."
They say, "I'll make my own moral choices."



31

The Book of Revelation says, you ARE responsible for your actions, "For the hour of His judgment has come."

The Book of Revelation calls us back to the law of God which is God's moral standard.

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The apostle James, the brother of Jesus, puts it this way:

James 2:12

“So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”



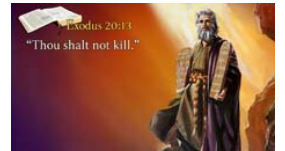
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The entire law of God is a law of liberty.
Here are a few examples.

The sixth commandment:

Exodus 20:13

“Thou shalt not kill,” liberates us.



33

It preserves the sanctity of life.



34

The seventh commandment:

Exodus 20:14

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”



35

Preserves the sanctity of the family.
It protects the institution of the family.



36

The eighth commandment:

“Thou shalt not steal”, is a law of liberty.



37

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It protects our possessions and our property.

Think of the chaos in society if the principles of God's law were openly disregarded.



38

Revelation 11:19

“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.”



39

What is the Ark of His Covenant?

Inside the Sanctuary God instructed Moses to build on earth, the Ark of the Covenant contained the law of God. God's law was placed in the Sanctuary as the basis of all morality.



40

The ark of God's covenant contains His Law.



41

God's Law is the foundation of His throne.

Echoing from the Book of Revelation is God's call to keep His law.



42

Judgment and Law are part of the Gospel.

But, someone says, "I thought we were saved by grace and we didn't need to keep God's law."



43

When Christ was crucified on the cross, He was judged as a sinner dying to pardon our sins. Judgment is part of the gospel.

Look, if God could have changed His law, Jesus would not have had to die.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death."

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If God's law was changed why would Jesus have to die? –
Because we broke God's law.

1 John 3:4

“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”



44

I may not think it is sin to steal something, but sin is lawlessness.

Sin is more than what I think in my own mind.

Here is the Bible's definition of sin.

Sin is breaking God's Law.

A man says, “Look, I'm not satisfied in my marriage.
So If I go out for a weekend with my secretary, that's okay
because it's two consenting adults.



45

The Bible says, “Thou shall not commit adultery.”

God's law is His eternal, moral standard which defines sin and establishes our accountability to God.

His law defines what morality is even if your mind does not.

The Bible says, “Sin is breaking God's law.”

The Book of Revelation says, “The hour of God's judgment is come.”

The Book of Revelation says, you are responsible for your actions. The Book of Revelation says the foundation of God's throne is God's law.



47

And what our children need today is not a diet of murder, violence and immorality on television.

Our children need to be taught the moral principles God has given us.



48

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

The moral law of God protects us.
God's law is not some arbitrary regulation to restrict our happiness.

God's law is the pathway to freedom and genuine happiness.



49

God's law protects us from a lifestyle which would destroy us.

Some Christians have even said,
"We don't preach on the law in our church."
"We preach about His love."
As if they are two different things.



50

Love always leads to obedience

Love doesn't lead you to disobedience.
It leads you to keep God's commandments.

John 14:15

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Does Jesus say, "If you love Me, You DON'T have to keep my Commandments"? No!
Love's response is to keep God's commandments.



51

The reason we obey is not because we are trying to earn God's favor. It's the response of our love for Him. I do not obey God to earn my salvation.

I obey God not in order to be saved, but because I am saved.

All my obedience does not earn salvation.
Christ wrought that out on the cross.



52

But when I come to the cross my obedience is evidence that I'm saved.

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1 John 2:3, 4

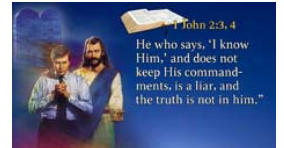
“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.



53

John says here is the evidence that we know God.
Here is the evidence that we are born again believers.
Here is the evidence that we are truly Christ's.

He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”



54

When we are committed to Christ, when we genuinely know Him, when our hearts are surrendered to Him, the natural response is to obey Him.

Anyone who says to you, “God's law is done away with. Forget about those commandments,” is only teaching you half of the gospel.

Grace and law are not contradictory ideas.

When you are saved by grace you are not saved to disobey. You are saved to obey.



55

What is the role of God's Law?

First, all salvation is by grace. Old Testament believers looked forward to a Christ who would come. In the New Testament we look to a Christ who has come. They were saved by a grace to come. We are saved by a grace that has come.



56

But if it's all by grace, what's the role of God's law then?

Romans 3:20

“... by the law is the knowledge of sin.”



