



## ***The Book of the Covenant***

**Exodus: The Way In | Part II of our Journey through Exodus**

**Exodus 20:22 - 23:19 | May 17th - 23rd, 2015**

**Warm Up:** The section of Scripture referenced above is a large portion of what is known as, *The Law of Moses*. It joins the *Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)*, *The Law of Holiness (Lev. 18-20)*, and *The Second Giving of the Law (Deut. 12-25)* as one of the most significant Old Testament sections within *The Law of Moses*. The Israelites were coming to know their Redeemer God. The Ten Plagues and The Red Sea Crossing showed them His power. The wilderness taught them to trust in His provision and care. The Covenant from Mount Sinai would now reveal His Holy character as they lived out His *Torah* = "*instructions*." Glance through these few chapters. What kinds of things strike you about God's character revealed through these commands?

❖ In his letters Paul frequently refers to himself, and several of his fellow laborers, as bond-servants for Christ (**Romans 1:1, Col 1:7**). Jesus is compared to a bond-servant in **Philippians 2:7**. The background for this comes from **Exodus 21:5,6** which describes a slave who gives himself to his master.

- Have you ever thought of yourself as a bond-servant?
- What do you believe would be some of the advantages to living a life consistently viewing yourself as a bond-servant to Christ?

❖ On Sunday, several famous topics within the law were addressed dealing with subjects such as slavery, the death penalty, tithes and offerings and retributive justice, among other things. How we interact with these laws as New Testament believers is of utmost importance.

- Although it's quite a bit read aloud **Romans 8:5-14, 10:8-17** and all of **Galatians 5**. What would be your groups' summary to the question of whether Christians should live by the law of Moses or not?
- According to these passages, why *can't* the Law save us? It is, after all, a reflection of God's holy character and very good!

**Wrap Up:** Commenting on this **Gal. 5:14**, Martin Luther writes "*If you want to know how you ought to love your neighbor, ask yourself how much you love yourself. If you were to get into trouble or danger, you would be glad to have the love and help of all men. You do not need any book of instructions to teach you how to love your neighbor. All you have to do is to look into your own heart, and it will tell you how you ought to love your neighbor as yourself.*" In closing, pray for Jesus' heart of humble, selfless love to lead you as you go about your week.