

Exodus 20

Law never saves

- Israel accepts God proposal w/out knowing what it is
- **Awesome scene at Mount Sinai... as God brings the His Law to the People**

Exodus 19:9 ...the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the **thick cloud**, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever."

Law cannot save. There is no access to God by the Law. The Law of God is Perfect

Psalms 19:7 [Read] The law of the Lord is **perfect**, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

- **Law of the Lord is Perfect** converting the souls: Beginning of a process
 1. No conversion of any soul without grace
 2. No grace applied without repentance and there is...
 3. No need felt need for repentance without first being condemned by the law

Romans 2:4 ...do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

The goodness [Grace] of God cannot lead us to repentance unless the law first condemns us and reveals our need for God's goodness and our repentance. Law kills and causing us to seek out life only found in Jesus. [NJC]

God's goodness cannot cause us to repent unless the law reveals man's badness

- **What is the Law of God?**

Law: def. Expression of the mind of God relative to what man ought to be. Grace sets forth what God is. [JV McGee]

- As Christians saved by grace **we do not despise the Law of God**...we love it.
- **Romans 7**
 1. If I know that what I am doing is wrong because I read the command
 2. If I want to do good but continue to break God's command [Law] anyway
 3. Then I agree with the law that it is good [but has no power]
- **God's Law is perfect and good!**

Legalists or modern day Pharisees accuse us of holding to anti-nomian-ism

Anti: Against and *Nomos:* Law. One who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation. **We do not agree with Anti-nomian-ism**

Where we completely differ from legalists is what we understand the purpose of the law to be; **not to save but to lead us to the Savior.**

- Legalists would accuse those who are saved by grace of giving license to sin
- Grace is not a license to sin. Those who believe it is are not saved.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

- Can we live under both the law and grace? No.
- Only grace has power to save and **power over sin:**

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Galatians 5:18 ...if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law.**

The Law is Good and it is Good at fulfilling its Purpose...bring death

There is no power in the Law and no victory in trying to keep the Law
Power to please God and keep His Word is found in accepting His grace/life-giving Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:6 [We are...] ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter [law] kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Romans 8:3 ...what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Chuck Smith's grace Changes Everything: Ch. 10 **"Won't they go Wild?"**

SUMMARY: Try to keep the Law and Fail. Fall in love with Jesus and have victory over sin

I. Ten Commandments: Given to the Nation of Israel

- Israel had a choice to continue in the grace of God carried on eagle's wings
- Israel chose instead to accept God's offer of the Law
 1. Israel is at the base of Mt. Sinai
 2. God comes in a thick cloud and speaks to Moses for all to hear...

1 And God spoke all these words...

- **Important:** God spoke these Words: **It is the very Word of God to man**
- **God is about Communication: Spoke the universe into existence**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then **God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

- Speaks through the Living Word Jesus Christ:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...**14** And the

Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Jesus is the last Word in these end times:**

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom H has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds

- What Jesus says is altogether right because He is altogether Righteous
- What Jesus says is altogether true because He is altogether True

God Communicates to His people: Law and Grace

- **Old Covenant of the Law:**
 1. God communicates His expectations and judgments leading to man's failure
- **New Covenant of Grace:**
 1. God communicates His Love and provision leading to man's Salvation

God now speaking to Moses in the hearing of the people...

2 [God said] ..."I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

I redeemed you. I bought you back from bondage

- **Who:** I am the Lord your God
- **What:** I delivered you from bondage

Thus, here are the terms the Covenant

Exodus 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, **if you will indeed** obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then you shall** be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

- **1st Covenant [Agreement]:** If you will...then you shall

Ten Commandments:

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

- 1-4: Mans Relationship with God [4]
- 5-10: Mans Relationship with man [6]

US Barna Survey May 29, 2016

Do you agree with this statement?

'Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know,'

"According to a majority of American adults (57 percent), knowing what is right or wrong is

a matter of personal experience,” ...“This view is much more prevalent among younger generations than among older adults, [as] three-quarters of Millennials (74 percent) agree strongly or somewhat with the statement, **‘Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know,’** compared to only 38 percent of Elders. And Millennials (31 percent) are three times more likely than Elders (10 percent) and twice as likely as Boomers (16 percent) and Gen-Xers (16 percent) to strongly agree with the statement.”

57% said ‘Whatever is right for your life/works best for you is the only truth you can know’

- God tells us what is right because he is altogether righteous
- God tells us what is true because He is altogether true

Commandments 1-4: Man’s Relationship with God [4]

3 [1st] “You shall have no other gods before Me.

