

An Urgent Letter :

To the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa

(This Part follows Part 6, posted last week.)

7. The Grace of God is Not a License to Continue to Live in Rebellion Against Him : Older Testament Lessons for the Newer Testament

This entire Letter to the RSA Church is not for idle chat or mild curiosity, but calls for action in repentant obedience and prayer unto God. By its very nature it is limited in exploring in greater depth the issues that beset the RSA Church, though all we need is Scripture to know something is seriously wrong.

Scripture reveals what it is, for Scripture is our full and final authority for all of life and conduct, (and is also the Divinely given historical record of the activity of God with man), from which we gain much understanding, if we know His Word intimately and obey Him wholeheartedly.

Part 1 was the Introduction to the Letter. It is an essential, foundation-laying Introduction and so I encourage you if you have not read the Introduction yet, or the Parts which follow it, to do so.

The issues raised here below, and in the Letter at large are given in broad brush strokes, and are not dealt with in fine detail, for that is beyond the scope of this **Urgent Letter to the RSA Church** : they are basically referred to (broad brush strokes) plus a bit, as I have been led. Broad brush strokes are not only a generalisation (although they apply to the greater number calling themselves Christian) but they reveal largely unrecognised underlying problems in and with the RSA Church. The intention is to raise the alarm and give enough information to be able to clearly identify specific spiritual problems that are in urgent need of attention, so you can get to prayer in repentance, and for revival of the RSA Church. Of course, not all the sin problems are addressed. There are many more. Look around you...just make sure what you see re sin is so reflected as such in the Bible. Look first to YOURSELF. Do not make any excuse for your sin. God has not given us that permission. Excuses only dig us deeper into the mess. Confess till the bag is completely empty....

The previous Parts to this Urgent Letter to the RSA Church can be accessed on :

www.pechurchnet.co.za/media/letter-to-rsa-church.php.

I have sought to ensure there are no typo's in the Scripture references I have given, and if there are, I offer my profuse apologies.

7. The Grace of God is Not a License to Continue to Live in Rebellion Against Him : Older Testament Lessons for the Newer Testament

A major lie that has spread through many Christian circles is that because we are under "grace," God's moral laws given in the Older Testament don't matter anymore because the Law is surpassed by grace. This is simply not true. It is demonic inspired heresy, misinterpretation of Scripture.

The grace of God was ALWAYS present in His dealings with man, from Gods decision to create man in Their image and likeness. It is a serious misunderstanding of Scripture, and what Jesus, and then the apostle Paul, were teaching. Grace first, then law.

After creation (grace) the legal (law) prohibition on eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and serious consequences were pronounced for the breaking of this law/command.

The moral law of God is not surpassed by grace, as it is the written expression of Who God is. It is, therefore, an unchanging law given by grace, and by grace it is planted into the hearts of true believers in Christ by Holy Spirit. Jeremiah 31 : 33; Ephesians 2 : 1—10 . Verses 8 and 9 reveal grace (salvation from condemnation for in Adam disobeying God's command, which is Divine law), then **verse 10 reveals the will of God, i.e. His law, for us to live by and do---good works created by God in advance for us to do. Should we refuse, then we suffer consequences of that refusal. That is law. Gods will is an "invitation" to honour Him, BUT please understand this : **Gods will IS FAR MORE THAN A MERE INVITATION**. It is Divine decree, Divine command to be followed, embraced, submitted to and carried out wholeheartedly. That is **Law, by grace**, but it IS law.**

What happens when a person, by real faith, truly bows the knee to Jesus Christ, the Son of God : we are saved (grace) and immediately indwelt by Holy Spirit (grace and law because the Spirit of God writes the law of God in our minds and in our hearts), and we become new creations of God and God plants within the heart and mind of such a person His moral law.

Jeremiah 31 : 33

Christ is the Perfect once-for-all-time sacrifice, who embodied the life we could not live **in perfect obedience to God**, and we are to seek to live after His example post salvation. **John 14 : 15—18, 20—21, 23 (24); John 17 : 20—23; Ephesians 1 : 13, 14;** See also : **Genesis 1 : 26, 27; Genesis 2 : 7; Genesis 3** where the Fall causes utter catastrophe through spiritual death, and man is cut off from God (dies spiritually immediately), and God removes His Spirit from man because of sin/disobedience/rebellion against Him.

