

Rules Are Rules!

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits"

"Prove all things: hold fast that which is good"

(1 John 4:1a; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

One of the most oft-repeated and oft-heard mantras during the past few months of this Coronavirus has been "Rules are Rules!".

No matter how illogical, contradictory, confusing, bizarre, unlawful, or downright harmful the diktats imposed upon the public – and there have been many such during the last several months – in the name of 'saving' us from Covid-19, much of the public's response has been to obey without question.

This has also been the case for a surprising number of Christians; despite the conflicting of some of these rules with God's commands to His Church in the Scriptures.

UK Law

Rules are not laws. The laws of the United Kingdom are not made on the hoof; they don't come into force instantly via a mere dogmatic statement made by the PM – unless, of course, the UK is now *de facto* a tyrannical dictatorship.

UK laws (SIs notwithstanding) make it on to the statute books through lengthy processes, winding their way back and forth through both Houses by means of protracted debates and numerous successful, or otherwise, amendments, after which the desired Bill is finally brought to the Sovereign who may (or may not) sign it into UK law.

The Government's (i.e., the Executive's) rules are not law – in fact, most of the Government's 'rules' concerning this coronavirus are not even rules; they are simply 'guidance', and they change every five minutes according to the megalomaniacal whims of the Government's chosen medical and so-called scientific 'advisors' and 'experts'.

But few Brits – including Christians - seem willing to do even the least amount of homework to check this on the Government's webpages; instead, they prefer to just believe the propaganda churned out by the BBC and other mainstream media sources.

In contrast, God's commands for His people *are* laws. They are the Word of God which "changeth **NOT**." God's Word tells Christians how He requires them to worship Him - and God does not change.

There are no caveats in Scripture nullifying God's Word in the event of a virus.

Rules and Laws in Scripture

In the Bible, were the rules and the laws always obeyed by God's People?...

The Hebrew Midwives Feared God not the King of Egypt

“And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives ... And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. **But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive ... Therefore God dealt well with the midwives**” (Exodus 1:15-17,20a).

'By Faith' Moses' Mother Was Not Afraid of Pharaoh

“And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes ... and put this child therein ... **By faith** Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because ... **they were not afraid of the king's commandment**” (Exodus 1:22-2:3; Hebrews 11:23).

Rahab Hid the Israelite Spies from the King of Jericho

“And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house ... And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said this, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were ... the men went out: **whither the men went I wot not ... But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax**, which she had laid in order upon the roof” (Joshua 2:2-6)

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego Disobeyed Nebuchadnezzar

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold ... Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up ... Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews ... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up ... Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do ye not serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? ... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, **O Nebuchadnezzar ... be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up**” (Daniel 3:1-18).

Daniel Continued to Worship in His Previous Manner

“[T]hese presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said unto him, King Darius, live forever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. **Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime**” (Daniel 6:6-10).

Elijah Resisted King Ahaziah and the False Gods

“And Ahaziah ... was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, **Is it not because there is not a God in Israel that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub** the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed ... Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty ... And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty ... **And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah ... be not afraid of him**” (2 Kings 1:2-17).

In the account of Elijah and King Ahaziah above, please note the rebuke of God to the king, *who inquired of another than God in his time of distress*. Christians, church leaders, during this time of distress, shall we enquire of the false gods of SAGE rather than the true God of the Bible? Shall we comply with the Prime Minister’s foolish following of Whitty, Valance, Ferguson, *et al*, or shall we do as Elijah did, who withstood king Ahaziah’s foolish following after Baal-zebub, and listened only to the Lord God of Israel?

Jesus’ Disciples Ate the Corn / David Ate the Shewbread

“At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were hungry, and began to pluck the ears of corn to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. But he said unto them, **Have ye not read what David did**, when he was hungry, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and **did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat**, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? ... in this place is one greater than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, *I will have mercy, and not sacrifice*, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. **For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day**” (Matthew 12:1-8).

For the Son of man is Lord even of the coronavirus.

Jesus Healed the Sick on the Sabbath

“And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. **And they asked him saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.** And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore **it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.** **Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand.** And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him” (Matthew 12:9-14).

Peter and the Apostles Obeyed God Not Man

“And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they had taught the people ... And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, **Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God**, judge ye” (Acts 4:1-2,18-19).

“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? ... **Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men**” (Acts 5:27-29).

Bible Believers' obedience to God - even though it meant disobedience to the ruling authorities and resultant persecution - continued with the Christians in the **Early Church pre-Constantine** and into the **pre-Reformation era in Roman Catholic Europe**. There are many books and accounts of their deeds available.

Underground Churches in Communist Countries

Eventually - and that time may come sooner than expected - churches in the West, so comfortable (and free) until now, will have to learn how to operate *despite* State diktats; as believers under Communist regimes (and in Islamic countries) have had to do for many decades.

You will have heard of Brother Andrew. Sixty years ago, he smuggled Bibles into countries trapped behind the Iron Curtain – yes, *smuggled*, because it was illegal for Christians under Communism to read Bibles at that time. In fact, Brother Andrew's book on the subject was titled ***God's Smuggler***. If believers in today's West haven't already done so, they might like to read that book at some stage.