- **There is only one True God:**
- Worshiping anything/anyone other than YHWA the worship of a demon...

Deuteronomy 32:16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 They **sacrificed to demons**, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. 18 Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

Leviticus 7:17 They shall no more offer their **sacrifices to demons** [goat idols], after whom they have played the harlot.

- Israel will be continually warned not to go after strange gods...

Deuteronomy 28:36 “The Lord will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.

- Israel watched the Egyptians serve demons...

Joshua 24:14 “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!

- Israel would be continually tempted to serve other god’s: Become like the world
- **Polytheism in the Old Testament:**

Ashtoreth: Goddess of the Canaanites: Connected with fertility and maternity [Sex]

Baal: Supreme god among the Canaanites: Sun god or storm god. [Materialism]

Chemosh: False deity of Moabites and Ammonites. Rites were so cruel they involved child sacrifice. Solomon fell to this demon.

Egyptian Gods: Over 40 from Re the sun god to dung beetles.

Dagon: Philistines: Body of a fish/human head and hands: god of water and grain.

Golden Calf: Israel would fall 2x Mount Sinai and King Jeroboam Northern Kingdom

Marduk: Babylonians: Associated with fertility and vegetation. Covenant

Milcom: Ammonites: Associated with divination, seeking knowledge of the future through occult means. Moloch, Molech, and Molek were all the same.

- **Law condemns "Polytheism":** Belief in more than one God.

There is One God revealed in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

John 10:8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

- All who came before/after Jesus are thieves and robbers
- Worshiping any god apart from the God of Israel is breaking this command
- How about us? Opened the floodgates to other gods...
 1. Islam
 2. Buddhism
 3. Hinduism
 4. Unitarian Universalism
 5. Wicca/Paganism/Druidry
- **How did we get here?**
 1. Embracing Diversity of Religion and Denying God's Absolute Truth
 2. Embracing Tolerance of sin and denying God's Word and

'Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know,'

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- No King/No Respect for Authority/No Law
- Ahaziah King of Israel sought the false-deity Baal for healing instead of God

2 Kings 1:6 ... "Thus says the Lord: 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, **is it because there is no God** in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'

**Does America go to the True God for healing?
...or any "higher power" of "holy book?"**

- **First commandment:** Serve no other gods
- Second like it...

4 [2nd] **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image**—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them...

- **Condemnation of Idolatry:** Worshiping an Image of...
 1. Wood/Silver/Gold
 2. Idol of our own creation

An idol is anything/anyone that we put above the living God

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

▪ **Serious Warnings against Idolatry in New Testament**

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived... [No] idolaters...will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

- Outside the Kingdom of God...Serious

Revelation 21:8 But... **idolaters**, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Revelation 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and **idolaters**, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

- Idolatry is a Work of the flesh...

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 **idolatry**, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies...

1 Peter 4:3 ...we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and **abominable idolatries.**

- Commanded not to keep company with an Idolater...

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an **idolater**, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

▪ **America's Idolatry:**

1. **God of Sex:** Child Sacrifice
2. **God of Materialism:** Greed/Covetousness

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is **idolatry**. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that **no...covetous man, who is an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

3. **God of Self:** Walking dead on cell phones
4. **God of Pleasure** ...all bring death and consequences we can see

- **NOTE:** Art depicting heavenly things is not necessarily idolatry...

Exodus 25:18 ...you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make

them at the two ends of the mercy seat.

Exodus 26:31 "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

Bowing down to anything other than YHWA is bowing to a demon

1 Corinthians 10:20 [Food sacrificed to an idol is nothing] ...but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. 22 Are we trying to **arouse the Lord's jealousy?** Are we stronger than he?

- God is a jealous God v5
- **End times:** Idolatry will be rampant....

Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Revelation 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

- You shall not worship idols...

5b... For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God

- **Paraphrasing commentator well know British evangelist Redpath:**
 1. God knows our very life depends on our loyalty to Him:
 2. God's jealousy is therefore His Love in action on our behalf

5c...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me...

- I will visit the iniquity of fathers upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generation of those who hate Me
 1. **Key words:** "Of those who hate Me"
 2. If the descendants love God they are not included in this curse
 3. Each one punished for own sins. children are not accountable for parents sin

Deuteronomy 24:16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

- Each person is accountable for their own sin...

Ezekiel 18:19 "Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?' Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be

upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

God will deal with all who follow in their father's sinful footsteps

6... but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

- I will visit the iniquity of fathers upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generation of those who hate Me
- **Key words:** "Of those who hate Me" I will deal with those who hate Me
 1. If the children/descendants of the sinner love God they; not included in curse
 2. Each one is punished for own sins. Children are not accountable for parents sin

Deuteronomy 24:16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin."

