

Bi-monthly Bible Reading
Stark Road Gospel Hall
January 17, 2004

The Ten Commandments

- Q1** What purpose did the '10 Commandments' serve in the Old Testament?
- 1, Abstract or Summary?
 - 2, A concise document readily memorized?
 - 3, A set of principles to guide an infant nation, and form the basis of morality in their relations with one another, and primarily in their relationship to God?
 - 4, A covenant of blessing for Israel in the land.
 - 5, Other?
- Q2** What was the status of the '10 Commandments' in the New Testament?
- Israel
- Diluted and filtered by the Pharisees.
- Mark 7:7-8*
- 7 *Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
- 8 *For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men,*
- Fulfilled by the Lord Jesus. (Matt 5:17) he displayed in his life the beauty, and honor, and the glory which the law intended to be ascribed to God, and the blessing designed for men. He magnified the law, and made it honorable. (Isaiah 42:21)
- He taught that it's principles are eternal. (Matt 5:18)
- Taught by the Apostle Paul
- Justification is without (apart from) the Law. (Rom 3:28)
- The law shows us our sin and need. (Gal 3:19, 24), (Rom 3:20)
- The righteousness of the Law to be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom 8:4)
- The Law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good. (Rom 7:12)
- Other?
- Q3** What is our relationship to the '10 Commandments' today?
- Is it still the absolute standard for morality? Does it supersede the morality dictated by the State, or by Society?

Commandment #1

1, Protecting True Theology

Exod 20:2-3

2 *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Leviticus 26:13

I am the Lord your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Isa 45:21-22

21 *and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.*

22 *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

John 17:3

3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Only *monos* denotes "single, alone, solitary,"

True *alethinous* denotes "true" in the sense of real, ideal, genuine.

Note: Each time the Bible affirms the solitary existence and uniqueness of one God, it also affirms that He is a Savior God.

- A, How can we identify the “only true God”, and what makes Him unique?
- 1, By His Natural Attributes - all consistent with His will and character
Omnipotent (Romans 1:20)
Self Existent and Eternally Existent (Ps 90:2, Ex 6:3)
Invisible (1 Tim 1:17, 6:16)
Omniscient (Ps 147:5) ‘His understanding is infinite. (Acts 15:18) ‘Known..all.’
Omnipresent (1 Kings 8:27, Ps 139:7)
 - 2, By His Moral Attributes - all consistent with each other
Goodness (Ps 119:68) ‘Thou art good, and doest good’
Grace and Mercy. (1 Peter 5:10) ‘The God of all grace.’
Love (1 John 4:16)
Holiness (Isa 6:3, Rev 4:8)
Truth and Faithfulness (Josh 23:14) ‘not one thing hath failed’ (Ps 100:5)
Righteousness (Rev 16:5, 2 Tim 4:8, Rom 3:26)
 - 3, In the Lord Jesus Christ - our great God and Savior. He hath declared Him.
(John 1:18)
John 1, Col 1, Heb 1 all identify the Lord Jesus Christ as the ‘Jehovah’ of the O.T.,
and that not only does He possess all the attributes of God, but came to fulfill
the promise of salvation connected with the revelation of His person in the
scriptures listed above.
Titus 2:11-13 (J N Darby translation)
For the grace of God which carries with it salvation for all men has appeared, [12] teaching us that, having denied impiety and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, and justly, and piously in the present course of things, [13] awaiting the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- B, Three examples of special revelations in the scriptures.
- 1, Psalm 139
David was overwhelmed (v6) when he thought of the omniscience of God.
He was comforted when he thought of the omnipresence and of the omnipotence of God.
(v17,18)
 - 2, Isaiah 6
Isaiah was convicted and concerned at the revelation of God’s holiness. (v5)
He was totally yielded to God when he experienced God’s ability to purify him. (v8)
 - 3, Acts 9
Paul recognized that the One who revealed Himself by that light and voice possessed all of the attributes of the O.T. Jehovah.
He was totally yielded to the Lord Jesus when he realized that he had obtained mercy and salvation, and would be used in His service. (1 Tim 1:12-15)
- C, One so infinite defies comparison, and therefore there can be no imitator or challenger.
- 1, Isaiah 40:18, 25
Isaiah saw that the coming Messiah, while personally related to His people as their shepherd, was infinite in power, wisdom, and understanding. He apprehended all things, regulated all things, identified all things, and directed all things, and therefore, because He is so far beyond our understanding, He defies any comparison.

Commandment #2

II Protecting True Worship

Exod 20:4-6

4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

5 *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

6 *And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

- A, One so infinite denies and forbids any comparison or any likeness.

