What Did Jesus Nail to the Cross?

Tonight, I'm going to start this sermon with a quotation from the newspaper. Dr. Billy Graham, has a column called my answer. People write him questions, and he publishes the question with an answer.

Now I'm going to read this. And don't forget that God's message is intelligent, it appeals to the mind. Here's the question: Some people I know tell me that the Ten Commandments are part of the law and do not apply to us today. They say that as Christians, we are free from the law. Is this right?

Now this is Dr. Billy Graham's answer: No, it is not right! And I hope you will not be misled by these false opinions. It is very important to understand what the New Testament means when it says that Christians are free from the law. It certainly does not mean that they are free from the obligations of the moral law of God and are at liberty to sin. We ought to say Amen to Dr. Billy Graham.

You see the word law is used by the New Testament writers in two senses. Sometimes it refers to the ceremonial law of the Old Testament which is concerned about ritual matters and was done away with when Christ came. Christians are free from this law. But the New Testament also speaks of the moral law.

The moral law is a permanent unchanging character, and is summarized in the Ten Commandments. This law sets forth God's demands on human life, and man's duty to God and his neighbor. That is definitely applied to the Christians, is made clear in Romans 13:8-10.

Now I'm not using Dr. Graham as a text – I use the Bible. But he was no clear in that answer thet I wanted you to heat it. Because some people honestly have more respect for Dr. Graham that they do God. And not just Dr. Graham, but there are folks who will listen to Reverend, and put him ahead of God.

Now I'm not talkin' down on anybody, for I put myself in the same boat that I put everybody else in. All of us are in the same boat. I could deceive you, so what I want you to keep me straight by checking on me. Amen.

Now let's go to the Bible. What did Jesus nail to the cross? In the book of Colossians. What book did I say? I'm reading from Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out." Doing what? "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Now that's the text that these people will give you, when they're giving you that idea.

Let me read another one. Ephesians 2:13-15. I want you to listen carefully.

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace.

"Ah Pastor, you've got a problem" Have I? Nothing is more simple than this. And we're gonna show you.

He abolished the law contained in ordinances. Abolished it! He took the ordinances which were handwritten, nailed it to the cross. Let's remember this clearly, and while you're remembering that, let's create a problem. Matthew 5:17

17. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, … I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 18. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all is fulfilled. 19. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great …."

Now these are the words of Christ and all of the New Testament was written long after Jesus had died and went back to Heaven.

Now we've got a problem. In one place the Bible said he nailed the law contained in ordinances to the cross. In another place Jesus said as long as heaven and earth last one jot; that's like the dot on an "i", or one tittle, the crossing of a "t", shall not pass from His law till heaven and earth pass.

Now we've got a problem. Let's make it worse. In the book of Romans chapter 8:3, 4, Paul says, 3. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin …" you get that. The Bible says wha the law couldn't do in humanity, God sent His son in flesh. And this Son died. He overcame, He kept the law. 4. "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."

Let's go further, Psalms 119:151, listen to these words. 151. "Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth." Now I appeal to your intelligence; would God have to nail the truth to the cross? And take it out of the way?

This is gonna get clear, just stick with me. In James 2:10, 11, the Bible says, 10. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. 11. for He that said do not commit adultery said also do not kill." Now you know which law that is, don't you? There's only one set of commandments that say that! "… now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law."

Now ladies and gentlemen, listen to this. This is from the book of James. Way over near Revelation. Written about thirty years after Christ had gone back to heaven. Now of God was gonna do away with anything, James would have been clear by then, wouldn't he? And then in verse 12 James says, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Not only must you keep it but you're gonna be judged by it.

Let's read another text: 20. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

You remember how we went through that! Let me illustrate that a little bit. Suppose you went out to the shore of ___. And there is a sign up there by the police department, which says, "Thou shalt not swim!" if you went up to a certain beach and there's a sign up there that "Thou shalt not swim," that's the law! Amen.

Now if you wanted to swim anyhow, could you? You could pull off your shirt and jump right in. All the law tells what to do is right or wrong. Amen. Now suppose after jumping in. and

after .. to swimming a …. The law is still there. You didn't do away with the law by swimming, did you? pg 9

Now suppose you got caught in an undertow and got cramps at the same time. And you're out there breaking the law. And you start splashing around and yelling and screaming, "Help! Help! Help!" That sign is gonna pull itself up and jump in the lake and pull you out, right?

The law can't save you, can it? You can scream until you are hoarse. That sign is gonna stay right there saying, "Thou shalt not swim." The law can't save you. If you out there swimming and got into trouble, you need a life-guard! You need somebody to come out and get you who is able to come out and get you. When you go astray to God's law, the law can't save you. But there's a life-guard named Jesus. Now that's clear.

Now let's solve our problem. There are two laws, actually more than two. But I'm gonna deal with two laws tonight.