

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The First Commandment
“Instruction In Righteousness”
Exodus 20:3

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Exodus 20 - Where Our Focus:
 - For The Last Few Weeks:
 - Has Been On The First Commandment:
 - Back In 20:3 - Where God Tells Us:
 - “Thou Shalt Have No Other God's Before Me!”
 - Now - This Commandment:
 - As Well As The Other Nine:
 - Are All Still Relevant And Profitable:
 - To Us As Christians!
2. Because - As We Are Told:
 - In The New Testament:
 - In 2 Timothy 3:16 - “All scripture – Certainly Including God's Law – Is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
 - We Are Going To Be Looking:
 - At Each Of The Ten Commandments:
 - Through The Lense:
 - Of 2 Timothy 3:16!
3. And So - For The First Commandment:
 - We've Already Seen How:
 - It Is Profitable For Doctrine!
 - Because It Tells Us:
 - Some Important Truths:
 - About God!
 - We've Also Seen How:
 - It Is Profitable For Reproof!
 - Because It Tells Us:
 - The Sad Truth:
 - About Ourselves!
 - Last Week - We Looked at How:
 - It Is Profitable For Correction!
 - Because It Tells Us About:
 - The Only Hope We Have For Forgiveness & Correction Of Our Sin - When We Disobey This Command!
 - That Is - It Points Us To:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
4. It Was Jesus Christ:
 - Who Came - Not To “Destroy The Law – But To Fulfil!”
 - And So - Jesus Alone:
 - Fulfilled The First Commandment:
 - In His Divine Purpose, Pleasure & Person!
 - And He Did So:
 - Perfectly & Completely!
 - We Know This - Because Of How:
 - His God & Father Responded To Jesus:
 - When He Said - On A Couple Of Occasions: “This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased!”
5. So - Now - Whenever You:
 - Fail In Your Duty To:
 - “Have No Other Gods Before” Him:
 - Let This Commandment:
 - Drive You To Christ!

- Over & Over Again!

- So You Can Trust In:

- **His** Righteousness - **Not** Your Own!

- And Rely On:

- His Ability:

- To Re-Form & Trans-Form In You That Which Is De-Formed!

6. But - If Jesus Fulfilled:

- This Commandment:

- In This Way - Does This Commandment:

- Still Apply To Us:

- As Christians?

- The Answer From Scripture:

- And The Answer Of The Church:

- Is A Resounding - "Yes!"

- Why?

- Because - Of What Else:

- It Is Useful For:

- According To 2 Timothy 3:16!

- It Is Also "Profitable . . . For Instruction In Righteousness!"

7. All The Commandments Of God:

- Are Still "Profitable" For You:

- As A Christian!

- This Means That - They Are:

- Beneficial & Useful!

- How Useful?

- Don't Have To Look Very Far!

- The Very Next Verse:

- 2 Timothy 3:17 - "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works!"

- God Wants Us - As His Children:

- To Do What Is Good:

- And - To Do What Is Right!

- And The Ten Commandments Help Us Do This!

8. The Commandments Of God:

- Are Still For Your "Instruction!"

- The Word Translated Here:

- "Instruction" Can Also Be Translated:

- "Training!"

- **IE:** When You Get A Puppy - Its Not A Bad Idea To Enroll Your New Dog Into "Obedience School!"

- Which Is Probably What We **Should** Have Done With Willow! Is It Really True - "You Can't Teach An Old Dog New Tricks?"

- Well - The Ten Commandments Provide An "Obedience School" For All Of God's People!

- "Training" & "Instruction" Are Also What Parents:

- Are Called To Do:

- With Their Children!

- Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it!"

- But - This Training Is To Be:

- A Comprehensive Training!

- A Training Of Our Minds:

- For The Apprehension Of God's Truth!

- A Training Of Our Hearts:

- For The Affection Of God & His Word!

- A Training Of Our Will:

- For The Aspiration Of God's Will & Desire!

- And Then:

- A Training Of Our Behavior:

- For The Application Of God's Word & Will!

