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Shove Park PM Oct 22, 89  
 Brundley Sept 15, 91 PM - v

"THE FIRST COMMANDMENT"

Exodus 20:3

The words that we are to consider tonight stand out above all others in the Old Testament. Other words God has spoken to mankind through man - but these were spoken by Him. Hebrews 2:2, Gal. 3:19, Acts 7:53.

Lady's home 2 hrs ago - Stone Stone Moral - Comm. Law - That's what it's all about!

During the next several weeks we are going to talk about (The Ten Commandments). Sometimes we call them tables of law. Others call them a set of rules which fence you in. And others rebel against them.

For example, W. E. Johnson, former Assistant U. S. Attorney, once made a speech several years ago. And he said at that time, over 36 million laws had been passed since man started trying to regulate himself. And not one has made any improvement upon the Biblical laws found in The Ten Commandments.

Many people (feel) - some obligation here. Others do not.  
 Let Men honestly face the Q - do you believe honestly in the Ten Comm., or not?

Someone has described it as a marriage going on - and the groom does not stop the minister in the middle of the ceremony and say - you mean I have to go to work and support this woman when I marry her. And the bride does not say, wait a minute. Do you mean that I will have to nurse this man if he gets sick. On the contrary, they gladly accept the obligations of marriage.

Our relationship to God ought to be on the same basis. Remember, I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

10.COMM Today, we think of this as God's spoken word - the audible voice coming from Heaven. Deut. 5:22.

It was a direct utterance made by God to man under the old covenant. And they were divinely reported.

Today they are of universal obligation. They are universal in scope. They prohibit every kind of wrong doing. They reach the heart as well as the outward life. Matt. 5:21-22.

There is confusion today about the law. This term is used so loosely. There are three expressions used to distinguish first, the law of God, Rom. 7:22. Second, the law of Moses, John 7:2, Acts 13:9. Third, the law of Christ, Gal. 6:2.

These three expressions are by no means alike. We learn to distinguish between them.

The law of God expresses the mind of the creator. The God of unchanging moral law. And this is in relationship to the old. The law was impressed upon man's moral nature from the beginning. They had left Egypt.

The law of Moses is the entire system of legislation. And God gave to Israel during the time they were in the wilderness his law - and it was binding upon the Israelites. As the law of Moses.

The law of Christ is God's moral law in the hands of the Messiah. Gal. 4:4. It is the law which was in his heart. It is the law he came to fulfill. Matt. 5:17. As redeemed sinners, we are bond slaves of Christ to serve him. He purchased us.

Should anyone object to these definitions drawn between God's moral law, the law of Moses.

The Ten Commandments were alone of the laws which God gave unto Israel. The voice of God spoke. And they were written directly by the fingers of God. Upon tables of stone. And they were to be distinguished from all other laws, that were locally applied. In fact, they alone were laid up in the Ark. The tabernacle was prepared for special services at the direction of God. There was the Ark, and within the Ark were the two tables of stone. It was formed of durable wood - over-layered with Gold, within and without. Over it was placed the mercy seat and became the throne of God. Not until the tabernacle had been erected and the law placed in the Ark, did God take his abode in Israel's midst.

Therefore, it is clear that The Ten Commandments are to be distinguished from the law of Moses. And they were binding upon all. The law of God is for all men. For example, the Sabbath Day. Israel was to keep and to observe other Sabbaths. For instance. Now the answer to this is the moral law alone is binding upon Gentiles and Christians. But why not put a death penalty to those who desecrate the Sabbath. The answer is obvious - that is part of the Mosaic law.

The Ten Commandments were significant in that they were concerned of human responsibility to God and there were obligations manward.

Here before the mountain we have the ten words - the revelation of God's will. That is the declaration of Jehovah God. That I am Jehovah God, by God, which brought thee out of bondage. And his purpose is that he might build them into a royal priesthood. A holy nation.

19:18 - There is a solemn promise. All that the Lord hath promised, we will do.

Each law will show each person the kind of person that he is. And the kind that he ought to be in every realm in life.

Once they were repairing an old church in England and the architect said, you must get rid of that. He was looking at an old plaque on which was set The Ten Commandments. It is out of date, he said. When his hearers laughed, he corrected himself. "I didn't of course mean The Ten Commandments themselves. There are many people<sup>70</sup> day who feel that it would be good if we could abolish The Ten Commandments altogether. Which have been regarded as life denying commandments. Let's get rid of them - they are out of date. They do not fit in my way of living.

That is how a lot of Christians sing about the law. "Free from the law, oh happy condition. Jesus hath bled, and there is remission. Cursed by the law, and bruised by the fall. Grace hath redeemed us, once for all."

