

01 - Introduction to the 10 Commandments - 1 John 5:3-5 - 2014-01-26

Call to Worship: Psalm 112:1

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36:21-28

Sermon: "Introduction to the 10 Commandments" - 1 John 5:3-5

Benediction: John 6:29

1Jn 5:3-5 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (4) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. (5) Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

INTRODUCTION

Why the Ten Commandments now instead of Ephesians.

Why these introductions.

Plan for the study.

1 John a letter to help believers in the churches understand what true Christianity is, in order to evaluate false teachers. Also helps professors evaluate their own standing before God as to Christ. Also helps believers know how to live as pleasing to the Lord.

BODY

I. Study of the Ten Commandments is study of love for God (3a)

A. It helps me ask this question of you: Do you have love for God

1. or for yourself?
2. or for the world?
3. or for the pleasures of the flesh?
4. or do you have hatred for Him? Love for the world is hatred toward God.
5. Do you keep His commandments?

B. It helps you ask this question of any bible teacher: Does he have love for God?

1. or for applause?
2. or for money?
3. or for power?
4. Does he keep God's commandments?

C. It helps the Christian ask and answer this question: How can I, a sinner loved so much by God in Jesus Christ, show my love for Him?

1. I have been created, redeemed, adopted, justified, saved, given a sure hope, given joy and peace
2. What can I do to show my love for this One who has loved me so much?
3. I can keep His commandments

II. Study of the Ten Commandments is study of the new birth (3b-4a)

A. The Ten Commandments are not grievous or burdensome or heavy to the Christian

1. to the world they are burdensome

Psalms 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

2. to the Christian they are a delight

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

B. Why are they not burdensome? Why are they a delight? Because the Christian is born of God. (3b-4a)

1. God rules this universe, being the Creator of it, essentially spiritual, and having life in Himself

2. One born of God overcomes this world, including all the fleshly temptation to see the commandments of God as burdensome

3. Part of the new birth is having God's commandments written on the heart

Jeremiah 31:31-33 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- (32) not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. (33) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

a. think how in the time of Moses God imposed on Israel a law they did not want to obey; it was carved into stone tablets, but their hearts were hardened against it

b. think how different for the Christian; God has so changed the heart that it has the law freshly written in it, so that it loves God's law

III. Study of the Ten Commandments is study of faith in Jesus Christ (4b-5)

A. This new birth produces in us faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God

B. Victory over the world comes through this faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God

C. Think of the victory the world has over everyone who does not believe in Christ

D. Think of the victory the believer in Jesus Christ has through faith in Him

1. Jesus has obeyed the commandments; through faith we are reckoned law-keepers in Him

2. Jesus has died for our disobedience to the commandments; through faith we are reckoned to have died to sin

3. God now sees our pitiful attempts at obedience as acceptable in His service because it is His work in us

4. God works by His Spirit in us to help us overcome

5. We do not despair of having good enough works, but have all our hope in the

work of Christ, not in our own works

6. Believing ourselves forgiven our sins in Christ, we fear the Lord and keep His commandments

CONCLUSION

- I. Love for God consists in keeping God's commandments.
- II. Keeping God's commandments is not burdensome to the Christian because his new birth gives him victory over the world.
- III. He has this victory over the world through faith in Jesus.

Watson:

God commands nothing but what is beneficial. 'And now, Israel, what does the Lord require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, and to keep his statutes, which I command thee this day, for thy good?' Deu_10:12-13. To obey God, is not so much our duty as our privilege; his commands carry meat in the mouth of them. He bids us repent; and why? That our sins may be blotted out. Act_3:19. He commands us to believe: and why? That we may be saved. Act_16:31. There is love in every command: as if a king should bid one of his subjects dig in a gold mine, and then take the gold to himself.

Calvin:

Paul compares the law with the corrupt nature of man; hence arises the conflict but David shews how they think and feel whom God by his Spirit has renewed . . . it comes through the power of the Spirit that it is not grievous nor wearisome to us to obey God . . . however the flesh may resist, yet the faithful find that there is no real enjoyment except in following God.

JFB:

the love of God consists in this

What makes them to the regenerate "not grievous," is faith which "overcometh the world" (1Jo_5:4): in proportion as faith is strong, the grievousness of God's commandments to the rebellious flesh is overcome. The reason why believers feel any degree of irksomeness in God's commandments is, they do not realize fully by faith the privileges of their spiritual life.

Poole:

i.e. this is the most lively, certain expression and effect of our love to God, our keeping his commandments,

Let all study of the 10 Commandments pertain to faith in Jesus Christ (1a)