Clear teaching in full counsel of Scripture: Each person is accountable for their own sin...

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

God will deal with those who follow in their father's sinful footsteps and with all generations that do the same

- **I will show mercy to 1000's to those who love Me/keep My commandments**
 1. I will be merciful to those that love God
 2. Loving God is demonstrated obedience to His commands

If you love God you will obey God. Period.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments...23 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

- If you love God... you will obey God... and He in turn will demonstrate His mercy to you

7 [3rd] "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

- **Taking the Name of the Lord in vain:**
 1. **Vain:** heb. *sahv'*; def. Empty, falsehood, worthlessness, emptiness of speech
 2. **Same root as desolate;** i.e. rush over as in a storm quick desolation/destruction
- **Name:** All that the Name [s] represent:

1. El Shaddai	Lord God Almighty
2. El Elyon	The Most High God
3. Adonai	Lord, Master
4. Yahweh	Lord, Jehovah
5. Jehovah Nissi	The Lord My Banner
6. Jehovah-Raah	The Lord My Shepherd
7. Jehovah Rapha	The Lord That Heals
8. Jehovah Shammah	The Lord Is There
9. Jehovah Tsidkenu	The Lord Our Righteousness
10. Jehovah Mekod dishkem	The Lord Who Sanctifies You
11. El Olam	The Everlasting God
12. Elohim	God
13. Qanna	Jealous
14. Jehovah Jireh	The Lord Will Provide
15. Jehovah Shalom	The Lord Is Peace
16. Jehovah Sabaoth	The Lord of Hosts

**We should never take the Lord's name lightly
...but always rejoice in it and think deeply upon its true meaning.
God is HOLY!**

Matthew 6:9 ...In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be Your name.**

What is the temptation to take the Name of the Lord in vain?

- Because He says not to and we are sinners: Don't step on the grass?
- "Man upstairs" is blasphemy
- Saying the Allah is the same as YHWH is also blasphemy
 1. "Allah" has no son is written on top of
 2. He who denies the Son denies the Father

1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

8 [4th] "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

- **Context:** 10 Commandments given to nation of Israel
- **Seventh Day:** Saturday; keep it Holy; i.e. separated unto God
- **Sabbath:** Rest from working/making money

1. You
2. Children
3. Servants

- 4. Animals
- 5. Visitors

11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

- Pattern established at Creation

Genesis 2:3 ...God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- **Sabbath Rest** fulfilled in trusting in Jesus finished work on the cross

Hebrews 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest [apart from keeping the Sabbath day] for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

- Do Christians need to keep the Sabbath? Question asked 2000 years ago...
- How does the Mosaic Law apply to new gentile believers? James answers...

Acts 15:19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

- Nothing about the Sabbath for these new believers
- If we decide to keep the Sabbath is it on Saturday or Sunday?

Colossians 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- **NOTE:** Over 6000 years since creation is Saturday still Saturday. No one knows.

Legalistically trying to keep the Sabbath can be Idolatry....

Galatians 4:9 [Read]...how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10 You **observe days and months and seasons** and years. 11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

- What about circumcision?

Galatians 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace.**

Some say we are to "worship" on Saturday not Sunday. This is a "Straw horse" as the command is to *rest* on the Sabbath Day not worship; [though resting and worshiping are not opposed to one another] [NJC]

- Should Christians keep the Sabbath: **Yes.**
- **Know this:** No one can keep it perfectly...

Exodus 35:3 Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

One of the prohibited forms of [Sabbath activities] is lighting a fire. So Jews that closely follow traditional practice do not light fires on the Sabbath. In fact it is traditional to light candles just before the Sabbath... Now, when you drive a car, and you put your foot on the ignition, you produce a spark of fire. Thus, such Jews also do not use motor vehicles on the Sabbath, for it violates the prohibition against lighting fire on Shabbat. Electricity is more complicated [there being long arguments about whether it is fire, or whether it is only banned for falling under one of the other heads], but without getting into the detail, suffice to say that it is not used because it too falls within the various prohibitions. However, there are some exceptions, such as lights or VCRs preprogrammed on timers [note that the VCRs, the screen should not go on, as this would entice one to watch the program. [Jewish site]

James 2:10 ...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

- Law does not save.
- Sabbath: Type fulfilled in/by the anti-type; i.e. our rest in finished work Jesus Christ
- **None the less...Reasons to keep the Sabbath today:**

1. **Day of rest:** Refresh bodies to go back to work

... though we are free from the legal obligation of the Sabbath, we dare not ignore the importance of a day of rest - God has built us so that we need one. Like a car that needs regular maintenance, we need regular rest - or we will not "wear" well. Some people are like high mileage cars that haven't been maintained well, and it shows. [Guzic]

2. Get into the Word of God, meditate on Scriptures
3. Remind us of Jesus who fulfilled work of Salvation so we could rest in Him

What was the temptation to work on the Sabbath?

