

### Some More...

Here are some more Bible passages to look at this week. Once again, read them thoughtfully and prayerfully, noting down the main point and something else that stands out for you.

Day 1: Exodus 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 2: Matthew 5.1-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 3: Matthew 5.17-48 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 4: Matthew 6.1-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 5: Matthew 6.19-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 6: Matthew 7.1-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day 7: Matthew 7.13-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Get into the Action!*

## 5. Following Christ in Daily Life

#2 What is different about the life of a Christian?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This past week you have been working through a number of special readings. Last week's session on the *Apostle's Creed* covered a lot of ground. These readings helped to focus further on some of the things we believe as Christians.

#1 Jot down some of the most important things you have learnt.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### The New Creation

In 2 Corinthians 5.17 Paul states, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Because we are in union with Christ, we are new people with a whole new life. That is the truth about us. But we don't yet see all of the new, and we continue to see some of the old!

We need to note carefully here what Paul writes in Philippians 2.12b-13, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

So the new creation has happened, the new era has arrived, but there is a great deal of "working out" still to be done! The battle has been won, but the victory is not yet clearly seen! The key is in your deepening relationship with God, but the results must flow through into daily living.

In today's session we note again that the UCA's *Regulations* spoke about the need for candidates for confirmation to express "determination to follow him in daily life." What does that mean? Our Bible reading and prayer are private. Our worship and fellowship are in company with other committed people. If the only way to tell a Christian is by their "witnessing" activities, these will amount to nothing in the final count!

## Sticking by the Rules

Here's a poem written on 21st July 1969, the day the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the Moon.

From Earth to Moon! How wonderful!  
Dear God, Your laws are true!  
And yet, we try to live on earth  
As if we don't need You!

We know the laws of motion,  
Of gravity and the like,  
And forget the Ten Commandments  
And all the laws on life!

We thank You, God, that Jesus came  
To bring us back to You  
That we may know in everything,  
Dear God, Your laws are true!

The very day that Apollo 11 blasted off there were race riots outside the Cape Canaveral space station. We live on the basis of the dependability of the natural law. Yet, accepting the creation without the Creator, we neglect the moral laws which are just as necessary for our personal health, fulfilment and well-being and just as sure to break us if we ignore them – even if God delays the final judgment in hope of our repentance!

The Ten Commandments are not all the “laws on life” in the Bible. But they were a basic part of the agreement (covenant) that the Lord made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai, and they continue to be basic to our understanding of the moral law.

In general terms, it is helpful to note the pattern –

The first four speak about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The last six speak about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note the importance of these two aspects when Jesus summed up “all the law and the prophets” in the law of love (as in Matthew 22.37-40). Let's look at now at the individual elements of God's rules. (We find them in Exodus 20).

Rule 1 – No other gods \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 2 – Don't worship idols \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 3 – Don't misuse God's name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 4 – Keep the Sabbath holy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 5 – Honour Father and Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 6 – Don't Murder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 7 – Don't commit adultery \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 8 – Don't steal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 9 – Don't give false testimony \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 10 – Don't covet \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When Jesus summed up these rules in Matthew 22.37-40, he was in fact quoting from Deuteronomy 6.5 and Leviticus 19.18. He was not denying the importance of the Ten, but giving their motivation and enabling power. In the light of what he said about some of them in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5.17-48), none of us has any room for complacency – we must come to him for forgiveness. But the purpose of God in saving us is to bring us back into that right relationship with himself and with neighbours to which the Ten Commandments give strong witness.