

STUDIES IN THE CEREMONIAL LAW

Lake Geneva Bible Conference

July 2005

Tom V. Taylor

I. General Introduction:

Getting the best view of a Bible conference is not the easiest thing to do. To some it is a vacation, to some it is a time of inquiry, to others it is a time to meet old friends. Occasionally someone is at a conference who thinks it will be a time of deep theological thought. All of these ideas, and others, fill the air of a conference and it becomes obvious that the conference that is able to fulfill all of these things is a remarkable gathering indeed. In the case of this conference, these particular studies are given in the hope they will help us look more closely at some important aspects of Scripture. Some of these are better known and some are more obscure. How we will fare remains to be seen but it is our prayerful hope that the study of any aspect of Scripture will be edifying and expanding. So it is that our intended talks on this subject are not selected for novelty or confusion but for an enrichment of the understanding if the purposes and blessings of the Lord on His people.

In this "age of grace" it is possible to misunderstand the ideal of the law given by God. By "law" we mean the divinely originated declarations that were to govern the people of God in all aspects of life. Customarily we divide the law into sections identified as civil, ceremonial, and public but in the final analysis the law is "one" and is (was) mandated by the Lord, Himself. Our studies at this time, however, will be chiefly in the ceremonial law....and only in a part of it---as this is a portion of the revelation that is easily forgotten. The civil codes are those more obvious as they govern us in our relationships with others. But the ceremonial laws especially establish the relationship with God and their importance cannot be over-estimated. It is important, however, to remember that we are not "under law" but "under grace". The law allows us to see the desires of God more closely, I suppose, and thereby provides an illustrative insight into the grace of God that we would not have otherwise. When it is seen that the purpose of the ceremonial law was to bring one into a worshipful relationship with the Deity it results in an appreciation and thankfulness that we are the people of God. The fixing of these laws and their intent is clearly seen in Leviticus 19 and that is our initial study. The point of the chapter is to *live with an awareness of the Lord.*

I will sketch the content of the messages, as I envision them and cite the appropriate Scripture for your reading, study, etc.

II. Message # 1: Live with an Awareness of the Lord.....Leviticus 19