It is true that by keeping the OT Law we do not and cannot, enter salvation as salvation (being born again/born from above) is by faith (alone) in Christ (alone), the Only Son of God.

However, keeping God's law afterwards, after salvation---His written moral law, which is His **preceptual image** of Himself cf **Leviticus 19 : 2 et al** (see more below)---to do His will in obedience, is critical and cannot be ignored, for otherwise, then, "faith" is not saving faith if no works of obedience are given living expression by the one claiming faith. **James 2** is very clear on this. It reveals a deleterious ignorance of Biblical truth to ignore the necessity of keeping and doing Gods moral law, which God revealed in / through the Old Testament, with the new commandment which Jesus gave (**John 13 : 34, 35**). **1 Peter 1 : 2**, tells us plainly that we are saved **FOR obedience** to Jesus Christ (Who is Immanuel, God with us). There cannot be obedience expected of us if there is no law/ no commands to follow/obey. **Matthew 13 : 1—23 and Matthew 25 : 14—46 (noting vss 30, 41--46 carefully : there is no tip-toeing around the very clear meaning of what JESUS (Immanuel, God Incarnated, John 14 : 9) is saying and its import following the parable of the seeds in Matthew 13.)**

Theologian **J.A. Motyer** (Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, Walter E. Elwell Ed., 1992; "Law, Biblical Concept of", pages 623—625) explained that **God's Moral Law (written) is simply a verbal picture of His character, His holiness, which His people are to reflect, this reflection being the creation plan and purpose of man. Genesis 1 : 26, 27 and 2 : 7.**

Law in the Image of God : Motyer (Below in all quotes from Motyer [emphasis and underlining is mine].

"...we find in **Lev 19** that God has provided another image of Himself on earth. Every aspect of human experience is gathered now into this rich review of man's life under God's law" : [*inter alia*] filial [family] duty **vs 3**; religious commitment **vs 4**; ritual exactness **vs 5**; care of the needy **vs 9**; honesty in deed

and word **vss 11, 12**; plus many others. "...all this variety suspends from one central truth: "I am the LORD." "

"LORD is the divine name, the "I am what I am" (**Exod 3 : 4**), so that the significance of the recurring claim is **not** "You must do what I tell you" (i.e. "lord" as an authority word) but "You must do this or that **because "I am what I am"**".

Every precept of the law is a reflection of "what I am". Man is to be the living, personal image of God, as man was created in the living personal image of God; because of the Fall man is to become again the living image and expression of God; the law is the written, preceptual image of God that man is to honour and obey by reflecting in his life that image of God, both created image and preceptual image. The intention of **Lev 19** is declared at the outset: "You shall be holy, for I, the LORD your God am holy." (vs 2). The LORD longs for His people to live in His image, and to that end He has given them His law."

"When man in the image of God and law in the image of God come together in the fully obedient life, then man is indeed 'being himself'. [Man's] nature is the image of God, and the law is given both to activate and to direct that nature into a truly human life; any other life is subhuman".

Now read all the above from the beginning of the extracts from Motyers article again in light of the New Covenant : the similarity is very clear. God, in the New Covenant, has placed, by Himself again indwelling man by His Holy Spirit, His preceptual image and spiritual image in man's heart and mind. **Genesis 2 : 7; Jeremiah 31 : 33; John 14 : 15—20, and then follow vss 21 and 23, with vs 24** being a solid, blunt statement of fact.

In John 14 : 15, 21, 23 we see that obedience is still very definitely Divinely expected and commanded; and as a result of our faith- obedience to God He takes up a deeply personal, intimate, residence within those of His people who honestly seek Him to honour and obey Him. This was how it was with Adam, a deeply personal, intimate relationship, until the Fall intervened in Paradise and so destroyed the God--man relationship. But now in the incompleteness of our experience of salvation (not perfect because not in heaven yet) our relationship with God needs to be nurtured by a strong diet of the Word, prayer and selfless (Christ-like) obedience, all three making up the greater component of worship. We are to give living expression to the freedom from sin, fear and death under satan's vile dominion we have been graced with in Christ, by serving God fully in self sacrificial obedience, even as Jesus did.

God re-indwells His people (**Ephesians 2 : 1—10**) as He did before the Fall, where we saw Divine command and expected obedience was present, even before sin entered in : “...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil , for when you do eat of it you will surely die” (**Genesis 2 : (15--)—17**).