- So - It Is To Be So Much More Than:

- Just An "Obedience School" For Christians!

- Because:

9. The Commandments Of God:

- Are Still For Your "Righteousness!"

- What Is Righteousness?

- As We've Been Seeing In Our Sunday Morning Series Through Romans:

- "Righteousness" Is A Character & Conduct That Conforms To The Nature Of God!

- And Though:

- We Are **Not** Saved By:

- Our Own Righteousness:

- And Good Works!

- Because We Can't Be!

- After All:

- As Romans 3:10 Tells Us - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one!"

- However:

- We **Are** Saved **Unto**:

- Righteousness:

- And Good Works!

- In Ephesians 2:10 Paul Tells Us - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them!"

- Also - Romans 6:16 - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his

servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

- And - 1 Peter 2:24 - "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed!"

10. God Wants You To:

- Be Holy & Righteous:

- As His Child!

- Not For Salvation!

- But Through Sanctification!

- And So - This Is What This First Commandment:

- Can Now Help You With!

- It Is "Profitable . . . For Instruction In Righteousness!"

11. So - As You Rely Upon The Power Of The Holy Spirit:

- God Can Use His First Commandment:

- To Help Train You:

- To Apply The Truth:

- You Have Been Taught!

* So - Since - There Is "No Other God" Besides Him:

1. Keep Loving God:

- As The Only God!

- Though The First Commandment Is Not:

- The "First" As Jesus Described It:

- In Mark 12:29-30 - It Is Closely Related!

- Because When Jesus Quoted From Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

- And Said - "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
/ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy
mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment!"

- To Have "No Other God" But God:

- Is To Love Him:

- Supremely!

- Do You Love God?

- And - Do You Love God:

- The Way We Are Told To Love Him?

- "With All Thy Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength!"

- To Keep The First Commandment:
 - You Need To:
 - Foster Your Love For God:
 - And Fan The Flames:
 - Of A Holy Passion For Him!
- And How Can You Do That?

* Second - Since - There Is “No Other God” Besides Him:

2. Keep Learning About God:

- As The Only God!
 - **IE:** Even In Our Own Relationships - We Can Experience This Principle! I’ve Seen It In My Own Life & With My Own Wife! The More I Learn About Here, The More I Love Her! And We’ve Only Been Married For 24 Years! Some Of You Have Been Married Much Longer! But, This Is The Way It Should Be In A Christ-Honoring Marriage!
 - But - In An Infinitely Greater Way:
 - The More You Learn About God:
 - The More You Will Love Him:
 - If You Are His Child!
 - And - There Is Still So Much:
 - For You & I To Learn:
 - About The Lord! So:
 - Keep Him In Your Memory!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - Ecclesiastes 12:1 - “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth!”
 - There Is So Much:
 - You Already Know:
 - About The Lord!
 - So Many Precious Truths About His Character & His Conduct!
 - You Should “Remember” Them:
 - And “Remember” Him - By Them!
 - But You Also Should:
 - Keep Him In Your Meditation!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - Psalm 63:2-6 - “Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. / Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. / My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: / When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches!”
 - There Is So Much:
 - For You *Still* To Learn:
 - About The Lord!
 - So - Be Teachable:
 - And Remember That:
 - The More You Learn About God:
 - The More You Will Love Him!
 - As Fanny Crosby Once Wrote:
 - “I Think Of My Blessed Redeemer, I Think Of Him All The Day Long! I Sing For I Cannot Be Silent; His Love Is The Theme Of My Song!”
 - Are You Still Learning About God?
 - If So - Then - It Will Lead To:

* Third - Since - There Is “No Other God” Besides Him:

3. Keep Leaning Upon God:

- As The Only God!
 - All Of The Great Truths & Attributes Of God:
 - Will Not Only Attract:
 - Your Love - They Will Also:
 - Excite Your Trust!
- In Isaiah 26:3-4 We Are Told:

