

*February 22, 2015*

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

“A just law is a man made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.”

~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), minister and civil rights leader

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.”

~Aristotle (384-322 BC)

“In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.”

“Two things awe me most, the starry sky above me and the moral law within me.”

~Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), German philosopher

“There is no crueller tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice.”

~Charles de Montesquieu (1689-1755), French lawyer and political philosopher

“The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom.”

~John Locke (1632-1704), English philosopher

“When freedom does not have a purpose, when it does not wish to know anything about the rule of law engraved in the hearts of men and women, when it does not listen to the voice of conscience, it turns against humanity and society.”

~Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)

“Past secular creeds were built on the 18th-century enlightenment view of man as an autonomous, rational creature who could reason his way to virtue. The past half-century of cognitive science has shown that that creature doesn't exist.”

~David Brooks in The New York Times, 2-3-2015

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “The Genesis of the Law” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 22:37-40*

*Exodus 20:1-17*

<sup>1</sup> Then God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your

days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

*Matthew 22:37-40*

<sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

*Ezekiel 36:27-27*

<sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.