God through Paul exhorts His people to walk---live, move and have their being---in step with Him/His Spirit, for He, and He alone, is He Who makes man a living being after His own nature and character/ image and likeness by His indwelling Spirit. (**Romans 8 : 5** : Spirit is synonymous with God. Those who live in accordance with the Spirit live in accordance with the will, ways, plans and purposes of God and actively desire to actively please Him. The written, preceptual law of God is deposited by Holy Spirit in the heart and life of man at salvation. God breathed into man again His (Holy) Spirit, Ruach Hakodesh. The imagery, action and words of Jesus at **John 20 : (21), 22** reflect very closely the action of God at **Genesis 2 : 7**. Man is EXPECTED to honour His Creator and LORD and Saviour through obedience, and failure/refusal to do so carries serious consequences, regardless whether one is born again or not.)

Grace precedes law

Motyer explains that **grace precedes law** i.e. grace comes before law.

NB my emphases/underling/italics.

“A major truth emerges simply in the way the Exodus story is told.” Liberation and the redemption of Israel took place in Egypt. Liberation, by the 10th plague and redemption by the Passover. (**Exodus 6 : 6, 7**) “**In this way the people of Israel became *the people who took shelter beneath the blood of the lamb* (Ex 12: 13, 22, 23) *and who, by sheltering, were saved from the wrath of God* (Ex 12 : 12)...the blood and the flesh of the lamb made them the LORD’s redeemed pilgrims. It was this people---the people liberated and redeemed by grace [from Egypt]---who came to Mount Sinai.**”

Sinai was not a chance stopover, but a definite intent of God.

“The people redeemed by blood were brought by their Redeemer to the place of lawgiving (**Exod 20 : 2**). Grace precedes law : the law of God is not a system of merit whereby the unsaved seek to earn divine favour *but a pattern of life given by the Redeemer to the redeemed so that they might know how to live for His good pleasure.* Such is the biblical understanding of the place and function of law.”

Obedience to the moral law of God is the way of holy living.

“The first desire of the redeemer God is that **His redeemed should be obedient** [to Him]. To keep the law is not a new bondage but a proof that the old bondage was past. (**Exod 20 : 2**).” And note this important fact in light of the New Covenant. See also the above content in respect to this.

The way of holiness is by obedience, Motyer (Moral law ; and see **Matthew 22 : 37, 38, 39, 40**).

“The first desire of the redeemer God is that His people should be obedient [to Him].” (cf **Colossians 1 : 13, 14**).

“The lawgiving led up to a pledge of obedience (**Exodus 24:7**) that matched the longing of the LORD (**Deuteronomy 5: 28, 29**).”

“In the OT as in the NT (**Acts 5 : 32** and **Acts 4 : 19--31**) obedience is a means of grace....The psalmist speaks for every true believer when he testifies that the way of obedience is the way of true liberty (**Ps 119 : 44, 45**)”, and so it is for a growing fellowship with God. No willing, self-sacrificial obedience to God, no love for God (**John 14 : 24**). No love for God, no relationship with God and no fellowship with God. **1 John 2 : 3—6**.

Modern day Church, including very much so in RSA, has taken on a way of “being” that is contrived and false when compared with the lives we see lived in Scripture : our (at very best, careless and neglectful) attention to Gods will and pleasure is shallow, fake churchianity. **Matthew 15 : 8, 9**. We claim our praxis of faith is Biblical and it does bear some relation to the Bible, but some cults do too, eg the “health, wealth and prosperity” cult, which is present in many current churches in a variety of disguised ways. We call singing songs worship, when Scripture indicates strongly worship is being a living sacrifice in obedience to Christ, including actually living out our designation and function as a royal priesthood of the Most High God. We run after the power of God but have no time for the costly effort of the character of holiness. We run after all the worldly trappings of success---expressions of wealth like plush interiors to the 4 walls we “””worship in”””, expensive sound systems even smoke machines for effect (Holy Spirit is not enough is He ??), church leaders are called apostles and prophets ten to the dozen, and lots of conferences and religious talk---but no substantive obedience in the nitty gritty of faith lived out....in marriage; at home and work; with the neighbours; in the face of great temptation; sharing the Gospel with whoever you get a sniff of a chance;

hardly any praying for the lost to be saved and for the LORD to thrust out workers into the fields white unto harvest (in case He sends you)..... And so it goes on.