57

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

If you do away with the law, there is no sin.
If there is no law, there is no sin.



58

“By the law is the knowledge of sin.”
God reveals sin through His law.

Paul says in **Romans 7:7**

“I would not have known sin except through the law.



59

For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’”



60

If you break God's law, it is sin.
So the role of the law is to define sin.
The law says, “This is right and this is wrong.”
The law defines the moral standard of God's judgment.
The law defines the foundation of all society.

The judgment in Revelation calls men and women everywhere back to law keeping.

It calls Christians that are saved by grace to live obedient, righteous holy lives.

Revelation's judgment does not justify our own sinful behavior. It calls us to moral responsibility.

What is the role of Grace?



61

Ephesians 2:8, 9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”



62

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Grace is God's mercy.

God's **pardon**, God's **forgiveness**,

Grace is God's **power**.

Grace is God's **love** reaching out to sinners.



63

Does Grace do away with God's Law?

If I am saved by grace does that lead me to break God's law?



64

Romans 3:31

“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”

Paul says, “Don't think we do away with the law by faith through grace.”

We establish it. We keep it.

People who are saved by grace are obedient.



65

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.



66

I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Jesus didn't come to do away with the law.

He was the living law.

And Jesus Himself obeyed the law. He fulfilled it.



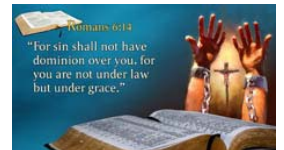
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Romans 6:14

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

When does sin have dominion over you?

When you follow your way, rather than God's way.



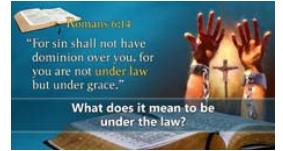
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Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

When you flippantly go out and break God's law, then sin chains you, because the Bible says,

"Sin is the transgression of the law." Paul says,
"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

What does it mean to be under the law?



69

It means to be under the law as a method of salvation.

It means to be under the condemnation of the law because I broke it.



70

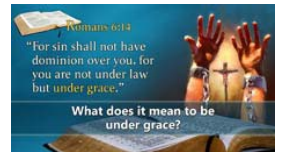
It means I trust the law to save me and I don't keep it. So I'm condemned.

What is sin? The breaking of God's law.

I'm condemned by the law I broke so I'm under the law.

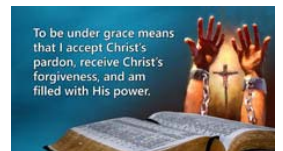
What does it mean to be under grace?

To be under grace, I come to the cross.
I kneel at the foot of the cross.



71

To be under grace means that I accept Christ's pardon, receive Christ's forgiveness, and am filled with His power.



72

Christ writes His law in my heart and in my mind.
I desire to obey Him.

The Bible is very clear on this subject.

When we come to Jesus Christ and throw ourselves at His feet, He says,



73

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

“My child, no matter what you have done in the past, no matter how sinful your life has been in the past, my child I will forgive you. You can begin again.”

The Law reveals our need.

When I look at God's law, I see who I am.
I don't measure up to that law.



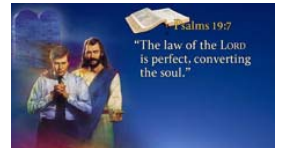
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When I come to Jesus Christ, when I look at His law,
I see times when I have been impatient.
I see times when I haven't been as kind as I should be.

When I come to Jesus, I fall at His feet.
This is what David means in—

Psalms 19:7

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.”
That perfect law drives me to Jesus and I say—



75

“Oh, Jesus, my heart is broken.
My heart is crushed because of my sin.
Jesus, forgive me. Pardon me.



76

Lead me, dear Jesus to keep your law.
Lead me, dear Jesus, to be obedient.”

Somebody came to Jesus once and tried to trick Him.

A lawyer came and he asked.—



77

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”



78

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'



79

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'



80

What was Jesus doing?

He was summarizing the Ten Commandments.

Because Jesus said—

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”



81

The entire Law can be summarized in one word —Love.



82

Love God and your fellow man.

Jesus summarized the first four commandments with LOVE to God and the last six commandments with LOVE to our fellow man.



83

Jesus was saying if you love fully, You will love God.

If you love fully you will love your fellow man.

Love always leads to obedience.

God's Ten Commandment Law was written with God's finger on tables of stone.



84

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

**Keeping God's law doesn't put you in bondage;
It takes you out of bondage.**

The Ten Commandments were not given to restrict our freedom.

