

The Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:1-17
Message #1 – No Other Gods
(9/10/2017 AM)

This morning I am beginning a new series on the Ten Commandments. Moses received them from the hand of God on Mount Sinai.

❖ **The three *aspects* of the law**, Matthew 5:17-18

Jesus is speaking here about the entire Old Testament. God sent the prophets to reaffirm His law to the people of Israel. However parts of the law were only for Israel until Jesus came.

➤ The ***Judicial*** Law

This was the legislative law given for the functioning of Israel as a nation. Laws like leaving some of the harvest for the poor.

➤ The ***Ceremonial*** Law

This was for Israel's worship of God. It established the nation of Israel as a people separated to God. The Christian is no longer bound by these laws, Colossians 2:16-17, A shadow is merely an indication that a reality exists. Here it means that the ceremonial laws were a pre-shadow of the realities of the death and resurrection of Christ.

➤ The ***Moral*** Law

This is for all men for all time. The Ten Commandments are a reflection of God's nature and character. Every commandment is repeated in the New Testament with the exception of the Sabbath.

❖ **The *Preamble*** (1-2)

(1) "And God spoke all these words, saying:"

➤ The Ten Commandments are the ***very words*** of God written by God (1)

God not only spoke them to Moses but actually wrote them down, Exodus 31:18. God engraved them in stone to illustrate their permanency. They are unalterable.

➤ The Ten Commandments are given for the ***benefit*** of God's people (2).

The phrase "the LORD your God" is repeated five times. Israel's God is the true and living God Who saved them from slavery. The Ten Commandments came out of that loving relationship the LORD had with the people of Israel. They are a call for people to put their faith and trust in Him, Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The Ten Commandments are not merely a list of do's and don'ts. In reality they are a blueprint for life and freedom, John 8:31-32 and Matthew 22:36. The first four commandments concern man's relationship with God while the last six are about man's relationship with man. The Ten Commandments reveal in practical terms what loving God and loving men looks like.

➤ The Ten Commandments are given for the ***conviction*** of the sinner of his or her need of salvation, Romans 3:20.

No person here can rightly claim to have always kept the Ten Commandments. Sinful man does not have the ability or the inclination to keep God's law.

The Ten Commandments are not a ladder to ascend into heaven but a mirror to expose man's sin.

All of humanity has God's moral law written on their conscience, Romans 2:15. All men are born with an internal moral code, Romans 1:19. The Ten Commandments reveal the total inability of man to add anything to salvation of his soul. They also then reveal the need for grace,

Job 9:2 The Apostle Paul answers Job's question in Romans 3:21-22. Galatians 3:24, "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

❖ **The First Commandment: *No other* Gods** (3)

Why would God make a statement like this?

➤ Because of ***Who God*** is

There is only one true and living God, the triune God of the Bible, Deuteronomy 4:39. God has exclusivity by His very existence. His nature is that of self-existence. God is eternal having always existed. When God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush He revealed Himself as, "I AM WHO I AM", Exodus 3:14.

▪ ***God is the Creator***

Psalm 100:3 & Isaiah 40:28

- **God is *faithful***

Deuteronomy 7:9 & Psalm 89:5-6

- **God is *gracious and merciful***

Psalm 116:5 & Psalm 145:8-9

Search the scriptures and note the attributes of the living God. God is to be exclusively worshipped because He is worthy! Psalm 18:3

- Because of ***who man*** is

Man is in rebellion against God. Man was created by God.

Man has a vacuum in his heart that can only be filled by God. This is why man is so prone to idolatry and false belief systems. He rejects the God of the Bible and substitutes his own gods who are more acceptable and manageable, Romans 1:21-25. Aaron led the children of Israel into idol worship while Moses was on the Mountain receiving the Ten Commandments! Every person has a god. Everyone worships someone of something. American culture has its own brand of idolatry such as sensuality, materialism, and the cult of celebrity as examples.

- Because of what ***God has done*** (2)

God had redeemed them out of bondage. God has redeemed us out of the bondage of sin, Colossians 1:13-14. God is our redeemer and our Heavenly Father. (3) "You shall have no other gods before Me."

You shall have nothing and no one who you will elevate above Me in your thinking and in your allegiance. Who or what takes first place in my life? Who is In charge of my life? Who is on the throne of my life? Who is calling the shots in my life? Who or what has taken hold of my heart? The god you worship is the go who you will be enslaved by. Joshua 24:15, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served.. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." **The Ten Commandments Are Right Now *Revealing Our Hearts!***