



## ***GOD'S LAW WRITTEN IN YOUR HEART***

### **Class One**

#### ***It's NOT the "Ten Suggestions"***

God is THE Authority. His laws are clear and unequivocal.

• Exodus 20:1-26

- 1) And God spake all these words, saying,
- 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.
- 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.
- 7) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 8) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10) But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- 12) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 13) Thou shalt not kill.
- 14) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 15) Thou shalt not steal.
- 16) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- 17) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

- 18) And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.
- 19) And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.
- 20) And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.
- 21) And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.
- 22) And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.
- 23) Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.
- 24) An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.
- 25) And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.
- 26) Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

- Are we still under the Law?

- Didn't Christ do away with the Law?

- Galatians 3:23-26

- 23) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.
- 24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- 25) But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.
- 26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

- Didn't Christ destroy the Law?

- Then why study the Law of Moses?

- Because he didn't destroy it...

- He fulfilled it...

- There is a difference...

- Matthew 5:17-20

- 17) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

- 18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
- 19) Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- 20) For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Theme:       *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.” - Matthew 5:17*

- Christ ended the Law

- He didn't destroy the Law but he clearly ended it

- Romans 10:4-11

- 4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
- 5) For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.
- 6) But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)
- 7) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)
- 8) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

*(YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR... IT'S RIGHT IN YOUR HEART)*

- 9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- 11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

- (EXPLAIN)

- Moses' Law was based on ACTIONS...

- Outward, Visible, External Actions...

- Christ's Law is based on THOUGHTS...

- Inward, Invisible, Internal Thoughts...

- Was the Law wrong?

- No...

- Galatians 3:21-26

- 21) Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.
- 22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.
- 23) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.
- 24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- 25) But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.
- 26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

- The Law was designed as a Schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ...

- It didn't oppose Christ

- The Intention was to get through to the HEART

- To get through to the people what God wanted them to be like...

- The Law taught the same things that Christ taught...

- Moses brought the Gospel to the people years before Christ

- They were supposed to be able to see Christ in the Gospel of Moses...

- Has anyone here ever committed a sacrifice?

- Moses and the people of his time has a completely different religion than ours

- Exodus 29:20

- 20) Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

- How has God changed since then?

- How has the plan of salvation changed since the time of Moses?

- **It hasn't!**

- God's plan of salvation through Jesus was from the beginning of time...

- The promise of Jesus was given to Adam and Eve...

- Genesis 3:15

- 15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- There is, and has always only been salvation through Jesus

- Acts 4:12

- 12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- The Act of Worship has changed and will change

- BUT, what God requires of us will always be the same

- Right and Wrong will always be the same

- The Ten Commandments continue to be a guide to our life

- The Ten Commandments are a ruler of Right and Wrong

- We should be able to see Christ's Teachings in the Gospel of Moses also...

- Our goal will be to learn more about Christ's Teachings by looking at the Ten Commandments

- PASS OUT AND EXPLAIN WORKBOOKS

- Exodus 20:1-17 (Write them on the Board)

- 1) And God spake all these words, saying,
- 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.
- 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.
- 7) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

- 8) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10) But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- 12) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 13) Thou shalt not kill.
- 14) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 15) Thou shalt not steal.
- 16) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- 17) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

- You recognize these commandments...

- You remember the famous ones...

- Thou Shalt Not Kill

- Thou Shalt Not Steal

- I would like for you to consider an alternative to the First Commandment

- What is the First Commandment?

- Traditionally, we understand the First Commandment to be:

- Exodus 20:3

- 3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

- But, have you ever noticed how the "Second Commandment" says the same thing?

- Exodus 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.