- **Greed/Idolatry:** Things more important than relationship with God
- Another opportunity to disobey God

Romans 7:9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but **when the commandment came**, sin sprang to life and I died. 10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. 11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

End of Commandments 1-4 Man's Relationship to God

1. No Other God's
2. No Carved Images: Idolatry
3. No Vain use of God's Name
4. No Work on the Sabbath

Commandments 5-10: Man's Relationship with Fellow Man [6]

- More commandments for our relationship to one another than to God?

Galatians 5:14 ...all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your

neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- **Omitted:** Love the Lord your God?
- **Implied:** Loving others created in God's image is our tangible means of loving God

12 [5th] "**Honor your father and your mother**, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

- **Honor:** Glorify; i.e. to give proper weight to them; promote in word and deed

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, **for this is right.**

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is **well pleasing** to the Lord.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother.

Ephesians 6:2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you **may live long** on the earth."

Deuteronomy 27:16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.'

Proverbs 19:26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother Is a son who **causes shame** and brings reproach.

Proverbs 20:20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

- Results of dishonor: Short life

What is the temptation to dishonor our parents?

- **Rebel against authority**...ultimately God's

1 Samuel 15:23 ...rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

- Children's rebellion toward parents allows a foothold for Satan in the home
- Children's rebellion toward parents will not go unpunished by God

Rebellion is costly, and many have paid a high price personally for their rebellion against their parents. [Guzic]

13 [6th] "**You shall not murder**".

- Lit. You shall not kill the innocent

Capital Punishment is an awesome responsibility given to leaders of nations by God to keep peace...

Romans 13:1 [Read] Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not **bear the sword in vain**; for he is **God's minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

- What is the temptation to murder? Hatred. Apathy.

Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- Do not murder, next...

14 [7th] **"You shall not commit adultery".**

- **Adultery:** Sex with someone other than your spouse
- **Interesting:** Problem back in 1400 BC?

What is the temptation to commit adultery?

- **Selfishness:** No consideration for the spouse/no compassion for children

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: **adultery** [first in list], fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- **Pride:** Lust for self-gratification/vengeance:
 1. Lack of fear of God
 2. Worse than murder as victim must live with the pain

You say "I never did that"

Matthew 5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that **whoever looks at a woman** to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

- Law leads us to Jesus

15 [8th] **"You shall not steal".**

- **Steal:** Take what does not belong to you
- **Do not steal:** Basic foundation of healthy society

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

16 [9th] **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor".**

- **Slander:** Talking "smack" about someone else
- **True or not:** Destroys reputations of the accused

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But **those who deal truthfully are His delight.**

Proverbs 13:5 A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...

Revelation 22:15 ...outside [the New Jerusalem] are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and **whoever loves and practices a lie.**

- **God is always True:**

Hebrews 6:18 it is impossible for God to lie

- **God's Spirit is the Spirit of Truth...**

John 16:13 ... when He, the **Spirit of truth**, has come, He will **guide you into all truth**

- IF God is True and we have His Spirit of Truth guiding us into all truth...
- We should be true also?

1 Peter 1:16 ...it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- Nathan was known by Jesus to be a "**true man**"

John 1:47 [Can anything good come out of Nazareth?] Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, **in whom is no deceit!**"

- Ever been slandered? Do unto other as you would have them do unto you
- Jesus was slandered and knows how it feels to my misrepresented/misunderstood

What is the temptation to lie about your neighbor?

- **Vanity:** Make yourself look better than you are to others
- **It easy:** Not there to defend themselves

Lying is a good sign of an unsaved life:

God is Truth and the Devil is a liar

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Satan tempts us to lie...

Acts 5:3Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

- **Satan tempts us to lie**...but we can do it all by ourselves "Look, no hands"
- **Do not slander your neighbor**
- Next...

17 [10th] "**You shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

- **Covet:** Desire, delight, greatly desire, lust. Lit. to pant after

Pleasurably imagining that what belongs to someone is/can be yours to the point of being driven to get it

1. Neighbors big house
2. Neighbors beautiful wife/Handsome husband
3. Neighbors workers
4. Neighbors job [ox]
5. Anything else that does not belong to you

What is the temptation to desire your neighbor's stuff?