This does not mean that we are free from moral law. The Christian is free from the law of sin and death. He is free from the worship of idols - the curse - and Jesus said himself that he came to fulfill and not to destroy. He plainly teaches this. Matt. 5:17.

The Ten Commandments are laws of God's making. They are eternally right.

They are universal in scope. They prohibit every wrong. What wouldn't happen if society - if they were universally obeyed.

Everyone of the commandments are vows. Thou - it began, and reaches into the heart as well as the outward life. It is not necessary to break all of them to break the covenant. You just break one.

There is a duty toward God and each other. And this is right because man and his

make-up must be right before he can love and love his neighbor.

V2  
We have God here saying - he has a name) I am the Lord, thy God. That brought thee out of the land of Egypt. V. 2. We also read, in Psalms 107:7 - "Oh, that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness and declare the wonders that he doth for his children. For he satisfieth the empty soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Ex. 20:3 We have Commandment number one.

I. GOD'S NAME

In Exodus (3:1-15) we find Jehovah giving to Moses the explanation of his name. "I am, that I am. Or that I will be." When you study it - it covers the thought, first, Jehovah is a personal, self-existing eternal, everlasting God. Second, it reveals elohim. I am Jehovah.

Third, the covenant is revealed with his people. Jehovah's name speaks of his relationship, that he has with other people. It affirms the existence of the government of one God. It denies many Gods. Atheism - or no God at all.

In Christian worship, men and women used to recite the Commandments. That seems to not be fashionable today. And even people might quote Deut. 6:4-5 - "Here oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Queen Elizabeth issued back in 1561 that they fix the walls of the communion table of God's precepts be imprinted. For this purpose provided in the churches, was costly Painted. To show that there was fashion. And she had it Painted on the wall.

And The Commandments were taken down.

In 1566, the Arch-Bishop Parker said that The Ten Commandments should be over the East wall. And they should read these Commandments.

There was a film made by Cecil DeMille Entitled The Ten Commandments. They spent \$16 million dollars, four miles of film, and 1900 volumes from thirty libraries around the world were studied as background material. The Ten Words, the testimony, the covenant speak of God, as being universal and eternal. Here is the signature. Just like a bill from congress signed by the President.

Now the first Commandment that was given by God was the first Commandment that was broken. Even as Moses went up to the mountain for 40 days and nights, the people down below made a golden calf and began to worship it. Does our society break it today? We'll discover more about this in this sermon.

There is always a temptation to try to evaluate as for Kipling and his mythical realm somewhere East of Suez where there ain't no Ten Commandments. Today there are places that lack the emphasis on The Ten Commandments. Here is an eternal code of behavior for men and where it would help - even in international affairs. As well as in the hearts of boys and girls.

Dr. Carroll once said that this would be a good instruction for any child. That he should learn The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer. Godly parents need to be reminded of their duty. In this way, he would discover his whole duty toward God. Change and decay all around us are.

A man may break with The Ten Commandments, but it could be more important. Ex. 20 is

timeless. Writes T. H. Roberts. There are few things that could be more important. Than that we should examine this first Commandment. There are principles that guide us into an uncertain future.

God must have said to Moses you are headed for a land of prosperity, where there will be rich land flowing with milk and honey. And Moses perhaps thought the people could be happy with the successful things in the possession of things. But God said now the way that they are going to be happy is to learn and teach them these ten rules for living. And I promise you that it will bless them. (If they break) these rules, they will be punished. And these rules will never go out of date. They will never be repealed. They will never be changed. And so on the basis of this, God said to Moses, I am going to give you these ten rules.

Who is your God? And what is your God in this age of extreme materialism? Does someone say I don't have a God? We can't believe that. Oh, you may not call him a God. You may not know his name. But you have a God - whatever the heart clings too - that is your God. And the First Commandment says, thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

*Job 26:17-18* *Job 38:4, 6-9*  
Would you dare to test your own committment - your own loyalty in life. To see just what power it is that rules your life. This Commandment says there is a God. And Abraham in his story unconditionally committed himself to the hands of God without hesitation and he was known as a friend of God. God controls the universe and communicated with him. And God had spoken to him. At Sinai the Covenant was certified. "I am the Lord God that brought you out of Egypt". In the book of Genesis, God is the creator. In the book of Exodus, he is the God who delivers. The Old Testament is the record of God at work. God is standing beside men. And he is a God with the name - I am the Lord, thy God.

II. OTHER GODS EXIST

From this Commandment, we discover, that there must have been the knowledge and of course, God has all knowledge. There were a lot of other Gods. This is what it meant. Other Gods do exist.

