

a setting of grace that might be paraphrased as follows: "Good citizens of heaven live by the manners of heaven."

[e] The fifth difference (and the one most frequently mentioned) is that the moral law demands far more than the Ten Commandments.

In the July 1961 issue Aldrich says:

The Christian is not under "the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones," but he is under all the moral principles of those stones restated for this economy of grace. He is under the eternal moral law of God which demands far more than the Ten Commandments. It calls for nothing less than conformity to the character of God.

But now let us attempt to analyze the differences alleged by Roy Aldrich between the Ten Commandments and the New Testament moral law.

[a] Aldrich alleges that the Ten Commandments have penalties attached to them. If the Decalogue is binding upon New Testament believers, then the penalties must also be binding. But the penalties are not binding; therefore the Ten Commandments are no part of the New Testament moral law.

This claim appears to confuse the moral and the civil aspects of the Mosaic Law. The moral aspect has to do with the standard of righteousness for man viewed as an individual creature of God. The civil aspect has to do with the standard of righteousness for man viewed as a citizen of the theocratic society. The penalties attach to the civil aspect.

[b] Aldrich alleges that the Ten Commandments consist of negative precepts treating of passive morality, whereas the New Testament moral law consists of positive demands.

In his book Holding Fast to Grace Aldrich himself points out that according to orthodox Jewish tradition, there are 613 commandments in the law of Moses, divided into 248 affirmative laws and 365 negative laws. Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides) in the twelfth century and Moses Margoliouth in 1743 published a catalog of these 613 commandments.

What about the Old Testament? Does it consist only of negative precepts treating of passive morality?

What about the Decalogue? What about Exodus 20:8 -- "Remember the Sabbath to consecrate it." What about Exodus 20:12 -- "Honor your father and your mother in order that your days may be lengthened upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you." Are these negative commands? Do not the other Commandments have positive implications?

What about other key Old Testament commands? What about Leviticus 19:17-18 -- "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of