

***“O How Love I Thy Law!”***  
***The First Commandment***  
***“My Lord And My God”***  
***Exodus 20:3***

**Introduction:**

1. **IE:** When As The Last Time You Had Your Eyes Examined? Up Until Last Year, My Eyesight Hadn't Changed A Whole Lot! I Have An Astigmatism In My Left Eye, And Glasses With Some Pretty Basic Lenses Have Helped Me See Just Fine Since College! But Last Year Was Different! Last Year, For The First Time, The Doctor Recommended That I Get Bi-Focals! (Now I **Know** I'm Getting Old-Er!) But - After The Month Or Two Or Three Of Getting Used To Those Kinds Of Lenses - I'm Glad I Have Them! I Can See Much Better Now When I Read And Write!
  - After All - This Is What Glasses Are For!
  - Glasses Are Used To Help Correct Our Vision!
2. Well - In The Same Way:
  - This Is What The Bible Is For!
    - According To 2 Timothy 3:16:
      - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
  - Now - The Ten Commandments:
    - Are Part Of “Scripture!”
      - And So - Each Command:
        - Is Profitable In All Of These Ways As Well!
          - Including The First Commandment Which We Find Again Back In Exodus 20!
  - So - If You're Not There Already:
    - Please Turn Back With Me To:
      - Exodus 20:3 - Where We Read:
        - “Thou shalt have no other gods before me!”
3. Now - We've Already Seen:
  - That The First Commandment:
    - Is Profitable For Doctrine:
      - Because - It Tells Us Some Very Important Truths About God!
  - And About:
    - His True Nature:
      - That Is Exclusive & Exalted:
        - Expressive & Eternal!
    - And - He Alone:
      - Deserves Your Devotion!
4. We've Also Seen:
  - That The First Commandment:
    - Is Profitable For Reproof:
      - Because - It Tells Us Some Very Sad Truths About Ourselves!
    - And How:
      - This Command Is Necessary:
        - Because Of Our Failure:
          - To Honor God For Who He Is! And:
        - Because Of Our Foolishness:
          - In Setting Up Other Gods Before Him!
        - Gods That In Reality:
          - Are Not Gods!
    - And So - We've All Broken:
      - The Very First Commandment:
        - Given To Us By God!
          - And We All Deserve His Judgment!
      - And As Hebrews 10:31 Tells Us:
        - “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!”
    - So - What Can We Do?
      - Is There Any Kind Of Hope Or Help:

- Available For Us?
- Well - To The Praise Of God's Glory - There Is! Because:

5. The First Commandment:

- Is Also Profitable – For Correction!
  - **IE:** Unlike The Glasses I'm Wearing - It Can Restore My Soul! It Can Correct The Astigmatism Of My Heart! It Can Re-Form What Is De-Formed In My Life! But Not In The Way That You Might Think!
  - The First Commandment Has Absolutely No Power In And Of Itself To Correct Me & To Change Me:
    - From Being An Idolater At Heart To Being A Worshiper Of The One True God!
    - Instead - It Can Only Show Me & You That - In Order To Keep This Command - We Need A Miracle!
- And So - The First Commandment:
  - As Well As All Of The Other Commandments:
    - Are Profitable For Correction:
      - Because They Point Us To The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - Just Like We Are Told In - Galatians 3:24:
    - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!"
    - So - This First Commandment:
      - Is Profitable For Correction:
        - Only When You See Your Need Of Christ!
        - Only When You See The Law Through The New Lenses Of Jesus!
  - Because - Not Only Is He:
    - The Only One Who Can:
      - Fulfil The Law For You!
    - He Is Also:
      - The Only One Who Can:
        - Re-Form & Trans-Form You:
          - To Obey This Law:
            - From Your Heart!

6. So - This Commandment:

- Tells Us Some Glorious Truths:
  - About Our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ:
    - Who Came - Not To "Destroy The Law – But To Fulfil!"
- And Tonight:
  - We Will See How - In Three Ways:
    - Jesus Fulfills The First Commandment:
      - Perfectly!

\* First - Jesus Fulfills The First Commandment:

1. ***In His Divine Purpose!***

- In Matthew 27:46 - We Find One Of The Seven Final Sayings Of Jesus - When He Cried Out With These Words:
  - "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
  - So - There On The Cross:
    - Jesus Acknowledged **The** God:
      - As **The One True** God:
      - And As **His** God!
  - Now - Jesus Could Make This Statement:
    - Because - As A Man - And In His Human Nature:
      - God The Father Was Indeed:
        - His God!
    - And - As It Was For Him At His Death:
      - So It Was Also Throughout His Life!
        - Jesus Perfectly Kept The First Commandment - "Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me!"
        - And We Can See This In Several Ways!
  - His Assurance In God:
    - Was Perfect!
      - Jesus Trusted God!