Rev. 24:3, behold the tabernacle of God is with men. He shall dwell with them - they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with and be their God.

Most of us start out by having too many Gods. We might argue about this point. But you should have at least one God. Most people have an over-abundance. And most people haven't made up their minds just why they are living. They will say I believe in God Almighty on Sunday, and Monday they do service to the rival Gods. Some men continue to live for their bottle. Some live for lust. Others live for the almighty dollar.

*KP - McLeur noted by change of color*  
A British scientist owned a chameleon - which he called Billy, the lizard. When he left home for a few days, he turned Billy over to his butler and told him to take good care of him. On returning, Billy was gone. The owner asked for an explanation - my Lord, it was this way said the butler. Some of the village people came and wanted to see Billy. I put him on some red cloth and he turned as red as Santa Claus. Put him on some green cloth and he turned as green as Ireland. Some silly fool put him on a patchwork quilt and Billy just busted.

In human nature we go to pieces where we try to wear too many colors. Too many loyalties to this God or the other God. That we think is going to deliver us. But this is somewhat human with people. Every man has his God in his heart. It is impossible for a man to live without some object of worship.



Whenever a man gets out of touch with God, he puts his whole interest of worship upon some other God and some other place. Even heathen Gods are mentioned in the Bible - Molock sacrifice by fire, babies were giving. Baal, beastly human sacrifices of sin. Mammon by power and wealth. And this broke the first Commandment. Other Gods existed.

Naamon, the Syrian, was cured of leprosy. He wanted to serve the God of Israel forever. He wanted two mules burden of earth. And Elisah did not reply that man could worship God anywhere. But he was Lord of all the ends of the earth. What he said was, go in peace. Now the First Commandment does not deny the existence of other Gods. It bids them not to be worshipped.

In the book of Isaiah 45:20, am not I the Lord. There is no God beside me.

The First Commandment outlaws both atheism and idolatry. Atheism of course is a flat statement that there is no God. But idolatry is just the opposite. It is the setting up of some unworthy God. An idol cannot do God any real harm. Once, only did God place himself in the reach of man's hands, and he plotted and nailed him to the cross. And sinners may shake their fist toward Heaven, but they cannot reach the eternal today and assault him, in a savage way. But the poor atheist can say that everything came into existence by itself, no plan, no fashion. Undirected, unguided.

*atheist say things just happen*

He may say the same thing about nature. That things just happen. And that a polar bear is white against the snow bank. The brown bear blends in with the forest. Or the little rabbit may rest in the grass in the weeds and blend in. And all of this may have been an accident. With an ordinary bunch of leaves, a rabbit may hide. So the atheist may say, things just happen. And man can go on with his disbelief. There is a little shell of oil that is hidden in our inner ear that makes it possible for us to stand erect and steady. We may have our creeds against God, but the atheist must

American Atheist Convention in N.Y. this year - Reply to her invitation "I will not attend, or perform, or contribute to your atheist convention to help at the N.Y. Auditorium on April 9, 10, & 11 of 1976, *Hand God!*  
-10-  
face the world that is filled with law. And the law that governs the sun and the atom. He may insult God, be unreasonable, and there may be temples full of Gods, and etc. *(Classic reply)*

But I'll tell you that it is important to pick the right God. Who is your God.  
If you will tell me, who he is, I'll tell you in advance how you are likely to act.  
How you will probably think. Whether your life will be good or bad. If you will tell me who your God is.

The First Commandment is the beginning of hope. And of course atheism is the beginning of despair. The fact that God exists in the beginning. Is our human hope.

H. G. Wells put it until a man has found God, he begins at no beginning and he works to no end.

Are you somewhat surprised? Thou shalt believe in a God. A law against atheism. We do not teach a baby to hunger or to thirst. Nature does that. We must teach a child to satisfy their hunger and their thirst.

Man within his heart believes and worships - no where does the Bible attempt to prove the existence of God. Man is created incomplete and cannot rest or be satisfied, until that deep hunger is satisfied.

The danger lies in that a man can pervert his worship. Turn to a false God. St. Augustine said my soul was restless until it finds that it can rest in thee, o God. No false Gods can satisfy the longing of the soul. So the first of God's rules helps us in this.

An engineer told about Vicksburg, Miss. where there was a dry channel. He

explained that once the Mississippi River flowed there, but now it has been changed into another channel which has been dug. The flow of the river could not be stopped but it could be diverted. So with the worship of God, Man is incomplete without an object of worship. And man can turn from one true God and make himself other Gods. There have been people who worship the sun, the (stars) the (mountain), (cow), the (river), primitive people. Even enlightened people in America, worship other Gods.