The RSA Church today seems to think that the holiness of Jesus is simply ours for the taking. That we are already what we must become and can call God our “buddy”. That is entitlement in and of arrogance of a high order.

Christ’s merits have been imputed to us, yes, for restoration to God and the BEGINNING of relationship with Him, but we must **become** holy, **become** righteous, **become** obedient, **become** who and what we are in Christ. **This** is growing in faith. **This** is attained only through obedience, and obedience is found in the careful study of God’s Word, praying--including praying God’s Word--and putting all that into living operation through our lives, utterly dependent upon God (**John 15**). **This** process leads to growing in spiritual maturity.

When we are born again we are but spiritual babies, no matter what our physiological age, and we need to grow up in the faith **Hebrews 5 : 11--6 : 2**. That happens through : **1.) Studying the Word of God** prayerfully asking Holy Spirit to help us understand (and by discussing Scripture with more mature believers from different church groupings to get a balanced input/view); **2.) Praying the Word of God** over oneself and family/congregation/town/city/nation/business etc, for God to bring His Word--His will-- to pass in your life/”their” lives. But then it is CRITICAL that you **3.) Obey the Word of God yourself**. For it is in and through obedience that we show our love for God and the progression in **John 14 : 15—21, 23 (note vs 24 !!)** is stating an important fact for us, and that is in the obedience of our lives to God in every way we have opportunity to honour and obey Him (not perfectly, but wholeheartedly) and we give Him the “material” he wants from us so that He may refine us more, sanctify us more, transform us more, and so develop more in us the likeness of Jesus, Who is the likeness of the Father in human flesh. This demands that we are wholehearted unto Him, desiring to please, honour and glorify Him in all our life. God honours those who honour Him, not those who are casual about Him and largely disinterested in Him. **1 Samuel 2 : 30 ; Galatians 6 : 7, 8; and Romans 12 : 1, 2**, where we prove what Gods good, pleasing and perfect will is through our experience of God working to, for and through us into other people’s lives and circumstances. **We experience God at work in and through us into the lives of other people as we obey Him.**

Our faith in Christ must be “worked out” in fear and trembling for it is by obedience that holiness is brought forth by God Who is at work in us to do His good will. Our obedience is the “material” required by Him to fashion us into that which we are in Christ because though it is imputed to us, and which we must become, because we are not yet fully like Christ in living experience it is something we must become. It is Gods will for us, but we must play our committed part. Obedience is the means. There is no other way for we are to be obedient to Jesus/the Father as Jesus was to the Father. THAT is our standard. **Philippians 2 : 5—8, and 12—15; 1 Peter 2 : 21.; Philippians 2 : 12, 13.**

Dis-obedience reaped the horror of the Fall **Genesis 2 : 17 and Genesis 3 : 7—24**, just as today it still reaps a harvest of destruction. **Leviticus 26 : 14—39; Galatians 6 : 7, 8; Haggai; Isaiah; Jeremiah *et al.***

The Divine character and life-expressed holiness of God is exactly what Jesus reflected in His earthly Life, and that is what we are called to reflect daily individually and corporately---noy just in OUR congregation, but in conjunction with the other congregations that live and are placed in our area.

(1 Peter 1 : 2 and 1 Peter 2 : 21---24; 1 John 2 : 3--6). Jesus—God Incarnated, Immanuel---reflected Divine Life perfectly and expressed the clear uncompromising, yet graciously compassionate standards God has set before us as His born-from-above children. Jesus said to Philip at **John 14 : 8--12** in reply to Philips request that Jesus show the disciples the Father : “How long have I been with you Philip ? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father”. “The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father living in Me Who is doing His work.” **John 14 : 10(b); John 5 : 19; John 14 : 15—20; John 17 : 20—23.** Let this sink in.

And now see what God revealed of Himself to Moses : **Exodus 34 : 4—7, noting carefully vs 7 (b) “ yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished”**. Yes, Christ has been punished for our sin : the sinless punished for the sinful, but does that mean we can simply carry on living as we wish ? NEVER !!! We are urged to FLEE sin in all its forms, shapes and sizes. Why ? Sin causes disruption to our relationship with God and dishonours Him and gives God a bad name for my / your disdain for Him, and that we so casually sin against Him is a most evil effrontery to Creator God; i.e. to go against the One Whom we say is God and Truth and Life and Saviour and Judge and Holy, and treat Him as a casually....

