

**The Patio Pulpit**  
**The Ten Commandments Series**  
**The Ten Commandments**  
*“No other gods” Exodus 20*

Lets take our Bibles and turn to the Hebrew Scriptures and the book of Exodus, Ex. chapter 20 and verses 1-3. In case you may have forgotten or perhaps you never knew, Exodus is the second book of the Bible. It is the second book of Moses and follows Genesis.

Over the last few weeks, we have been studying **about** the ten commandments and why they were given, they were added because of transgressions, to whom they were given, they were given to Israel, and the kinds of people for whom they were meant, the law was made for *those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, or those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers*

*<sup>10</sup> and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers.*

The ten commandments have been romanticized by Hollywood and made to appear given to the Jews as some kind of divine beneficence. They were not. They were given because of the sinfulness of humanity and they were made for the unrighteous and profane and adulterers and so forth.

That’s hardly romantic, wouldn’t you say? Exodus 20, verses 1-3:

***Exodus 20:1*** 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. (Exod. 20:1-3 NAU)*

We’re changing gears tonight and now rather than studying **about** the ten commandments, we’re going to study the ten commandments commandment by commandment. And what we’re going to discover as we go through this series is that the ten commandments are amazingly relevant for our day because first, **God does not change.** God is the

same as He was way back when these commandments were given to Israel. And in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world He still demands that He be worshipped as the only God. That alone makes the commandments relevant. By the way, we preachers and teachers don't make the Scriptures relevant, we merely point out their relevance. Scripture is always relevant.

The number two reason the ten commandments are still relevant is, **man's nature has not changed**. Human beings are just as vile and wicked and ungodly as we have ever been, and in fact, we have gotten worse.

If that's true, and it is, then why hasn't God ended it all like He did with the flood? Well, there's a factor at work now that wasn't at work in Noah's day. And that factor is a Person. And that Person is Jesus. And Jesus finished the work of taking upon Himself the wrath of God and paying for the sins of the fallen human race. Jesus took the wrath of the Father upon Himself so that God was satisfied in Jesus and there is therefore now no cause for God to pour out His wrath on the world being that His wrath against the world has been propitiated in Jesus. At least not yet. That work wasn't finished in Noah's day. Jesus is the Messiah, the Redeemer, the Reconciler, who has reconciled the world to God.

Hear this: <sup>18</sup> *Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,* <sup>19</sup> *namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them,** and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation... we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:18-19, 20b NAU)*

And this from John:

**1 John 2:1** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

<sup>2</sup> *and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

(1 Jn. 2:1-2 NAU) the word propitiation means in this context that God's righteous wrath has been satisfied by the substitutionary atonement of His Son. Can you see from v.2 why God hasn't as of yet destroyed the world? Jesus death satisfied God's righteous wrath not only for those who believe in Him but also for the whole world.

Why hasn't God destroyed the world with fire when it has gotten progressively worse? That's why. Jesus. But know this. The Day of Judgment is coming when God calls a halt to all things and Jesus calls His church up to heaven and turns the world over to the beast and the false prophet and the antichrist. And the day is coming when at the appointed time Jesus comes back with the armies of heaven and destroys Satan and his company of millions, possibly billions with the sword of His mouth.

So, God hasn't changed and neither has man. That makes the law relevant.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch:

*Exodus 20:1 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.*

That, beloved, is just **The preface to the ten commandments.** In that one verse Moses laid the foundation for all that he would record in all five books of the law. And this is why I say that.

God is demanding His rightful place in the hearts and minds of Israel whom He had just delivered from slavery in Egypt. <sup>2</sup> *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."* "I am Lord and I am God. I am the God who just a moment ago delivered all of you out of the house of slavery. I am the One who descended upon the mountain in the dark cloud with lighting and thunder and an earthquake and a loud trumpet. I am the One you are to fear." And that is the context of all that God is about to give to Moses. The word "then" in verse one says all that. After God descended in

power and frightened the people so that they shook in their sandals, then He gave the law.

At some point in our lives we heard from God. I'll guarantee you that it was nothing like the experience of the Jews at Mt. Sinai, but I'll also guarantee you it was better and more powerful. The mind-blowing presence of God at Sinai and the giving of the law did not save or change anyone. The Jews were just as vile and evil after the law as they were before it. Not so for those of us who are now in Christ after hearing and believing the gospel and being sealed and baptized by the Holy Spirit. <sup>13</sup> *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

<sup>14</sup> *who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14 NAU)*

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Cor. 5:17 NAU)*

*Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,  
<sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

<sup>3</sup> *Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

<sup>4</sup> **But God**, *being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us* <sup>5</sup> *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

<sup>6</sup> *and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
(Eph. 2:1-6 NAU)*

**No one is justified by the law of Moses but by the grace of God.**

**All who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, do so by the revelation of God.**

Beloved, if you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you are born of God. If you have called upon the name of the Lord that you might be saved, you have been. If you believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead, you are His.

*<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (1 Jn. 4:15 NAU)*

*<sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 Jn. 5:5 NAU)*

*<sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 Jn. 5:13 NAU)*

*<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

*<sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.  
(Rom. 10:9-10 NAU)*

In Jesus' name, amen.