- Even His Enemies Knew:
  - How Strong His Trust Was:
    - In God His Father - When They Mocked Him In Matthew 27:43 - “He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God!”
- So - Even At His Death:
  - Jesus Trusted God:
    - Completely & Perfectly!
      - And His Trust Could Be Seen In And Through:
        - His Prayers! So:
- His Appeals To God:
  - Were Also Perfect!
    - Jesus Prayed To God!
      - And His Entire Life Was Marked:
        - With An Active & An Earnest Prayer Life!
  - How Often - When We Read Through The Gospels:
    - To We Come Upon This Scene:
      - Mark 6:46 - “And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray!”
  - True Prayer Is Always:
    - An Evidence Of - As Well As:
      - An Expression Of:
        - Trust In God!
          - We Also See In The Life Of Christ That:
- His Affection For God:
  - Was Perfect!
    - Jesus Loved God!
  - In John 14:31:
    - Jesus Said - “But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence!”
  - So - All Throughout His Life:
    - Even To The Point Of His Death:
      - Jesus Loved God:
        - Completely & Perfectly!
          - And He Even Stated That His Love Could Be Seen In And Through:
            - His Obedience!
              - So:
- His Adherence To God:
  - Was Also Perfect!
    - Jesus Obeyed God!
      - In John 15:10 - He Says This To His Disciples - “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!”
- In All Of These Ways:
  - Jesus Proved That His Ultimate Purpose:
    - Was To Glorify:
      - His Father As His God!
  - In John 17:4 - He Makes This Astounding Statement:
    - In His Prayer To His Father:
      - “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do!”
  - Can Any Other Man:
    - Apart From Christ:
      - Make This Kind Of Claim?
  - Certainly - This Is To Be:
    - The Very Purpose Of Our Lives!
      - As We Are Told In 1 Corinthians 10:31 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!”
  - But **Have You** Done This – Completely?
    - **Can You** Do This – Perfectly?
      - Not On Your Own! Not By Yourself!

- But - Jesus Christ Did!
- All That His Father Was Due:
  - *As* God & As *His* God:
  - Jesus Gave!
  - And So Kept The First Commandment Perfectly!

\* But Second - Jesus Also Fulfilled This Commandment:

**2. *In His Divine Pleasure!***

- There Was Absolutely Nothing:
  - In The Life Of Christ:
    - That Rivalled His Father:
      - As His God!
  - Unlike Us:
    - Who All Too Often Make Our Own Pleasures:
      - Into Our Gods:
        - For Jesus - His Pleasure:
          - Was God The Father!
  - So - Jesus Pleased His Father:
- In His Desire For God's Will!
  - In John 4:34 - Jesus Said:
    - My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work!"
    - Jesus Said These Words When His Disciples, Out Of Concern For The Lord, Said To Him - "Master, Eat!"
  - The Disciples Had Food On Their Minds:
    - But Not Jesus!
      - That Which Might Please & Satisfy The Feeling Of Hunger In Us:
        - Was Not What Pleased & Satisfied Jesus The Most!
    - He Wanted To "Do the Will" Of His Father In Heaven!
      - This Was His Greatest Desire!
      - John Gill - "As Food Is Pleasant, And Delightful, And Refreshing To The Body Of Man, So Doing The Will Of God Was As Delightful And Refreshing To The Soul Of Christ!"
    - And - This Was True:
      - No Matter Where God's Will Took Him!
        - Whether It Took Him:
          - Into This World:
            - When He Took On Human Flesh! Or:
          - Whether It Took Him:
            - To The Cross:
              - When He Died, Not For Any Sins Or Crimes He Committed, But For Our Own!
      - The Greatest Pleasure For Jesus:
        - Was Doing The Will Of God!
          - John 6:38 - "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me!"
        - We Can Also See This:
    - In His Delight In God's Will!
      - In Psalm 40:8 - We Have A Prophetic Statement:
        - Of Jesus Own Words & Will!
          - "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart!"
      - So - When Jesus:
        - Was Praying To His Father:
          - In The Garden Of Gethsemane:
            - On The Very Night Of His Arrest And Trial:
              - He Would Say - "Thy Will Be Done!"
      - Those Were Not:
        - Words Of Drudgery:
          - But - Words Of Delight!
    - ***Have You*** Said This – All The Time?