Apostle Paul put it thus about so easily sinning against God : **Romans 6 : 1 –22.** In two places in **Romans 6** (vss **2 and 15**) Paul uses a very strong emphasis,

translated somewhat weakly in English “By no means!” In the Greek it is extremely emphatic to the negative.

"May it not happen!" or "May it never be!"

It is **extremely emphatic**.

In Paul's writing, *mē genoito* is the absolute strongest way to express shock, horror, and total repudiation of an idea.

Paul uses it when an illogical extreme or scandalous misunderstanding of his teaching on grace (that more sin equals more grace) is proposed. To Paul, the suggestion is not just legally wrong; it is spiritually grotesque and completely contradictory to the reality of being united with Christ.

Romans 6 : Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ STUDY THIS.

6 “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

² By no means! [May it never be ! , *mē genoito* !] We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. ¹⁰ The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign [have easy free reign] in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Slaves to Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! [May it never be !] ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as **obedient slaves**, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are *slaves to sin, which leads to death*, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**

¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that **you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God**, [i.e. obedient to God] the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Note : a slave had to obey his owner or face the consequences of his rebellion against his master, and it was largely unthinkable to do so.

I quote the notes/comment in the **NIV Disciples Study Bible (1988, Holman Bible Publishers)** on **Romans 6 : 14—18, SALVATION, Grace** : [Square brackets mine...]

“Sin is no longer the master of the saved, because we are under grace but not law. That does not give us reason to ignore Gods laws [so there is STILL law...] and see how much we can sin [if there is no law of God, there can be no sin...] so God can provide more grace. Believers commit themselves as slaves to Gods righteousness and, thus, fight against sin and its temptations.”

In other words : we are to seek wholeheartedly to obey God. There is still law—it is written on our hearts and in our minds by Holy Spirit, but we relate to God far more relationally out of loving gratitude for His grace and goodness.

God's Moral Law (written) is simply a verbal picture of His character, His holiness, which His people are to reflect, this reflection being the creation plan and purpose of God for man. Genesis 1 : 26, 27 and 2 : 7. Malachi 6 : 1

God says he does not change, i.e. His moral character is immutable/unchangeable. And through the means of the New Covenant the moral law of God has been written on our hearts and minds by Holy Spirit. **Jeremiah 31: 33.** Holy Spirit is GOD Holy Spirit, just as Jesus is GOD enfleshed as man.

The Church today in the western reflections of it, the RSA Church is guilty too, is far too keen on the “ruling” aspect of life in Christ. It is true that we now rule and reign on earth with Christ. It is true that Christ reigns and rules on earth in and through all His people, His ekklesia, world wide. But we desire “ruling” wrongly. We want “ruling” for the sake of power, without the process to ruling. The process takes us to grow in holiness. We grow in holiness through faithful, loving obedience in all ways at all times (yes, not perfectly, but we must be wholehearted). Growing in holiness is the path to properly ruling with Christ on earth. There is no other way. Through fire to refine and moulding, re-shaping Hands to transform. Comfort is not found in this, so we try and short circuit the entire process and make a massive hash of it, to satan’s delight. His deceptions have worked yet again with a lazy and worldly, immature people of God. Look at **Ephesians 4 : 11—16** re discipleship. **Look at the results of proper discipleship**, formal and informal, but always with Biblical practical practice and life expression.

The Divine Character and life-expressed holiness of God is exactly what Jesus reflected in His earthly Life, and what we are called to reflect daily. **Ephesians 4 : 11—16.** Jesus own words state that His Words will never pass away. [Remember Jesus is God Incarnated, so Jesus was with the Israelites in their liberation from Egypt and their redemption unto God in Egypt (Passover) **1 Corinthians 10 : 1--12**]. See above **Matthew 5 : 17, 18.**

The moral law is the Divine preceptual (written as law) revelation/image of God Himself --- His nature and character. Therefore the Divine Self-revelational law of God is written on our hearts, and in our minds because we have the mind of Christ by Holy Spirit, BUT we must nurture this mind. **See Ephesians 4 : 22—24, in particular vs 23, and Romans 12 : 1, 2; and Jeremiah 31 : 33**

Exactly as God spoke, Jesus spoke, the Gospel writers spoke and wrote and so Paul, and so Peter under the infallible guidance/moving of God Holy Spirit.