There is only one God, and the oneness of our God is what we call monetheism. And Abraham expressed this when he was called out of his country. The one true God - an individual God calls for individual and undivided worship. And by an undivided heart.

It emphasizes the (supremacy) of God. That it should be worshipped by all means. And false Gods are helpless things - they cannot see, they cannot hear, they cannot accomplish anything.

Other Gods exist today as revealed by the objects of worship. People worship wealth, fame, pleasure, power, and knowledge. While most of us do not have an idea of really being rich, but we are never satisfied with what we possess. And most of us never expect to be famous, and yet the little child will say, see how high I can jump. See how fast I can run. And we have a desire to be noticed. People wreck their lives, destroy their happiness, just to receive some attention. To think today there is more money spent on (cosmetics) than we spend on the entire work of the kingdom of God each year. It isn't wrong to want to look our best, all men want to be happy. But they make a mistake about pleasure and the way to get happiness. In fact, the whole routine of life is a pleasure. But it is like (dope) - they increase the dosage to get more excitement. And thrills, sensation, and eventually we have it as a real passion of our lives.

Power is not wrong - neither is knowledge. But we may think about the worship of

God and the obeying of his will, then we discover - that what he emphasizes is the supremacy of God. He recognizes that he is the God of all the world. And all other false Gods are helpless things. They cannot see, or hear, or accomplish anything.

1- Other Gods lack security. One who believes in too many Gods has no ultimate security for life. There is no moral order to which he can appeal. No pattern that will come - such as the witch doctor or the medicine man. You cannot put your God in a shop window.

2- Other Gods lack responsibility. They show no mercy. And they have no challenge for allegiance. The Hebrew tribe centered Palestine from the wilderness and there were hills and new agricultural lands. And they felt that their worship was somewhat out of place. They wanted to find out about all the local Gods. The harvest of grain, of figs, was desired. So there was a conflict with Baal. They wanted a good harvest. So it led to immorality.

Hosea mentions this disobedience - they didn't know that God gave corn, oil, wine, silver and gold. And in Chapter 2:8-9.

3- Third, other Gods lacked morals. The belief in God is a belief in holiness. As found in Isaiah. When Gods are thought to exist in competition and competitiveness - in Greece when a man believes in many Gods - some of them almost of a necessity are associated with the Devil.

What happens when belief in God decays - beware. There are no morals. People feel insecure. They do not know what or whom to trust. They feel they have been let down.

And yet there are others who turn to charms, mascots, and the old Gods.

But these are not responsible for any kind of code. They have no ultimate loyalty.

The commandment says (there shall be no other God.) There is no other person or individual, no other object. This is a rule to live by.

*Bible tells us Who God is -*

1. Spirit - no limit -
2. Person -
3. Righteous, Holy, Being - Man Powerless to save Self -
4. Love -

### III. GOD MUST BE A REALITY

"I am the Lord, thy God, thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Here is a challenge to all people. But it says that the world is in God's hand and there is one thing - not another. It is not by human development. By his guidance and his direction that we are to look too.

✓ If you want peace, power, and pleasure - you must find the God that is big enough, true enough, to satisfy your own self. You cannot drink at a broken cistern that holds no water.

Joshua told his people in his farewell address, over beyond the river he says, is a land. And you are going to live among those people. But they have their heathen Gods - you must chose today whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

When you make that choice for your life, then you put everything in order.

✓ There is an old story that appeared in the newspaper of a man in the mountains in N. C. He used an old telephone with a handle to crank. He wanted the operator. He would ring the operator about noon each day. As if he would turn the handle off,

and demand to know what time it was? That went on for sometime until the operator asked - who it was? The caller replied, I am the man down at the plant that blows the whistle, each day at noon. That's fine, said the operator, I set my watch each day at noon by your whistle.

Now this is what God was interested in - in the sacred history, in the days when there was no king in Israel, every man did that which was right in his own eyes. It is little wonder then, in the days of the judges, that people did evil and lawlessness in the sight of God.

Let's say you are visiting the hospital. In all probability you are confronted with a large sign. No loud talking. Quiet. No noise. Silence. Now of course, you are impressed by that. And you are thoughtful. In your consideration of the sick. Someday you may be lying in a bed in the hospital. And the loud noises would disturb. So for consideration, you would keep it low. Here is another sign in the zoo - don't feed the animals. Now the sign doesn't seem to be necessary about adding anything else - about proper feeding affairs, etc. By giving the animals cold hamburgers and stale sandwiches. Don't feed the animals - that is all the information that is necessary.

Parents have a way of giving clear, sharp commands. They say don't tease the cat. Don't slap your brother. Don't be selfish with your toys.