- These verses are all talking about worshipping false Gods...
  - They all seem to be ONE Commandment...
    - *The Second Commandment*
- Of course, it doesn't matter how we divide them...
  - As long as we believe them ALL
- But, according to Jewish Tradition, the Commandments are divided at Verse 2
  - The First Commandment, therefore is...
- Exodus 20:2
  - 2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
    - ***I am the LORD thy God!***
- That doesn't even sound like a Commandment, though...
- Let's look at the word "Commandments"...
- Moses speaks to the people in Deuteronomy 4, reminding them about what happened on Mount Horeb:
- Deuteronomy 4:12-14
  - 12) And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.
  - 13) And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.
  - 14) And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.
- This is where we get the phrase "Ten Commandments"
- The normal word for Commandment is *Mitzvah*
- Deuteronomy 4:1-2
  - 1) Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

2) Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

- It means, “Commandment”
- The word for Commandment in Verse 13 is actually better translated “Sayings” or “Declarations”
- In reality, these are referred to as the Ten Sayings of God...
  - The Ten Declarations... or The Ten Statements of Faith that God has commanded our obedience to
- Decalogue – Deca = Ten      Logos = Words
- So, therefore, the First Commandment does qualify as a Declaration...
- Why do I bother making this distinction, you ask?
  - I think that in order to begin to obey 2 through 10...
    - You have to properly understand #1
- The First Declaration then is...
- Exodus 20:2

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

**• I am the LORD thy God!**

- It really is that simple...
- It all starts right here...
- This establishes the Authority of God to make any Commandments at all
- That is an important concept for us to understand as we begin this study...
- Society is actively promoting the concept that there are no Absolutes...
  - There is no Ultimate Morality
- If we don't first accept God as Divine, as Supreme, as the ultimate source of all right and wrong...
  - We wouldn't have to listen to what he says



- If it was the Ten Sayings of Jeff...
  - Then you would be tempted to think that they are open to your discretion
  - You can follow them if you want, but you really aren't bound to have to...
- But, these are the Ten Sayings of **GOD!**
  - They are not, therefore, the Ten Suggestions!
  - We are not at liberty to obey, or disobey, depending on how we feel about them
- In our continuing relationship with God, we must approach Him in this manner...
  - God wants us to understand and agree with His Will and plan for us...
  - God wants us to have Eternal Life...
    - To Obey Him
  - But, even if we don't...
    - He is still GOD
  - We must accept our position before Him
    - We cannot successfully challenge God's Authority...
    - In all parts of our life we have to acknowledge His supremacy over us
- Jesus...
  - Even though he was Jesus...
  - Didn't challenge God's Authority...
- Let's take a look at Philipians 2...
- Philipians 2:6-8 (Speaking of Jesus...)
  - 6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
  - 7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
  - 8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- Most Christians tend to misapply these verses to talk about the Trinity

- As Christadelphians we tend to concentrate on trying to prove that Jesus isn't God...
- But, I always felt that there must be a lesson in there somewhere that I was missing...
  - Look at how it starts!
    - NIV 1) *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,*
    - NIV 2) *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*
    - NIV 3) *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
    - NIV 4) *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
    - NIV 5) *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*
      - There has to be an important message here for us...
      - Not just a "Wrested Scripture"...
- Paul is speaking about the ATTITUDE of Christ
  - Not the Nature of Christ...
- He is exhorting us to be like Christ...
- One word from the NIV in verse 6 started me down a completely different path...
  - NIV 6 - "did not consider equality with God something to be grasped"
  - The word "grasped" leaped out at me...
    - The word "grasped" helped me to see an important message...
- The word, "grasped" made me think of Adam and Eve in the Temptation in the Garden...
  - *Grasping for the Fruit*
- Genesis 3:1-6
  - 1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
  - 2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

- 3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- 6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- What was the temptation that the Serpent used?
  - What was the reward offered to them?
  - Eternal Life?
  - Happiness?
  - Peace?
  - NIV (Verse 5) - *“You will be like God!”*
- You see, Adam and Eve thought that “equality with God (was) something to be grasped”
- They thought that they could be equal with God...
  - To be like God
    - To Be God!
- That was the sense of the temptation...
  - That was what the serpent was playing off
- Genesis 3:5
  - NIV 5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- Look! God is portrayed as the Deceiver here...
  - “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened...”
    - *“God knows that you will be able see things the way He does.”*