- “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. / Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength!”
 - Remember Tonight:
 - That You Can Trust The Lord!
 - You Can Trust Him:
- Because Of His Great Power!
 - Remember When God Told Abraham & Sarah:
 - That They Would Have A Child:
 - Even In Their Old Age?
 - Although Sarah Laughed:
 - In Disbelief - Yet What Did The Lord Say About Himself?
 - Genesis 18:14 - “Is any thing too hard for the LORD?”
 - Remember:
 - Nothing Is Too Hard For The Lord!
 - And He Proved This By Visiting Abraham & Sarah And Giving Them A Son!
 - Keep Leaning Upon God:
 - Because Of His Great Power!
 - But Also:
- Because Of His Great Promises!
 - In 2 Peter 1:4 - Peter Describes God’s Promises:
 - As “Exceeding Great And Precious!”
 - And They Are!
 - And Though Sarah Struggled A Bit:
 - At The Promise God Made To Them:
 - About The Birth Of Isaac:
 - We Are Told In Romans About The Trust Of Abraham!
 - Romans 4:19-20 - “And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: / He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; / And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform!”
 - Remember:
 - God Always Keeps His Promises!
 - But Also:
- Because Of His Great Providence!
 - You Can Trust That:
 - No Matter What:
 - Romans 8:28 Is Still True For You!
 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!”
- And Since There Is:
 - “No Other God” - You Can:
 - Trust Him!
 - Are You Trusting Him Tonight?
 - Because - When You Do - Then:

* Fourth - Since - There Is “No Other God” Besides Him:

4. *Keep Living For God:*

- As The Only God!
 - When You Live For God:
 - You Will Let God Be God:
 - No Matter What!
 - To Live For God Means:
- To Walk With God!
 - In Genesis 5:22 - We Are Given This Brief Biography:
 - Of A Man Named Enoch:
 - “Enoch walked with God!”
 - A Bit Later - In Genesis 6:9 - We Are Told:
 - The Same Thing About Noah:

- “And Noah Walked With God!”
- Walking With God:
 - Includes:
 - Regular Communication:
 - With The Lord!
 - Regular Compliance:
 - To The Lord!
 - In John 15:10 - Jesus Said - “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love!”
 - Are You Walking With God:
 - In Love & In Prayer & In Obedience:
 - To His Will?
 - Living For God Also Means:
- To Worship God!
 - Which Is What The Second Commandment:
 - Is All About - And Which:
 - We Will Start Looking More Closely At:
 - Next Week!

Conclusion:

1. But For Now - Remember What:
 - This First Commandment:
 - Teaches Us & Trains Us:
 - To Do With God!
 - Since There Is “No Other God”:
 - Keep Loving & Learning About Him! And:
 - Keep Leaning Upon & Living For:
 - God As Your God!
2. And - You Do This:
 - Especially - By Focusing:
 - All Your Love:
 - All Your Trust:
 - And - All Your Life:
 - Upon The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - When You Keep:
 - Loving Christ:
 - You Are Following The Spirit:
 - Of The First Commandment!
 - 1 John 4:19 Tells Us:
 - “We love him, because he first loved us!”
 - Keep Loving The Lord!
 - When You Keep:
 - Learning About Christ:
 - You Are Following The Spirit:
 - Of The First Commandment!
 - In Matthew 11:29 - Jesus Himself Said:
 - “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls!”
 - Keep Learning About The Lord!
 - When You Keep:
 - Leaning Upon Christ:
 - You Are Following The Spirit:
 - If The First Commandment!
 - In John 14:1-3:
 - Jesus Reminds Us Of His Great Power & His Great Promise - “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. / In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. / And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!”

- Keep Trusting In The Lord! And:
 - When You Keep:
 - Living For Christ:
 - You Are Following The Spirit:
 - Of The First Commandment!
 - Remember What Paul Said In Galatians 2:20:
 - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!”
 - This Can Be Your Life As Well!
 - As You Walk With The Lord & Worship The Lord:
 - In Your Daily Life!
3. Because - In So Doing:
 - You Will Have:
 - “No Other Gods” Before Him!

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