You will also know about Richard Wurmbrand who, amongst many other writings about ***The Soviet Saints*** suffering in the Communist prison camps, wrote the following: *"If you say to a Czech, Hungarian, or Pole, 'Render to the Soviets the things that belong to them,' he would understand you instantly. Nothing belongs to them. These words can only mean, 'Give them a boot in the back and send them packing.'"* Richard Wurmbrand has written many books about his years under the Communist dictators. Read them all.

And then read ***Live Not By Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents***, a book recalling the stories of many other survivors of communist oppression who see the growing 'soft totalitarianism' in the West and are desperately sounding the alarm that our hitherto free Western *"souls and liberties are already at stake."*

Then, when you have read all the above, read ***The Gulag Archipelago*** by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who also said, *"There always is this fallacious belief: 'It would not be the same here; here such things are impossible.' Alas, all the evil of the twentieth century is possible everywhere on earth."*

And you surely know of the *"Righteous Gentiles"* during the Second World war, who hid and protected as many Jews (and non-Jews) as they could from the demonic Nazi Holocaust: the ten Boom family, Irena Sendler, Sempo Sugihara, Dr. Aristedes De Sousa Mendes, Oskar Schindler, and countless other brave men and women – willing to stand against crushing totalitarianism for the sake of saving the lives of their fellow men.

Today though? Christians cower in fear from a mere coronavirus, and when our secular government arrogantly demands their obeisance, the spineless Christian church in the UK immediately abandons the Word of God and prostrates itself before Caesar. Yes, the evil of tyranny is possible everywhere, and Christians are not supposed to encourage it.

Dear Christian brothers and sisters, why are you fearing to withstand the Government's godless and tyrannical diktats? Why are you fearing this coronavirus? Why are you fearing to put your trust in God? Why will you not stand strong and fearless in the Faith as did the saints under Nazism and Communism - as still do the saints in North Korea and in China and the saints under Islam - and in the shadow of all the Biblical men and women of faith, whose doings are recorded as *"ensamples for us"* (Hebrews 11; 1 Corinthians 10:11a)?

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear ye not therefore**, ye are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29-31),

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of **a sound mind**” (2 Timothy 1:7),

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: **because he trusteth in Thee**” (Isaiah 26:3).

Some UK churches *are* learning from their brethren in the underground churches of totalitarian countries. I know of one church in the UK that has continued its Sunday services throughout the lockdowns: opening its doors very briefly at a specific time on Sunday morning for its congregation to enter and then swiftly closing the doors and locking them once everyone was inside, enabling them to freely continue their worship of God as commanded of Christians in God’s Word. It is very likely that there are other God-fearing UK churches that have been doing likewise.

A Recent Story...

“Several years ago, we stopped to check on a boat for sale. Mike started witnessing to the man who was selling it, who appeared mentally stressed. I will call the man Chuck. Chuck told us that on 9/11, he, his wife, and their crew were just a few blocks away from the World Trade Center. It had been seven years since the 9/11 event, so we were surprised he was still so unstable, that is, until we heard their story.

Chuck’s crew was underground running optic lines when suddenly there was total blackness. Thankfully, they all had flashlights. The elevators didn’t work so they climbed the steps, emerging into an entirely different world than was there an hour earlier. Chuck said, ‘It was as if the sky itself was falling. We didn’t know if we were nuked or what was happening, but we knew it was bad—really bad.’

He yelled to his crew, ‘Get to the truck! We are out of here. FAST.’ His wife was shocked. ‘But our tools . . . it is our whole livelihood! We can’t leave our stuff!’ But he was already running to the truck.

The road was a wall of vehicles all trying to escape. Smoke, debris, and dust made it hard to see. Horns, screams, and crashing noises made it hard to hear anything. A lack of knowing what had happened made it more terrifying.

Chuck suddenly noticed that there was not one vehicle in the oncoming lanes. He swerved, bumping over the road divider to the other side. His wife screamed, ‘You are on the wrong side of the road!’

He said **he was amazed that even when their world was about to end, she was still concerned with following the rules**. He yelled over the noise, ‘Today it is the right side, the only side.’

This one point made a strong impression on both of them: **Even in the midst of life and death, she couldn’t see beyond following the rules**” [[It Is Your Life](#), 20 October 2020].

The Mark of the Beast

If Christians are not able to stand up for God’s Word and against State tyranny in the vastly lesser and easier ways concerning the Government’s coronavirus diktats now, how, then, will we withstand the much greater evil that is to come?

Or, if we don't practice our scales this year, then how will we be able to master Rachmaninoff next year?

One day soon it will be the rule - the law - for everyone to take the Mark of the Beast. Will Christians be lining up to obey that particular rule? If so, then we can say goodbye to eternity with the LORD...

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea ... And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear ...

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth ... And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast ... And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth ... saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast ... And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name ...

“And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion ... And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone ... And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ...

“[A]nd there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image ... And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image ...

“[A]nd I saw the souls of them ... which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years ... **Blessed are they that do his commandments...**” (Revelation 13-14; 16:1-2; 19:19-20; 20:4; 22:14a).

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The books mentioned above, and many other books like them, can be found on <https://www.usedbooksearch.net>

For articles and more information on the Christian Churches during this Coronavirus, please see: https://www.bayith.org/Covid19_ChurchesFearingGodOrMan.htm

For more information on all aspects of Covid-19, please see: <https://www.bayith.org/Covid19.htm>