

## ANCIL JENKINS

We must consider in our efforts to please God that we not do this in the wrong way. **Paul sternly warned against attempting to find righteousness by law keeping.** We are called to obey God's commands to the extent of our ability. We must understand that obedience is not work that earns our way to heaven. Even when we have done all we think necessary, Jesus says we are still unprofitable servants (Lk. 17:10). We all stand in need of God's grace, love, and mercy.

**We cannot make Christianity a legal system. We cannot replace the old Mosaic law with a new Mosaic law. The problem is that we cannot ever keep all the commandments.** In time past, some misapplied James' teaching to teach the necessity of obedience. "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). This verse does not teach the requirement to not miss obeying any commandments; it teaches the impossibility of doing this.

In actuality, such efforts produce even more guilt. **This failure often inspires to greater effort which shows more failure that leads to more guilt which leads to more effort which leads to more failure.**

**Some seek to soothe their conscience by deciding which commands are more important than others. They choose their own list of regulations, thinking this is all there is to being a Christian.** They are no better than the Jews: "Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness", (Romans 10:3, NIV). (Ancil Jenkins, Spiritual Sword, Volume 37, January 2006, pg.18)