Let us not pretend that judgment does not begin with the family of God, **1 Peter 4 : 17, 18.** It is written.....It does. **Galatians 6 : 7, 8, Leviticus 26 : 14—39 ff**

The parables of warning spoken by Jesus and the warnings of the apostle Paul, Peter and John are valid. God does not waste time, words etc on empty warnings. See also the words of Jesus, Who is God in the flesh of man :

Matthew 24 : 35 and Matthew 5 : 17—20. Beware that you reduce Jesus to just a man. He IS Almighty God and Father revealed in the flesh of man. He is infinite, unbounded by time...

In any case, why in all loving logic and Biblical witness would God save people from sin to Himself, and then just calmly allow them to continue to sin against Him with no difference between them and the lost, the pagan. That is not how He dealt with Israel and Judah. God is NOT senile....

The discipline of God, as spoken of in **Hebrews 12 : 5—13** is God's discipline that comes to us according to our disciplinary needs, but always with the purpose to purify us from sin and train us in the ways of holiness so that we bear a harvest of righteousness. It comes to us individually, congregationally, local area – wise, town/city/nationally. (See **Part 6 of this [Urgent Letter to the RSA Church](#)**). It is by GRACE !!! The same grace that caused God to send prophet after prophet after prophet to Israel and Judah to turn them around from their apostasy and rebellion against Him, to return to Him. GRACE !!!

Genesis 1 : 26, 27 and Genesis 2 : 7 says man was made in the Living Image of God. **Leviticus 19 : 1, 2** reveals the Law is the Written Image of God's holiness. "Be holy because I the LORD your God am holy". "I am the LORD your God" / "I am the LORD/your LORD" is an oft repeated refrain through Leviticus 19, 16 times to be exact. Do you think God is emphasising something re the need for holiness by His people, perhaps ??? Right where He concludes His (preceptual) law-giving, He encourages Israel (**Leviticus 26 : 1—13**) that if they live wholeheartedly according to His will, they will experience great life and abundance, no less the awesome abundance of God Himself walking in their midst. Then He warns them of refusing Him (**Leviticus 26 : 14—39**), being careless with His will and of the catastrophe's they will experience if they treat Him as mundane (ordinary and boring, something to be treated with disdain). Then He speaks of prayer for repentance and forgiveness (**Leviticus 26 : 40—45**). Holiness by Gods people marks them as distinctly God's and reveals their likeness to God which is very, very different to the likeness of pagans to their demonic "gods".

Where, with God's people, there is self interest riding high, excuse after excuse for no obedience, disinterest in the things and will, ways and purposes of God and an unhealthy interest in the power of God and the goodies God is

supposed to simply cough up on demand, sin runs wild in every distortion of God's will, there is no holiness but instead should be a fearful expectation of God's great displeasure being provoked. Cf **Leviticus 26 : 3; 14---39; 40....**

Well, RSA Church : this is where we are, no matter how much we/you try and gaslight otherwise.

Jesus fulfilled the holiness of God on our behalf that we might be saved and grow into His holiness which is imputed to us and which we must "put on", through obedience and complete identification with Jesus. **Eph 4 : 22 -- 24.** Holiness has no association with a wilful, deliberate, ongoing lifestyle of sin and disinterest in God, no matter how "well-intentioned" you may be. "God knows my heart !!" is the vain bleat of lazy, disinterested-in-God, self satisfying and world seduced fools. Indeed : He knows your heart, alright !

When you (as a Living Image of God, by faith in God, through Jesus Christ) live according to God's Word (the Written Preceptual Image of God) wholeheartedly---not perfectly, but wholeheartedly--- you experience a truly awesome, fully alive human life. See **John 10 : 10(b)** : the subjunctive mood of the verb "may have" indicates some very precise truth regarding our responsibility to honour God and the real fact we might not be truly interested in Him at all.

Firstly it indicates the abundant, full spiritual life after the Life of God is available to us who come to Christ : "may have" = we may have it. It is available to us, by activating faith into obedience, the way **James 2** indicates startlingly clearly it must be activated.

Secondly, the subjunctive mood expresses an uncertainty--- not all are going to partake of it and grow into a life that is Christlike/ Spirit-filled, for the most are not prepared to pay the price of discipline to study the Word of God, and pray the Word of God and obey the Word of God. Most are not disciplined in the western Church, despite the Scripture being so very clear on this matter (**Ephesians 4 : 11—16**). Pastors, church leaders, you will answer to God for your gross neglect and pointed refusal to disciple those under your care. And then so many in the churches have little interest in the things that concern God : 'Oh Dear.... Just *too much* for me! I have no time over after my pursuit of my bestest life now and my work is SO demanding and this world is SO enticingly fun !!!'

