

danger of misunderstanding. Not all of God's law is equally important. A person may break some comparatively minor element of God's law but do it in such a way and showing such a spirit that it marks that man out as far more hostile to God than someone who in ignorance or carelessness breaks a very important part of God's law. The attitude is far more important than a particular injunction. If we are anxious to carry out the commandments, this is altogether different from being careless about them and not bothering. The law of God is given with various purposes in mind. If God commands that a person is not to commit murder and a person does, this is entirely different, ordinarily speaking, from a man who cooks a kid goat in its mother's milk.

A command is given in Exodus, "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in its mother's milk." Why was that given? It was because of certain Canaanite practices. To seethe a kid in its mother's milk might mark that person as following Canaanite religious practices and moving in the direction of heathenism of the time. So it might be very vital! For one of us today to seethe a kid in its mother's milk would certainly not involve any connection on our part with Canaanite religious practice and it is extremely unlikely that it would now represent any real departure from the service of God on the part of an orthodox Jew. Yet that is one of the most important laws in the view of orthodox Jews today. They are more interested in it than in most of the weighty matters of the law, and consequently they never eat meat and milk at the same meal, since, for all they know, the meat might be from one kid and the milk might be from its mother, and so they would break the law against seething a kid in its mother's milk. If a Jewish family anywhere is at all orthodox, if they have meat, they do not serve butter. They are very careful to keep them apart. This is one of the outstanding features of orthodox Jewish life today. We do not see moral importance in it today, but it had great moral importance then, because it represented a big step in the direction of Canaanite religion. Thus the importance of laws and circumstances may vary. Some of the law is based upon the moral law, and is vital. There are things that are always wrong no matter what the situation. You should not do them. There are others which concern the organization of God's people for efficient progress in His work, for the carrying on of what He desires to be done; these may be very important at one time and may be very