Selfish Pride/I deserve it/Why them and not me?

Pride leading to discontentment leading to Covetousness

- **Covetousness has *no place* in the life a Christian:**

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be **without covetousness; be content** with such things as you have.

Philippians 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

- Why did Paul have to "learn to be content"?
- Because the commandment "Do not covet" was killing Him...

Romans 7:7I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.

The goodness [Grace] of God cannot lead us to repentance unless the law first condemns us and reveals our need for God's goodness and our repentance. Law kills and causes us to seek out **life found only in Jesus**. [NJC]

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

SUMMARY Ten Commandments: Given to the Nation of Israel

Morality has not worsened as of late but always needed restraint as we see 3500 years ago the need for Laws to guard against children's rebellion, murder, stealing, adultery, Lying and Greed

- No one can say they keep the law. Every mouth is shut up to the law...

Romans 3:19 [Read]...we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that **every mouth may be stopped**, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

- **Ten Commandments:** Given to the Nation of Israel
 1. No Other Gods
 2. No Idols
 3. Not taking Name of the Lord in vain
 4. Keep the Sabbath
 5. *Honor your Father and Mother*
 6. *Do not murder*
 7. *Do not commit Adultery*
 8. *Do not Steal*
 9. *Do not lie*
 10. *Do not Covet*

II. Fear

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking

- **People saw/heard/experienced...**
 1. Thunder
 2. Lightning flashes
 3. Loud "sound of a trumpet"
 4. Mountain on smoking. Where there is smoke there is fire...

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 **For our God is a consuming fire.**

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, **a jealous God.**

18b...and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

- **Fear of the Lord**
 1. Trembled
 2. Stood afar off

Matthew 10:28 ...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Hebrews 10:30 ...we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a **fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

- He holds our very existence in His hand

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus is] the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all **things by the word of His power.**

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things consist.**

- Isn't fear appropriate for meeting God...?

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

...they trembled and stood afar off

Fear would fade: Worshipping idol in 40 days

**People never heard the dead idols of Egypt speak
They now experience/heard the Living God and trembled**

19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." 20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

- People ask Moses to be intercessor

1 Timothy 2:5 ...there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all

- **Moses answers...**
 1. Don't fear
 2. God has come to test you
 3. God's Word provoked fear... **"that you may not sin"**

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

- Courage of Moses came from his humble relationship with God

Exodus 33:11 ...the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

SUMMARY Fear

III. Law of the Altar

Instruction on the altar are given along with the Ten Commandments as the Commandments reveal our need for a Sacrifice

If the Law is a Mirror then the Altar is the Sink

22 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: **'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.'**

- Tell them "you have heard from Heaven...you have heard from God"

23 You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

- **My command / Your Temptation**
 1. Don't set anything up next to Me

I stand alone. Do not compare Me to anyone or anything

2. No other gods, no people, no family ...nothing

24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, **and I will bless you.**

- **Make an altar:** Altar speaks of sacrifice

The Law was not sufficient. Sacrifice must be made. Blood

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are **purified with blood**, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

1. **Burnt offering:** Speaks of what Jesus did; gave Himself completely
2. **Peace offerings:** Speaks of why Jesus did it; peace between God and man

Romans 5:1 ... having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- **Make Me an altar** at every place you set up camp
 1. Abraham was an altar builder and called a "friend of God"

- **Burnt Offerings/Peace Offering**

Saw the Mirror in the Law. They now need the sink to be washed

- **Washed/Purified by blood:**

1. Blood of goats only covered sin from this time until Jesus
2. Blood of Jesus took away sin once for all!

John 1:29 ... "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- Jesus blood cleanses our conscience and our souls

Hebrews 9:12 [Read] [Jesus did not offer God the blood of animals for our sin] **but with His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- **Make an Altar of Earth:** "and I will bless you"
- Looks forward [always] to the final sacrifice; Jesus

25 And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

- No glory to the stone cutter. God does not share His glory
- Beauty would not be found in the altar [cross] but in the sacrifice alone [Jesus]

26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.'

- We are to worship in Spirit and Truth. No flesh should be displayed in our worship

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Instruction for the Altar are given along with the Ten Commandments as the Commandments only reveal our need for a Sacrifice

- The Commandments do not usher us to Heaven but lead us to the Cross
- To the One on the cross who kept the Law for and died for lawbreakers

We go in with Him and because of Him