They were given so we could be truly free.

They were given by God Himself.

Listen to how they are introduced—



85

Exodus 20:2

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."



86

It is the Lord God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth who wrote these commandments with His own finger on tables of stone as moral principles for all time.



87

Let's read them—

Exodus 20:3-17

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."



88

God is saying, "I am supreme in your life."

No other gods, not your house, not money, not tobacco, not materialism, nothing else.

Worship God supremely.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . ."

God says, "Don't come to me through images. Come to me directly."



89

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain. . ."

Love God enough to respect His name.



90

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

Think of it, the name of Jesus;
that name at which angels veil their faces;
that name at which angels sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy;"
that name is being dragged through the dust with
vile curses.

***"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the
seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God. . ."***



91

Worship the Creator of heaven and earth.
Worship Him as the One who made you.
The fourth commandment speaks to this generation.

"Honour thy father and thy mother. . ."

In an age when children no longer obey their parents; when
a kid says to his parents, "You can't tell me what to do."



92

The fifth commandment speaks with relevance.

"Thou shalt not kill."

At a time when nuclear weapons are being built to
kill people;
at a time of abortion on demand;
at a time when snipers kill innocent children;
there is still a commandment that says life is sacred: "thou
shalt not kill."



93

"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

At a time of immorality, at a time when there is a lack of
moral purity, God's law speaks to this generation.



94

When a society turns its back on God's law, when it is
openly immoral, that society is on its way to disaster.

This is a call for America and the world to come back to
God's law.

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

"Thou shalt not steal."

It's still wrong to steal.

It's still wrong to shoplift.

It's still wrong to take something that does not belong to you.



95

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Lying is still wrong. Gossip is still wrong.

Dragging someone's good name through the dust is still wrong.



96

"Thou shalt not covet . . ."

The Ten Commandment law speaks to this generation.
God's commandments speak to you and to me.



97

The Ten Commandment law speaks with relevance to our society today.



98

The Psalmist reveals that His commands are forever.

Psalms 111:7-9

"The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure.



99

They stand fast forever and ever. He has commanded His covenant forever."



100

Satan lost heaven because of disobedience.



101

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

Adam and Eve lost Eden because of disobedience.

God is calling His people back to His Ten Commandment law.



102

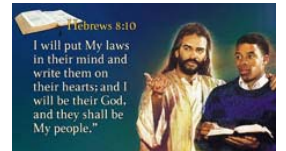
Hebrews 8:10

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD:



103

I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”



104

God says, “I am going to put My law in your mind.” What does it mean?

If God's law is in our minds we know it.

If God's law is in our hearts we love it.

God will have a last-day people whose law is written in their hearts and minds.

They love Him enough to obey Him.

Let's read a description of this last-day people.



105

Revelation 14:12

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”



106

Here they are. The faithful ones—

Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

The last chapter in Revelation describes the redeemed this way:

Revelation's Answer for Society's Crumbling Values

Revelation 22:14

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life,



107

and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Jesus Christ pardons us. Jesus says, “Come to me, my child.” He gives us mercy.



108

Christ looks into our eyes and says,
“I have something special I want to do for you.
I want to change your life.
I would like to make you a new man or a new woman.”



109

Would you like to say, “Jesus, come into my life. Jesus, do for me what it is impossible for me to do for myself.”

Many years ago, a mother took her young son to hear the renowned preacher, Dwight Moody.



110

After the sermon, she stood in line for one reason. She wanted her son to shake hands with Evangelist Moody.

When the boy's turn came he clenched his fist and refused to shake hands.



111

His mother was totally embarrassed. She urged; she coaxed. She took the boy's hand and attempted to place it in the preacher's hand.

The boy would not open his fingers.

When he finally did, there were a few beautifully colored marbles there. He thought the preacher was going to take all of his marbles!



112

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What are you clinging to my friend?
What are you holding on to?



113

Is there anything more important to you than reaching out
and taking Jesus' hand right now?

His grace will pardon your past.
His grace will transform your life.
His grace will make you a new man or a new woman.

I love that old hymn,

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

"Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe! . . .
His grace flows from His throne to your heart right now.
Why not reach out and take it?

How many here want to say, "Yes, Lord, I want to accept
your gift of grace right now as we stand? Let us pray.
(During the prayer say:) Now there are some here who wish
to give their hearts to Jesus for the first time—would you just
come forward and I want to greet you and pray just for you.
Come forward, just now...come..."
Then follow with prayer.
