

GOD'S GUIDE TO A GREAT LIFE
Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments

Sermon 1: THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT LIFE

Exodus 20:1-3

We begin a 10-sermon series today on what is popularly known as the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments. Often labeled as some of the most negative statements in the Bible, these famous verses are actually some of the most caring words God ever uttered to people in a covenant relationship with Him. And when God the Son walked on earth, He would clarify the worth of these commands by stating that whoever practices and teaches them will be "great in the kingdom of heaven."

1. THE GRACE BEHIND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: [THE CONTEXT]

a) God's lasting covenant with Abraham: Genesis chapters 12, 15

b) God's transitional covenant of the Law:

- Jesus' Affirmation of the Law: Matthew 5:17-20 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them . . . Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

- Paul's Clarification on the Law: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Do not believe those who say we no longer need the Law in its moral aspect. Until today the Ten Commandments show us the hopelessness of life-change without Jesus, and help genuine Christians discover the joyfulness and blessing of loving God and others.

2. THE GIVER OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20:1-2

a) God reveals His Identity (vv. 1-2a).

- He is a sovereign God, the only One: "I am the LORD"
- He is a personal God, a caring One: "... your God"

b) God reveals His Activity (v. 2b).

- He is a redemptive God, a saving One: "... who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

3. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF ALL THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:

"no other gods, just God".

a) The Recipient of the command: the Covenant People of God.

- By creation rights, every human being owes allegiance to God.
- By salvation rights, Christians are bound by an unpayable debt of love to God.

b) The Requirement of the command: an Exclusive Relationship with God.

- God has every right to expect an exclusive relationship with those He saved. What has it cost you to be loyal to God?

Final Thoughts:

God has every right to expect an exclusive relationship with those He created. If you have no personal relationship with God through Christ, now is the time to start.

As a believer, God has even more right to expect an exclusive relationship with you whom He saved. Make sure there are no other gods that stand in the way. The only True God has a fondness for toppling them (1 Samuel ch. 5) and it may hurt if they fall on you. Remember: **"no other gods, just God!"**