Disciple those who ARE interested, even if only a couple of folk. BUT DO IT. Start with your own heart and life.

Grace Always Comes First

God did not give the Ten Commandments to Israel while they were still slaves in Egypt and say, "Obey these, and maybe I'll rescue you." No! He rescued (delivered) them by the blood of the Passover Lamb and parted the Red Sea first (Grace). Then, once they were free, He brought them to Mount Sinai and gave them the Law to show them how to stay free. The giving of the Law was by grace, also. See **Exodus 19 : 3--8 ; Leviticus 26:1—13**.

Keeping God's moral rules is not legalistic slavery; it is the proof that you have been rescued from the slavery of sin, to God, in freedom, to honour and obey Him. It is an expected faith response to His mercy and grace from those who cried out to Him for help and He rescued them from their slavery to Egypt, and their condemnation for their sin and slavery to satan.

Through the Passover Blood by the Grace of God in Christ the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world we are brought into a state of being rescued and free. From there, the path leads to the law by God re-indwelling us by God Holy Spirit Who writes in our minds and upon our hearts the law of God, directing us into a life of holiness : separation from the world unto God, to reflect Him in all His self-revelation and written moral law. Grace again.

Jesus, at **John 5:14** ("Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you") and **John 8:11** ("Go and sin no more").

Pure Devotion: The Burnt Offering : Motyer

In the Old Testament, the Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1) was completely consumed by fire. Nothing was kept back.

"The burnt offering expressed the double idea of acceptance before God and dedication [of the true worshipper] to God." **Note** : receiving Christ as LORD and Saviour holds the same meaning. "Its savour is sweet to the LORD (**Lev 1:9**), indicating His delight to accept it and the one who offers it...."

In the burnt offering expressing dedication to God, we see at **Genesis 22** "... the LORD exercised His right to claim all, and in responding with a burnt offering Abraham was holding nothing back **vs 12**. **The story of the offering of**

Isaac established the heart searching standard of devotion which the burnt offering expressed." Cf Romans 12 : 1

Genesis 22 : 1—18 and Romans 12:1 , Matthew 10 : 37—39 and Matthew 16 : 24, 25 and Matthew 22 : 18—21 and 37--40 teach us the same thing : Scripture tells us to give God our most treasured items/relationships, even our lives, and present our bodies as "living sacrifices" loving Him wholeheartedly. STUDY these Scriptures.....

Motyer concludes in the final paragraph of his article referred to above :

"That the OT concept of law is, in fact, the biblical concept of law is nowhere seen more clearly than in the continuance throughout the Bible of the same pillars of true religion : grace and law. For the purpose of God remains the same, the obedience of His people, and it remains true that those who thus walk in the light find that the blood of Jesus Christ keeps cleansing them from all their sin."

In other words : OBEDIENCE is a prerequisite for God's favour and the ongoing cleansing from sin. Ongoing dishonouring---at the very least merely careless, neglectful dis-obedience---leaves the person open to God's displeasure, discipline and where that bears no fruit of repentance, a harsher response from God follows. (**Israel; Judah; Haggai; Jeremiah 7; Hebrews 12 : 5--13** et al)

Leviticus 26 : 3 : "If you follow My decrees and are **careful** to obey My commands", God says he will greatly and mightily bless His people, see **vss 4-13**. Part of that great and mighty blessing is plenty to eat at all times, peace and safety and no violence and the sword of bloodshed running amuck through the land; but the crowning blessing is this : " I will put My dwelling place amongst you...I will walk among you and I will be your God and you will be My people." **Vss 11, 12.**

RSA Church : We are not experiencing God like this in our country at the moment and have not been since well before 1994, though God, by His grace and mercy, did act mightily just before those elections and prevented massive bloodshed. But we have forgotten God. We have pushed aside the call to holiness. We pretend righteousness, but it is our imagination as we live more like pagans than Godly, God-fearing people.