- **Can You** Do This?
  - Not On Your Own! Not By Yourself!
  - But - Jesus Christ Did!
- Jesus Always:
  - Desired For & Delighted In:
  - The Will Of God!
  - And So, He Kept The First Commandment Perfectly!

\* But Then - Third - Jesus Also Fulfilled This Commandment:

### 3. ***In His Divine Person!***

- As Jesus Called His Father - "My God" - So:
  - Jesus Himself Was Called The Same!
    - After His Resurrection:
      - Remember The Story Of "Doubting Thomas?"
    - In John 20:26-28 - "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. / Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. / And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God!"
      - And - How Did Jesus Respond?
        - He Did Not Reprimand Thomas:
          - Or Correct Him - Or:
            - Try To Change His Mind About Him!
        - Instead - He Answered - John 20:29 - "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed!"
          - You See - Jesus Could Call His Father:
            - "My God" - Because
              - In His Human Nature:
                - His Father Was His God!
            - But - **Jesus** Too Could Be Called:
              - "My God" - Because:
                - In His Divine Nature:
                  - He Too Was / Is God!
    - Jesus Could Not Deny:
      - His Own Identity As God:
        - Because - To Do So - Would Be:
          - To Design Another God!
    - And So - He Fulfilled The First Commandment:
      - By Revealing Himself:
        - To Be God - In Several Ways!
  - By His Proclamation:
    - Jesus Acknowledged Himself:
      - As God!
        - When The Jews Were Offended At Jesus And His Teaching - They Asked Him In John 8:57-58 - "Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? / Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am!"
      - This Was The Same Name:
        - Given To Moses - Before He Went Before Pharaoh In Egypt!
        - Jesus Clearly Proclaimed Himself To Be:
          - The One True God:
            - Jehovah / Yahweh - The God Of Israel!
        - And The Jews Understood This - Because:
          - 8:59 - "Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by!"
            - But Also:
    - By His Power:
      - Jesus Acknowledged Himself:
        - To Be God!
          - In Too Many Ways To Count!

- But - In Matthew 11:3-6:
  - When The Disciples Of John The Baptist Came To Him And Asked Him:
    - “Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”
  - How Did Jesus Respond?
    - “Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: / The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. / And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me!”
- Jesus Point Was:
  - Only God Could Do The Things He Did!
    - And So He Was! But Even Further:
- By His Pardon:
  - Jesus Acknowledged Himself:
    - To Be God!
  - In One Of The More Famous Miracles Done By Jesus:
    - In Mark 2:5-7 - Jesus Forgave:
      - The Sins Of A Paralyzed Man, Who Was Brought To Him By His Friends Through The Roof Of A House!
    - And So - “When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee!”
  - And - How Did The Jews Respond?
    - “But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, / Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?”
      - They Knew Exactly What Jesus Was Saying! They Understood Perfectly Who Jesus Claimed To Be!
- Because - For Jesus:
  - There **Could** Be No Other God:
    - Than The God Revealed To Us In The Bible!
      - The Triune God!
        - And So - Jesus Could Not Deny His Own Nature!
  - And - In This Way Too:
    - He Kept The First Commandment:
      - Perfectly And Completely!

### Conclusion:

1. And We Know This:
  - Because Of How God The Father:
    - Responded To His Son!
  - At The Baptism Of Jesus:
    - The Father & God Of Jesus:
      - Said - “With A Voice From Heaven – This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased!” (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22)
      - And Then:
  - At The Transfiguration Of Jesus:
    - The Father & God Of Jesus:
      - Said - With - “A Voice Out Of The Cloud – This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased; Hear Ye Him!” (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35; 2 Peter 1:17)
  - And In This Way:
    - God The Father Became:
      - The Personal Eye-Witness:
        - To The Holiness & Righteousness:
          - Of Jesus!
2. So - What You And I Could Not Do:
  - Jesus Came & Did!
    - He Kept & Fulfilled The First Commandment:
      - Completely - For You & For Me!
  - So Now - When You Trust In Jesus Christ:
    - As Your Savior - God Sees You:

- Through New Lenses! Through The Lenses:
  - Of The Perfect Righteousness:
    - Of Jesus Christ!
- 3. So - Whenever You:
  - Fail In Your Duty To:
    - “Have No Other Gods Before” Him:
      - What Should You Do?
        - Repent! Confess! And Then:
  - Let The First Commandment:
    - Drive You To Christ:
      - 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!

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