People are like that. And God came and he said something to these people.

There is an old hymn - I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord. Somebody wrote a few things about that. I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord. But don't ask me to sing in the choir. I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord.

I like to see things come to pass. But don't ask me to teach a class, dear Lord. Just to stay where I am. I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord. I yearn for your kingdom to thrive. But I'll give you my nickles and dimes, dear Lord, but don't ask me to tithe. I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord, but I am busy right now. I'll help you some other day.

ISAIAH 40: 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28-31

Now this commandment calls us to consecrate our lives. To begin where we live. With the God who is in our heart.

Phil. 3:18 says God is what we shall eat, wear, or drink. Jesus declared this first Commandment the greatest. Matt. 22:36-37. He also said something about it in Matt. 4:10. And he declared there is only one God. Mark 12:29. He prohibits the worship of any other God. We are to turn our affections to him.

What is your God today? To what is your life devoted?

There is a story of an Indian and a white man who was brought under deep conviction of sin in the same sermon. The Indian was immediately led to rejoice in pardon and mercy. The white man was a long time in distress and almost despair. But he was at last brought under the conviction of sin and forgiveness.

Later this red brother was asked, how was it that I was under so long a conviction and you found peace at once Replied the Indian, me tell you - there came along a rich prince, he purposed to give me a new coat. Now you looked at the coat you have and say, I don't know - my coat looks pretty good. It will do a little while longer.

He then offered me the new coat. I took and looked at the old blanket, and I say this good for nothing and accept the beautiful garment. Just so, brother, he said - you tried to keep your own righteousness, but I a poor Indian, had none. So I

was glad at once to receive the righteousness of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In England when they captured Havalock and established a prayer meeting in a famous heathen temple, the room was full of idols and images. In the lap of each of these dumb Gods, he placed a lamp to give light. And that is what we need to do. And take all of these old human Gods that we have and turn them and give glory to God.

Elijah in I Kings 18:21 asked his people how long they were going to halt between God and Baal. How long will you linger, he said.

How to be certain about Reality of God

Boy flying kite

wind brush - clouds - hidden by

low clouds - Martin Luther "whatever my heart clings to & relies upon is probably your God"

What are you doing, a man asked the boy - I'm flying a kite, he replied -

flying a kite are you. How can you be sure? you can't see your kite?

No, said the boy, I can't see 'O, but I can see a little

while I feel a tug, so I know for sure, that it's there!"

Don't take anyone else's word for God - Find him yourself & you too will know by the warm tug at your heart string - For sure!

tug at your heart string - For sure!



I - I am the Lord Thy God

Psalm 51:1 - Moses Reminds God who gave the Comm. is the God who brought them out of

land when people worshiped other gods in Nature - Sun - Moon - Stars - etc. seasons

First a second Comm. - understand - Both say the same thing

"we will worship the God"

"Put first things first"

Martin Niemöller, a pastor in Nazi Germany - was

thrown into jail for preaching a sermon entitled:

"You shall have No Other Gods Before Me"

Hitler thought differently - the race was first.

But he thought to assemble and preach for his people

Birthdays - pick up packages - a yellow pull out - when all else

is over - that was given us for our own good

From State Court - go Federal - think security in to them for

any kind of security - sports isn't change security

There is a trend of demerit in the world, sports will

go that way

Our relationship to God affect all aspects of our lives.

What happens to them when the fog get that sound

Other gods?

Archbishop Temple: "God means the world would still

exist" the world would exist without equal nothing

equal God! The world means that would equal nothing

No Christian could ever be satisfied with a year of

that which suggests that the world be suspended in one

among many 90:21; 102:25-27 also 15:15

To Adam - Ed said "Where are you?"

✓ Check Killeg - Side walk, took down & tossed it onto the sidewalk. People with directions stopped - "They have their own tunnel to dinner & back."

Box 1411 - 210 zone kept good in front. There is no street -

gt 38:2-3

Box 162:11

Box 111:7-6 "All in formations at 5:00, they start"

part for even a few ever"

"Could we walk into the ocean till,

& use the sound of parliament made;

were every able on earth & guide,

& every man & could try trade;

To walk the town & that alone

would draw the ocean deep;

Now could she recall certain the whole"

Though stretched from city to city,

Transition & children old, many in their symphonies during the course of the first day of the party of President.

✓ There is no safety zone in a "I just said the word"

For Comm. the Capital's square -

By saying the square on a board you can tell in an instant

if the thing but and approved for this operation

✓ Building off some one has been comparing with the square -

the treatment -

Checking words from the table -

(T Michelson - same next) -

Change