Deut 4:23-24

23 *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.*

24 *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

God's jealousy is not a compound of frustration, envy, and spite, as human jealousy so often is, but appears instead as a praiseworthy zeal to preserve something supremely precious. - J.I. Packer

- B, One so gracious and merciful deserves our loyalty and devotion.

Deut 6:5-6

5 *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

6 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

Mark 12:32-34

32 *And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:*

33 *And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.*

34 *And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.*

Ps 69:30-31

30 *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*

31 *This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.*

John 4:23-24

23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

- C, The Lord Jesus, in Matthew's account of the Temptation in the wilderness, dismissed Satan when challenged concerning worship. (Matt 4:10,11, Deut 6:13)

Question 1 How can we show our love to God, and the Lord Jesus?

- a, Keep my commandments - John 14:15
- b, Feed my lambs - John 21:15
- c, Love not the world - 1 John 2:15
- d, Keep his commandments - 1 John 5:2,3
- e, Other?

Question 2 How can we demonstrate our worship of God?

- a, O.T first mention - Gen 22:5
- b, N.T. first mention - Matt 2:11
 - fell down
 - opened their treasures
 - presented unto him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh
- c, Psalm 29, Revelation 5 reinforce the idea of reverently ascribing all glory to Him.
- d, Other?

Addendum a

Recently, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore was removed from office for resisting the orders of a higher court to remove a 5,200-pound granite monument containing the Ten Commandments from the rotunda of the Alabama State Judicial Building located in Montgomery, Alabama.

Plaintiffs represented by the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Southern Poverty Law Center had filed two separate lawsuits against Chief Justice Moore. These ungodly organizations argue that the monument depicting the “Ten Commandments” and other acknowledgments of God in our laws and as stated by our nation’s founders is “offensive,” and therefore unconstitutional under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Here are excerpts from Chief Justice Moore’s speech at the presentation of the monument on August 1, 2001:

I am pleased to present this monument depicting the moral foundation of law, and hereby authorize it to be placed in the Rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building.

This monument serves to remind the Appellate Courts and the judges of the Circuit and District Courts of this State and members of the bar who appear before them, as well as the people of Alabama who visit the Alabama Judicial Building, of the truth stated in the Preamble to the Alabama Constitution that in order to establish justice we must invoke “the favor and guidance of Almighty God.”

“The institutions of our society are founded on the belief that there is an authority higher than the authority of the State; that there is a moral law which the State is powerless to alter; that the individual possesses rights, conferred by the Creator which government must respect. The Declaration of Independence stated the now familiar theme: ‘We hold these Truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.’”

Some of you might think that the words I just spoke are my words, carefully structured to fit my own ends—or perhaps a quote from a long ago past, but certainly not true or of relevance to our law today. On the contrary; those are neither my words nor an ancient quote irrelevant to law. Those were the words of Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court in the 1961 case of *McGowan vs. Maryland*.

Today, a mere forty years later, many judges and other government officials deny any higher law and forbid the teaching to our children that they are created in the image of an Almighty God while they purport that it is government—and not God—who gave us our rights. Not only have they turned away from those absolute standards that serve as the moral foundation of law and which form the basis of morality, but also they have divorced our Constitution and Bill of Rights from these principles. As they have sown the wind, so we have reaped the whirlwind in our schools, in our homes, and in our work places.

When I ran for the office of Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, I made a pledge to restore the moral foundation of law. It is axiomatic that to restore morality we must first recognize the source from which all morality springs. From our earliest history in 1776 when we were declared to be the United States of America, our forefathers recognized the sovereignty of God. And as late as 1954, the United States Congress placed the phrase “Under God” in our Pledge to Allegiance. Judges, legislators, and executive officers have, since our nation’s birth, consistently pledged under oath—“so help me God”—to uphold the Constitution.

What an appropriate date it is to unveil this monument, for it was on August 1, 1776, exactly 225 years ago today, that Samuel Adams stood before a rather large crowd on the steps of the Philadelphia Statehouse, where he delivered a speech before the formal signing of The Declaration of Independence the next day. Adams stated:

“We have explored the temple of Royalty and found that the Idol that we have bowed down to has Eyes which see not, Ears that hear not our Prayers, and a heart like the nether Millstone. We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom alone all men ought to be obedient; He reigns in Heaven, and with a propitious Eye beholds his Subjects assuming that freedom of thought, and dignity of self direction, which He bestowed upon them. From the rising to the setting Sun, may his Kingdom come.”

May this day mark the beginning of the restoration of the moral foundation of law to our people and a return to the knowledge of God in our land.