When we carefully read **Leviticus 26 : 14—39** we see the exact opposite of the first 13 verses of Leviticus : disaster upon disaster. The bloodshed in our land

testifies to the fact that God has unleashed the sword for bloodshed and fear —because His people have ignored His commands and have not honoured His decrees. Just read this prayerfully and you will see exactly RSA reflected in **Leviticus 26 : 14—39**. Now read it again. And again.

**Vss 40—42 : “⁴⁰ “But *if* they will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors—their unfaithfulness and their hostility toward me, ⁴¹which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies—
then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin,
⁴²I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.”**

This sounds like **2 Chronicles 7 : 14**, yet this was given well in advance of Solomons time, in fact at the very giving of His preceptual law. God is gracious, indeed.

RSA Church !! Surely it is time to pray...really pray in terms of **2 Chronicles 7 : 14** ??

The grace of God ALWAYS calls for unbridled loving obedience to God, Who pours out His grace upon us for our great, immeasurable good, for His glory. And when Gods people so respond to God He honours them abundantly.

But we the RSA Church, His people, have forgotten Him, dishonoured Him by prostituting ourselves to the world for its fake trinkets and status, and have ignored His will, ways, plans and purposes and the desperate plight of the lost, the poor and hurting and needy; and we have disdained our calling as royal priests of God. We have turned away from our LORD God and Saviour and wonder why the country is in such a mess. YET, we strenuously deny there is anything wrong with us and are very happy to follow the candy floss preached and prophesied.

Exactly as Israel and then Judah did, and the results were brutally catastrophic.

Be warned. Be seriously, seriously warned.

It has become urgent to call fellow Christians together to pray (preferably) at least once a week, on any given night together for revival of God’s people and a HUGE spiritual awakening amongst the lost; and to schedule 2 to 3 other

times a week from your separate homes as arranged in the group for the same purpose.

2 Chronicles 7 : 14 is a beautiful Scripture to immerse yourself in. See **Daniel 9 : 1—19** for the kind of things to pray about (just a guide, but VERY helpful. Its Biblical and to the point for RSA.)

2 Chronicles 7 : 14 sets out the Divine principles that God expects to be applied by those repenting from their disobedience towards Him, their disinterest in Him, idolatry by arrogance against Him and thereby, their apostacy. Dear Reader, THIS is where you start, and keep going.....

Why not watch this short video :

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1bJfescp95/>

Don't you desire to experience God like the Moravians did ?

You can.

Encourage those in your group to do likewise and call a group together, and to encourage those joining them to do likewise....soon our city, province, nation could be vibrantly raising up voice to our LORD in fervent prayers for revival on every night / day of the week.... "If My people who are called by My name...."

If you and I take this seriously, can you imagine the difference it would make in your life, your family's life, your neighbourhood, town, suburb, city, and our nation ? Can you imagine how God would be truly honoured and glorified ?

Send the link to the **Urgent Letter to the RSA Church**, including this video above, and this message, far and wide across our land (and keep doing that for a couple of months to spread this call and hope we have in Christ), and start praying.

Pray for God to raise up men, women, boys and girls to pray for revival, for Him to visit us /visit them / visit our nation with a long lasting, incredible transformational revival of the RSA Church and massively massive spiritual awakening amongst the lost.

Share the link to the **Urgent Letter to the RSA Church** with family, friends, all across the country.

Discuss this entire Letter in its different parts in your cell group / Bible study / whatever church groups you are in. Let GOD by His Spirit speak to you from His Word.

Pray honestly, fervently for transformational revival in your congregation, suburb, town/city/province/nation, for when God reveals His Presence in manifest glory, no leg can stand, no voice can speak just like the priests in the tabernacle when God came down upon them, but wait for our sin in repentance, on our faces, until, when He is done with us, when He has purified us from our sin(s) we stand revived and in exceeding rejoicing go forth to show our love for Him through prayer, obedience, love for others/the lost and selfless humble ministry unto Him, for HIS glory alone.

This **Urgent Letter to the RSA Church** is an urgent call for her to return to her LORD in humility, confession, and repentance unto obedience in measure not yet expressed in and through our lives before, to glorify His Holy Name, and for all our good, even the entire country.

Part 8 of this Letter to the RSA Church (**A Prophetic Look at South Africa's Political/Spiritual State**) follows next week, God willing.

The previous Parts to this Urgent Letter to the RSA Church can be accessed at :

www.pechurchnet.co.za/media/letter-to-rsa-church.php.

Lee Ward Able

Port Elizabeth.

Mid October, 2026.