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HOW DO BIBLE  
PRINCIPLES  
BENEFIT US?

*April 23, 2012*

## HOW DO BIBLE PRINCIPLES BENEFIT US?

Bible principles are commonly used to enable Christians to be better people – better husbands, better wives, better children, better employers, better employees, etc. And this is a fine use of Bible principles.

But there is an even deeper and more meaningful way that Bible principles can be used – a way that results in our eternal survival and our realization of the heavenly hope held out to us. For sons and daughters of the Kingdom, we will expound on the higher use of Bible principles.

### The Need for Guidance

Like animals, man has built-in instincts and automated actions and reactions that guide his behavior in order to survive. For example, we thirst when we need water, we hunger when we need food, we generate adrenaline when we need to flee, we get sleepy when we need rest.

Our instincts help us to maneuver through our environment in the best way to preserve and promote our physical survival. But man was not created to just survive. The Father has big plans for his earthly sons and daughters – plans that are beyond even our most fantastic imagination:

“However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him.” – *1 Corinthians 2:9*

These plans were laid even before man was created:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”  
– *Ephesians 1:3-6*

Yet man has no instinctive knowledge of these matters. For centuries, even millenniums, man has been in the dark about these plans.

“I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— **the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations**, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”  
– *Colossians 1:25-27*

But with the arrival of Christ Jesus, the sacred secret was made known, and man was invited to enter into the heavenly Kingdom. But how would we get there? What must

we do? What sort of persons must we be? To answer these questions, we need outside guidance – guidance from another knowledgeable source. Our human instincts will not lead us into the Kingdom of the Heavens. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  
How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?  
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?  
And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” – *Romans 10:13-15*

Yes, in order to reach our spiritual goals and begin the heavenly career, we need guidance – an understanding of the good news of the Kingdom and its underlying Bible principles.

### Using Bible Principles

Bible principles are the policies that underlie the laws that are stated in the Bible. Principles are a higher form of guidance than are laws. But the ability to follow principles is a skill acquired through maturity. We can illustrate it this way:

When a boy is about 2 to 5 years of age, you would lay down a strict law not to go out into the street unaccompanied by an adult. You would accompany that law with various assurances of punishment. The punishment is not the goal. It is not intended to harm the child; but only to reinforce the seriousness of not going into the street.

As he gets older and he is able to understand what laws are, he is given a little more freedom in this regard. You would change the law to an admonition only to cross the street at light signals. There is no need to assure punishment for disobeying. Instead, you would accompany the admonition with information, such as an explanation of what the signal means, and the possible result of not obeying the traffic signal. The consequences are often a sufficient deterrent against crossing the street in disregard to the signal.

As he gets older and his thinking ability increases, he comes to understand the dangers inherent in crossing a street. Now all he needs is a principle: only cross the street when it is safe. Accordingly, his freedom also increases as he understands that there are various ways to successfully cross a street, even jay-walking’ on occasion, **as long as he navigates the danger safely**. That is what Bible principles are all about – helping you to navigate life’s dangers safely.

The principle of crossing only when safe is meaningless to a 2 year old, and insufficient for an older child. Allowing a child to engage life on principles alone leads to certain disaster. They simply are not mentally equipped to utilize principles. Laws are for the immature, whereas principles are for those who have their perceptive powers trained ‘through use.’ (*Hebrews 5:14*)

The Hebrew nation in Biblical times was a fleshly nation in need of laws written on tablets. They began as an illiterate, nomadic tribe who held primitive ideas about God. Moses began them on a journey toward spiritual maturity by establishing certain and specific laws and rules of behavior. But those laws were not to continue indefinitely. A time would come

when mankind would develop the ability to successfully maneuver life by principles alone. Jeremiah prophesied about that day when he wrote:

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and **write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **No longer will they teach their neighbor**, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ **because they will all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” – *Jeremiah 31:33-34*

Thus, understanding principles is the means by which laws are written in the heart. In other words, one does not have to be taught specific laws because the underlying principle which directs appropriate behavior exists within the individual himself. James put it this way:

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept **the word planted in you**, which can save you.” – *James 1:21*

The temporary nature of laws, as regards their ability to develop spiritually mature people, is explained in Paul’s letter to the Galatians:

“Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So **the law was our guardian until Christ** came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, **we are no longer under a guardian**.” – *Galatians 3:23-25*

The follower of Christ is expected to be a spiritually mature individual who can operate from principles. He is to be long removed from the elementary, bedouin way of thinking. This is evident in Peter and Paul’s counsel regarding Christian freedom. And they acknowledged that while we are not under law, we are not lawless:

“Live as free people, but **do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil**; live as God’s slaves.” – *1 Peter 2:16*

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. **But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh**; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”  
– *Galatians 5:13-14*

In Paul’s counsel, he explained that the founding principle of Christian freedom is to love your neighbor as yourself. If we apply that principle in our lives, no laws regarding moral social behavior are necessary.

Each of us who endeavors to be a spiritual son or daughter of God and joint heir with Christ, must took to the underlying Bible principles for guidance. And if we do so, we will without fail find ourselves approved and ready for entry into the Kingdom of the Heavens.

## The Two Primary Principles

Since Jesus was here to advance mankind spiritually, he did not lay down any new laws. Nor did he promote any existing laws. Instead, Jesus penetrated all laws and reached down to the underlying principles of successful living and survival potential. When asked about which laws his followers should adhere to, this exchange occurred:

“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” – *Matthew 22:35-40*

Though labeled as commandments for the sake of his audience, these are more accurately referred to as the two great principles which underlie the ‘whole body of law’ that is intended to develop God-oriented people.

These two principles are to be applied consecutively – loving God first, and then our neighbor – because when we love God first, we are in the proper frame of mind to love our neighbor.

### **Benefitting From Bible Principles**

When we love the Father with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, we gain a clean conscience. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we gain clean personal relationships. When we apply Bible principles in our daily activities, we are helped to successfully navigate life in the flesh. But the highest benefit we receive from applying Bible principles is that we will be able to ‘get a firm hold on the real life’ – the eternal destiny, the heavenly career.

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, **so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**” – *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Applying Bible principles allows us to look beyond the superfluous things, the superficial laws. And they help us to focus on what really makes a difference in people’s lives – love for God and service to mankind.

**“Elaia Luchnia”**