- *“He doesn’t want you thinking for yourself.”*
- *“He’s just trying to keep you in the dark.”*
- *“He doesn’t want you to be empowered... To exercise your own personal rights and freedoms.”*
- So, Adam and Eve reached out and grasped at it...
- And, they fell to the temptation of the Serpent...
- *I BELIEVE that this is the exact same temptation faces each and every one of us!*
  - I can hear the whole group thinking, *“What?”*
    - *“I don’t want to be like God.”*
    - *“I don’t consider equality with God something to be grasped!”*
    - *“How does this apply to me?”*
- God is (in one sense)... The Great Rule Maker... The Law Giver
  - God is the final and ultimate authority in all things...
  - God is the Creator of each one of us, and the Creator of the entire universe
  - God set the courses of the Heavens and the bounds of the deep
  - God is supreme, omnipotent, and everywhere present
  - God makes up all the rules
  - This Bible is... God’s Law... A book of rules...
- Our ONLY choice in life is to obey God...
  - Or die...
- Our ONLY choice is to follow what the Bible teaches...
- There is no further discussion on that topic...
  - That’s it... It’s that simple...
- Jesus understood this principle...
  - That is why he was able to say one of the hardest things to say...

- Luke 22:42

42) Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- Jesus understood the First Commandment, and we need to learn it also...

- Jesus clearly states the principle behind this Commandment in the Book of John...

- John 10:27-29

27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29) My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

- John 14:27-28

27) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

28) Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

- Even Jesus understood that you can't Question God's Authority...

- Have you ever head the saying, "*Question Authority*" before?

- Besides being the on a bumper sticker on the back of a beige 1972 Volvo, it was popular saying back in the 60's...

- Let's talk a bit about Questioning Authority...

- Throughout the entire world, people are constantly struggling for their freedom from unjust governments

- Why would that be acceptable?

- To the extent that you are ruled over by faulty, sinful humans, you HAVE to question them to make sure that they are doing what is right

- The best nations in the world were formed by good, honest people rising up and overthrowing corrupt, unjust governments before them

- People questioned their rulers policies, practices and laws

- They questioned how they were being ruled and treated

- They questioned the authorities...
- In the Business World, it is the same thing...
  - Billions of dollars are being lost now because people failed to question the authority of Corporate CEO and Boards of Directors
  - People's money...
    - Their retirement...
    - Their kids college funds...
      - GONE!
  - Society needs Corporate Watchdogs
    - People to question the Leaders about their financial statements
    - People to question the business practices
- In the Ecclesial World, the same applies...
  - Do you remember why the Bereans were commended?
- Acts 17:10-12
  - 10) And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.
  - 11) These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
  - 12) Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.
- It is good, and right, and healthy for us to hold our speakers "feet to the fire"
  - Question what you are told
    - Ask for the verses to support what is being said
    - Follow the Logic, and ask for explanations if it doesn't make sense
- Individually, young people struggle for their freedom from parental power
  - I hate to say it, because I am one of them...
  - But..

- The hidden secret is that Parents aren't Infallible...
- Parents are mortal also...
  - They can make mistakes...
  - Obviously, this is true, because you will be one someday
- **While you are bound to respect and honour your parents**, you also should strive to have a level of open, honest communication with them, so that you can express your feelings, and help them in the confusing, challenging role of trying to raise another human
- Now, here is the tricky part...
- When it comes to God, though, the Buck stops there...
- There is no questioning His Authority
  - No matter what you think about what is Right and what is Wrong
  - No matter what you think is Fair and what isn't Fair
  - No matter what you think...
- ***"I am the LORD your God,"*** He says...
  - You have to accept Him for what He is...
    - Your Creator
    - Your Father
    - **Your God**
- How does this Commandment Apply Today?
- *What do we do instead of acknowledging God as the Supreme Ruler of our Lives?*
  - We make our own little rules
  - We say, *"Yeah, but..."*
    - *"Sure, the Bible says that, but you really can't expect me to do it that way..."*
  - We modify and change God's Laws to fit our own "special circumstances"

- *“Well, I know that what God says, but in this circumstance, I think it would be okay to do it this way...”*
- We alter, rationalize and compromise God’s Laws so that they fit “Reality”
  - *“Be realistic! God wouldn’t want you to have to live like that. I’m sure it would be okay if you just did it this way...”*
- Sometimes, we even completely ignore some of God’s Laws, and make up some of our own out of pure “Common Sense”
  - *“As long as I just do this, then it will be okay...”*
- ***Write it yourself in your own words...***