

EVER CHANGING REGULATIONS

On Friday afternoon I stopped into the TD Bank to pay the Receiver General amount for our church. I have been doing this once a month for the past ten years and never experienced any difficulty. On Friday I was told I could no longer be the one who did this unless a new form was completed by the signing authorities at the church. The branch manager informed me it is a new regulation that had just been implemented due to problems associated with money laundering. I commented to him how difficult it must be for them to keep up with all the changes in regulations. He looked at me and said, "They are constant."

Later that afternoon I was at a CIBC branch to make a deposit for an individual I am the caregiver for. Once again, I found myself in discussions with a manager explaining new forms were needed in order for me to do this. These new forms would require me to obtain a doctor's note, then make a follow up appointment with the manager, and after that arrange for a phone call between the person I am the caregiver for and the bank manager. I explained some of the challenges that would be involved in arranging all of this, but the manager said this was all necessary due to recent changes with banking regulations. I probably spent 90 minutes in total on Friday afternoon talking with the bank managers about these new regulations required in order to do the banking with them moving forward. Even after I get all the necessary paperwork completed, it would not surprise me if new regulations come in and I will be doing this all over again.

All of these changes in regulations I experienced on Friday got me thinking about God's Commandments. God provided the Israelites with His Ten Commandments right after He entered into a covenant relationship with them at Mt. Sinai. These commandments were designed so the Israelites could experience a life of practical holiness by allowing them to see God's nature, and His plan for how they should live their lives. By following these commandments, it would also help the Israelites to meet the needs of one another in a loving and responsible manner. Moses urged the people to obey these decrees and instructed them in Deuteronomy 4:2:

Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you.

Moses instructed the Israelites not to alter these commands in any way since they were God's perfect laws reflecting His infinite wisdom. Jesus acknowledged His obedience toward the commandments when He said:

When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in His love (John 15:10).

Jesus revealed here how the Ten Commandments were just as impactful in His day and time. Some people might question whether the Ten Commandments are relevant and impactful today. These Ten Commandments still apply to Christians today because they point us toward a lifestyle endorsed by God and help keep our lives intertwined with His. Their purpose has always been to point out sin and show us the proper way to deal with it.

I understand why some regulations have to be changed like I experienced on Friday dealing with the two banks. These kinds of changes are beyond our control. What is still within our control however is keeping God's Ten Commandments in our lives. Let's make sure we are not changing or altering God's Commandments in any way. By staying committed to obeying them we will continue to discover all that is perfect about God and be living life in the way He desires.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean