



The **TEN
COMMANDMENTS**

**THE
TEN COMMANDMENTS**

by
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As a motion picture, the world acclaimed "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS." As the Law of God, some people have loved, others have hated, and all have transgressed THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. They have been cursed, maligned, distorted, vilified, and some, by human arguments, have tried to "do away with" them.

A small few of the obedient have experienced the BLESSINGS they can bring. David said, "O HOW LOVE I THY LAW!" and called it perfect; Paul called it holy, just and good; Jesus honored, magnified, obeyed, and commanded obedience to THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. But to most people they remain an enigma that has never been UNDERSTOOD.

Here is the answer to the request of thousands — a book EXPLAINING PLAINLY this inexorable LIVING Law — soon to become the BASIC LAW of the peaceful, prosperous, joyful WORLD TOMORROW!

The KEYS to Understanding

Your Bible contains the real WAY to peace — happiness — SUCCESS. It is a WAY OF LIFE based upon a spiritual LAW that is as moving, as ACTIVE, as REAL as the law of gravity! It is a way to LIVE BY — and be BLESSED.

THIS IS A LAWLESS age. Crime and violence are increasing at a fearful rate because among millions of people there is practically *no respect for law or constituted authority* — either that of God, or of man!

On the international scene, nations live in daily fear because they very well know that the so-called “guarantees” and treaties of peace are *not worth the paper on which they are written*. There is NO LAW — respect for *no authority* — among the nations of the world.

This is the world in which YOU live!

The Real SOURCE of Law

Men have lost all deep respect for law because they have forgotten the very *source* of ALL law and authority! Your Bible says: “There is *one* lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy” (James 4:12). That lawgiver is Almighty GOD.

In their modern search for a man-devised “peace of mind” or a “religion that satisfies,” men have FORGOTTEN about the great GOD who *RULES* this universe!

No wonder some of our young people — *the leaders of tomorrow* — have such a lawless attitude.

One of the world's foremost educators, before his death, warned a group of military leaders of this very problem. He was Dr. Rufus von KleinSmid, former Chancellor of the University of Southern California. He stated: "I have no quarrel with the present emphasis placed on science, but today we are paying for support of schools which act from September 1 to June 30 *as if there were no God.*" Dr. von KleinSmid noted the "*absence of moral values*" in our youth resulting from this attitude.

When you leave the true GOD out, there is no real *standard of behavior* left. The result is spiritual *chaos* and *lawlessness* and *wretchedness in the human heart*.

In nearly all present-day religious denominations, the tendency is to try to "modernize" and "democratize" God, and do away with His *authority to RULE His creation* — and us, His creatures. There are very few truly "God-fearing men" left on earth today!

Having made their imaginative pet "god" in their *own* image, men certainly do not stand in AWE and deep *respect* of such a "god." They do not *fear* their "god." And they certainly *do not* OBEY this creature of their own imagination!

Yet the real MESSAGE of Jesus Christ was about the God who CREATED and now RULES this earth! His was the God who *blessed* men for obedience to His laws — and who *punished* for disobedience.

God's Perfect WAY Revealed

The Jesus Christ of your Bible *always* preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14; Luke 4:43). In modern language, He preached the happy news of the GOVERNMENT of God — the *RULE* of God. He said: "*Repent ye, and believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:15).

Before you can sincerely *believe* and *accept* Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and have His shed blood cover your sins, *you must* REPENT. But repent of *what*? Repent of SIN!

What *is* sin? Despite the contradictory ideas and gen-

eralizations of organized religious denominations, *your Bible* clearly states: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

Sin is *breaking God's spiritual Law* — the TEN COMMANDMENTS. That is *definitely* and *specifically* what sin is!

Before God will forgive your past sins, you must first REPENT of breaking His Law! You must learn to *fear* and *respect* God as the Supreme RULER of this universe — and as *your* King and Ruler.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, was inspired to write: "The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). This Godly fear is by no means a personal dread, but a deep *respect* and *reverence* for the great OFFICE and *authority* of God — for His Divine *power* — His *wisdom* — His *love*.

Without *faith* in such a great and REAL God, man is INCOMPLETE. Cut off from the *true* God of law and order, man is *purposeless, empty, frustrated, confused*.

The way OUT of modern man's emptiness and confusion may sound trite or simple to some people. But it is *real* — and it WORKS! It is simply that man must *quit worshipping* FALSE GODS. Man must return to the God of the *Bible*, the God of *creation*, the God who *RULES* this universe!

Summarizing His WAY to the *fulfillment* of man's desire for a happy, abundant and purposeful life, God inspired these words at the end of the book of Ecclesiastes: "The end of the matter, all having been heard: fear God, and keep His commandments; *for this is the whole man*" (Eccl. 12:13, *Moffatt* translation).

Man is *frustrated* and *incomplete* without this living, vital contact with God — walking *His* way, keeping His commandments. *Obedience* to God's commandments would bring PEACE, and FULFILLMENT and JOY to *all the nations and peoples of this earth!*

It is the real ANSWER to ALL of our problems, individually and collectively! It is the WAY OF LIFE Jesus Christ is going to teach when He returns to rule this world! (Micah 4:2.)

Do You Really UNDERSTAND God's Commandments?

The Prophet David was a man *after God's own heart* (Acts 13:22). He is used as a type of Christ, and will rule directly under Christ over the entire nation of Israel in the soon-coming millennium (Ezek. 37:24) when Christ will bring PEACE to this earth.

David wrote: "O how love I thy LAW! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). David *studied* and *pondered over* God's Law *all day long!* He learned how to apply it to *every* situation in life.

This gave David *wisdom*. "Thou through thy COMMANDMENTS hast made me *wiser* than mine enemies" (verse 98).

God's Law showed David the *way* to go — a WAY OF LIFE. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (verse 105).

Throughout this 119th Psalm, David declared how he *loved* God's LAW, and used it as his guide in life. Do YOU?

Probably you DON'T. This is because most of you have been taught that God's Law was *done away* — or else you simply have not realized that it is the *ONLY* real *way of life* that would bring man happiness and joy. You haven't realized that God's Law reveals the very *nature* and CHARACTER of God Himself. And God commands us: "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16).

Remember that the *true* Christians, the "little flock" of Jesus, are described as those, "Which keep the COMMANDMENTS of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17). And God gives this description of the *character* of His saints: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep *the* COMMANDMENTS of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

If you are to be counted among God's *true saints* who will escape the seven last plagues, you will have to have this *LIVING* faith — this *OBEDIENT* faith in Almighty God through Jesus Christ living His life in you! You will have to *understand* and keep God's spiritual Law as revealed in the Ten Commandments!

In answer to thousands of requests, and to help all of you come to really UNDERSTAND the commandments of Almighty God your Creator, we are publishing in this book a series of articles *explaining* and *expounding* each of the Ten Commandments. You should really STUDY this book, look up each scripture quoted, LIVE by His Spiritual and Holy Law.

The ALMIGHTY God of Israel

To properly understand and feel the real *impact* of the Ten Commandments, let us notice the setting in which they were given. Remember that Moses and the Israelites had preserved the knowledge that their God was the Creator of heaven and earth. He was the great RULER of the earth who had brought about the Flood in the days of Noah, their forefather.

After the Flood, He had called out their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to serve Him, and through them made promises of national blessings to Israel as a nation — as well as spiritual blessings to come through their ultimate seed, the Christ. He was the God who led Joseph down into Egypt to make a way for Israel to live through the seven years of famine over all the earth.

After Joseph's death, they found themselves under a Pharaoh who had not known Joseph and whose heart was turned against them. They suffered cruelly at the hands of Egyptian taskmasters who were now set over them and they were treated as slaves (Exodus 1).

But now the true God, the God of Israel, had delivered them from this Egyptian bondage by *tremendous* MIRACLES, had brought them out of Egypt and through the waters of the Red Sea which rose on either side of them as a mighty wall (Exodus 14).

Since the time they had passed through the Red Sea, God had begun to deal with them and to remind them of His laws which they may have, in part, forgotten. Before they ever reached Mount Sinai, God erased all doubt about which day was His Sabbath by performing a series of miracles to remind them of this (Exodus 16). In Exodus

18, Moses was already judging the people according to God's laws and statutes (verse 16).

Now that they were come to Mount Sinai, God proposed — NOT to give them a new law — but to enter into a covenant or *agreement* with them so that they would be His special people and He would be their God whose laws and statutes and judgments they would obey.

Since the Ten Commandments were — *and always will be* — God's basic *spiritual* Law (Romans 7:14), they were made a *part* of this agreement between God and Israel. Since they were His holy and spiritual laws, He gave them with great POWER, and, *unlike the rest of the covenant*, wrote them with His OWN HAND.

Notice the setting in Exodus 19. God commanded the people to clean themselves up and be ready against the third day when He would come down to them (verses 10-11). "And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were THUNDERS and LIGHTNINGS, and a thick CLOUD upon the mount. And the *voice of the trumpet*, exceeding loud; so that all of the people that were in the camp *TREMbled*" (verse 16).

God was here showing His power as the CREATOR of this earth as He began to speak with His own voice the Ten Commandments! As the Creator Himself descended upon Mount Sinai in His glory, "The smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and *the whole mount QUAKED greatly*" (verse 18).

In this setting of great *glory* and *majesty* and POWER, God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people who were *trembling* in awe below the mountain. His voice must have literally *shaken* these people with His power as it BOOMED across the land like the sound of *thunder* (Psalm 104:7).

PART ONE

The First Commandment

AND SO GOD began speaking the Ten Commandments — revealing to His people the LAWS of life which bring *success* and *happiness* and *peace* with God and with man. In this day of human reason, of agnosticism, and of creeping socialism, it is important to notice that the Almighty spoke first NOT about the “brotherhood of man,” but about obedience and worship to God — the Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth — and the personal God of those who *serve* and *obey* Him!

“And God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME” (Exodus 20:1-3).

That is the *first*, and as we shall later see, GREATEST commandment. *Study* the wording of this commandment carefully — and *meditate* on it as David did!

“I am the Lord thy God,” is a more revealing phrase than at first meets the eye.

The “I” who was speaking with such tremendous POWER was quite evidently the great Creator of heaven and earth. In His very manner of appearance, He had *demonstrated* His power as Creator by sending forth the thunderings and lightnings and literally SHAKING Mount Sinai as if it were a wet dishrag!

The word "Lord" comes from the Hebrew YHVH which, *it is important to realize*, NO ONE knows exactly how to pronounce or spell since the vowels were not preserved in the Hebrew textual tradition. But the meaning of the word is the "Eternal," or the "self-existent One," or the "Everliving One." Thus, God was showing that the ONE who was speaking was the ETERNAL GOD who has always existed!

The true God then mentions the fact that it was He who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. These Israelites had just EXPERIENCED that tremendous deliverance and power which God had shown in saving them out of national slavery!

They had SEEN God send supernatural *plagues* on all the land of Egypt. They had SEEN Him strike dead the firstborn born throughout that land as His final punishment! They had SEEN the waters of the Red Sea towering many stories above them as a "wall" on either side (Exodus 14:22) as God brought them through this mighty sea to the other side by a *supernatural miracle!*

They had SEEN and HEARD and FELT His *majesty* and POWER as He appeared to them on Mount Sinai to speak *these very words!*

Yes, they had *experienced* this divine, supernatural *deliverance*. They were NOW FREE from day after day, month after month, year after year of *slavery* — of *persecution* — of punishment, as bondmen without rights in Egypt. They had seen the true God's MIGHT manifested above the gods of Egypt and the gods of the other heathen nations round about. Now they *knew* for certain that the God of Moses really WAS GOD!

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me," they were commanded. They had now seen it *demonstrated* that there was no appeal to a higher God, to any greater *wisdom, understanding, mercy, glory, or POWER!*

One thing to note is that the Hebrew word translated "before" can also mean "in preference to." The Israelites, though carnal, *should have known* not to put anything *in place of* the true GOD. As the Source of all life, the Giver of life and breath, the Creator and Ruler of all, Almighty

God should be *served* and *worshiped* and *obeyed* above EVERYTHING in heaven or on earth!

THIS IS THE LESSON THAT ALL THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THIS EARTH *NEED DESPERATELY* TO LEARN!

If we would really *serve* and OBEY the God of the Bible, then all troubles and wars would come to a screeching halt! But as nations and as individuals, we put not one but MANY “gods” before the true God of creation — the God revealed in your Bible!

We need to *repent* of this and to *quit serving* FALSE GODS!

The First Commandment and YOU

Now that we have seen the power and might with which God revealed Himself when He spoke the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai, let us see how *each one of them* — beginning with the first commandment — applies to you, *personally*. For if you make any claim to being a Christian, remember that Jesus Christ, the *founder* of Christianity, said that you shall live by EVERY word of God (Matt. 4:4). And certainly — through God’s help — you must walk according to the *commandments* of Almighty God if you would enter into eternal life (Matt. 19:17).

How, then, does the first commandment apply to YOU?

“I am the Eternal thy God,” the Creator states. *Is* the God of *creation*, the God of *Israel*, the God of the *Bible*, really *your* God whom you *serve* and *obey*? Or have you conjured up your own FALSE “god” or “gods”? Or are you *falsely worshiping* according to the “traditions of men,” which Jesus said would cause you to worship God *in vain*? (Mark 7:7.)

These are things *you* need to consider!

To the Christian, God says that He is the One who has “brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Throughout the Bible, Egypt is used as a type of SIN. All unconverted men are held in slavery to the organized, *paganized* system of this world, and to their own personal *lusts*.



When a person is really converted, God brings him out of that bondage — and he *comes out* willingly and gladly!

You need to examine whether or not YOU have ever really *come out* from the false traditions and ways of this world and have also *repented* of your own personal lusts and sins.

God commands: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Have *you* put something else in PLACE of God? Is your *time*, your *interest*, your *service* taken up more with something other than the true God? What IDOL have you placed between yourself and the true God — *studying* His Word, and *living* by it?

God says: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). Throughout its pages, the Bible declares that God is the real CREATOR of this earth and of the universe. He is the One who gives life and breath to all creatures (Genesis 1).

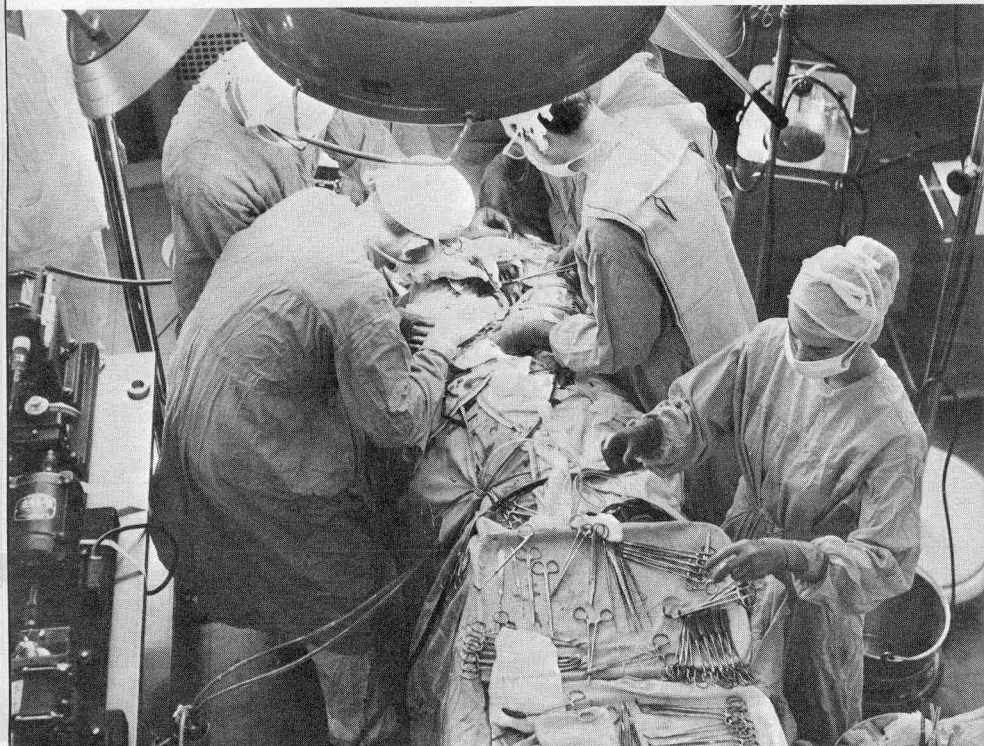
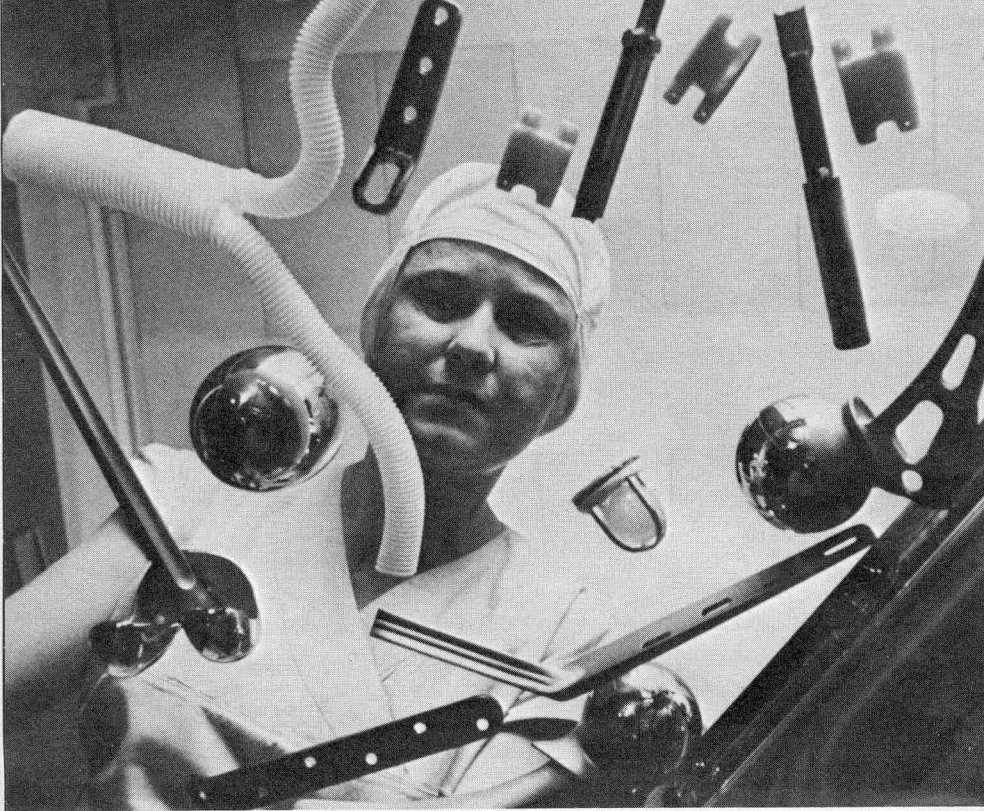
Do you honestly think of and worship God as your Creator and the One who gives you every breath of air you breathe? You should, for that is part of worshiping the true God and having no false gods before Him!

The GREATEST deception of all today is *not* communism or *atheism*, but the false, pagan doctrine of evolution! Evolution is an attempt to explain the creation without the Creator. It DENIES the true God and His very nature and office! It is the very *basis* of most of this world’s “education”! But the wisdom of this world is FOOLISHNESS with God (I Cor. 1:20).

In the Bible, God is revealed not only as the Creator, but the One who *sustains* and who *rules* His creation — *intervening* in the affairs of His servants to guide and to bless and to deliver them.

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

EVIDENCE OF GOD’S POWER — The Great Galaxy in Andromeda estimated by astronomers to be over 10 million trillion miles from earth.



Learn Which Are God's Prerogatives

David said: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower" (Psalm 18:2). Literally *hundreds* of times, David called upon God to *intervene* and DELIVER HIM from some trouble or calamity.

— Do you go to *God* with these things, or do you trust in your *own strength* and in purely *human* devices?

In addition to being Creator, Ruler, and Deliverer, God is also our *Healer*. In Exodus 15:26, God states: "I am the Lord that healeth thee."

David was inspired to write: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who HEALETH *all thy diseases*" (Psalm 103:2-3).

It is God's prerogative to *heal!* Very few professing Christians today really go to God for *healing* when they are sick.

Although there may be certain things that trained medical specialists can and should do without intervening with the natural workings of the body, the only real HEALING comes from God, *who made the human body*, and who can intervene and *cut short* any sickness or disease if He is asked in faith to do so. (James 5:14.) The constant teaching and example of Jesus Christ Himself throughout the four gospels was that God is *Healer*.

Another growing facet of our modern life which is an ABOMINATION to the true God is the wholesale turning away from prayer, from Bible study and from reliance upon the true God in time of trouble, and instead turning to the new "science" of psychology and psychiatry for man-made "relief." Even our own forefathers in Britain and America would have recognized this as idolatry.

Wide World Photos

MEDICAL SCIENCE — Top photo, shows assortment of mechanical replacement parts for human beings. Bottom photo, depicts another hope of sick humans — the operating table!

Modern churchgoers turn to these men instead of to their ministers ONLY because most of those very ministers have FAILED to bring them into living contact with the true God who *lives* and *rules*, and who *blesses* and *delivers* His children from every type of trial, trouble and calamity!

Understand God's PURPOSE

In Matthew 6:9, Jesus tells us — when we pray — to address God as our “Father.” Throughout the New Testament, He is revealed as the one to whom we should go with ALL of our trials and problems. Like a human father, He watches over His children and blesses and protects them. He also *chastens* every son that He loves (Heb. 12:6).

From the beginning, God has been the ultimate Father of mankind. In creating man, God said: “Let us make man in *our image* after *our likeness*: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea . . .” (Gen. 1:26).

Man was made in the *physical image* of God — the outward form and shape of God. He was given certain responsibilities and prerogatives like God Himself has — given *dominion* or *rule* over all the creation on this earth. He was given certain limited powers to make or “create” — so to speak — new things that had never existed before in that exact form. In this limited way, he has some of the very abilities of *God!* For God plans and purposes that we shall ultimately be *like Him* — glorified as he is glorified! (I John 3:2.) Man is ultimately to be *born* of the Spirit — *made of spirit* — COMPOSED of spirit (John 3:6). He will be part of the spirit-born, ruling *family* of God.

God the Father is *reproducing Himself!* He plans that those who overcome human nature in this life and learn — through the help of His indwelling Holy Spirit — to keep His perfect laws, shall be made *like Him* — BORN into His very family and kingdom!

Then, *after* this life of growing and overcoming, *after*

Wide World Photo

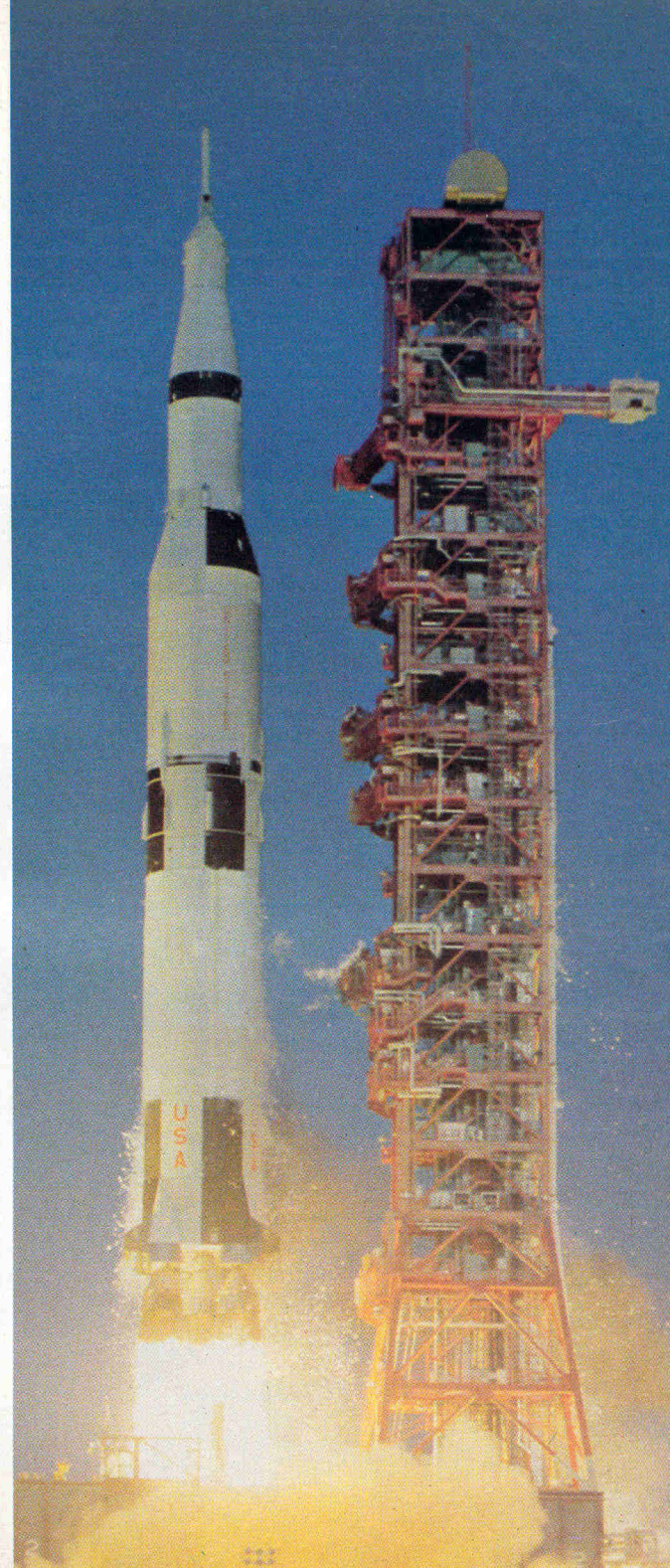
“Science seems ready to confer upon us as its final gift the power to erase human life from this planet” — DWIGHT EISENHOWER.





Air Force, Wide World Photo (Right)

ON THE BRINK OF OUTER SPACE AND OBLIVION — Left, hydrogen bomb explosion. Photo taken at 12,000 feet, approximately 50 miles from detonation site. Cloud rose to 40,000 feet — the height of 32 Empire State Buildings. Right, launching of second unmanned Apollo/Saturn V space vehicle. It generated a liftoff thrust of 7½ million pounds.





Box

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this spiritual REBIRTH, man will be able to exercise prerogatives of God Himself! He will be *qualified* as an additional member of the ruling *kingdom of God!*

(If you would like a detailed, technical exposition of this spiritual rebirth, write for our free booklets *Why Were You Born?* and *Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?*)

Yet, even in this, science and this “civilization” compete with God, and therefore become FALSE “gods”!

Modern science is trying desperately to give man power FAR IN EXCESS of his mental and spiritual capabilities for handling such forces! As former President Eisenhower said in his first inaugural address: “Science seems ready to confer upon us as its final gift the power to *erase human life from this planet.*” And now — realizing that what they have already done forebodes DESTRUCTION of this earth — scientists are working feverishly to invade *the very heavens!*

And, here on earth, our “civilization” continues its paganized teaching that MAN is the ultimate judge of what is right or wrong and puts man completely in the place of God and His laws! Whether we realize it or not, this carnal attitude — this God-REJECTING attitude — permeates every phase and facet of our civilization today!

What You SERVE Is Your “God”

Most people who just go to church once a week and take their religion for granted actually don’t really know *what WORSHIP is.* They think it is something you do once a week in church — not realizing that it affects every *thought, and word and action* EVERY day of your life!

In everything you think or say or do you either SERVE God — or else you serve your own lusts and Satan the devil!

The Apostle Paul was inspired to explain this: “Know

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A LAND OF MATERIALISM — “. . . neither is there any end of their chariots: Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made” (Isaiah 2:7-8). A typical day of clogged congestion in a major United States city.

A BOAT IN EVERY "GARAGE" — Yachts, speed boats, sailboats, catboats, skiffs, dories, dinghies, outriggers and various other craft jam mooring facilities. In this affluent society it's not uncommon for middle class families to own one.

Kilburn, Johnson — Ambassador College



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?" (Rom. 6:16.)

There is *no middle ground!* You either *delight* in God and His Law and *serve* and OBEY Him all day long — or else you serve and obey your own LUSTS!

One key to this situation is how you use your time. For your *time* is your life! The Bible commands us to "redeem [buy back] the time, for the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16.)

How much TIME do you actually put in each week *studying* and meditating on God's Word and Law as David did? How much time do you spend in earnest, prevailing *prayer* to Almighty God? How much TIME do you spend in discussing the Bible with others, teaching it to your family, writing to others words of spiritual upbuilding as well as purely social intercourse?

It is true that most professing Christians think of their religion as just occupying a "corner" of their lives. But in all fairness and love we say that the day will come when you will realize that that type of religion is FALSE religion and *false* worship!

Most men think far more about pleasing their wives and families than they do about pleasing and serving Almighty God. Very few indeed would actually be willing to *forsake* their family — if need be in order to serve and OBEY God.

A recent survey brought out the fact that the average American's life is wrapped up in his family, his home and furnishings, and his car. He is *totally concerned* with the material things and material people with which he has surrounded himself. We don't often think of it that way but it is a fact — and it can easily become a form of IDOLATRY!

Many are wrapped up in the ideas, customs, traditions and *way of life* of their particular society or profession. More than anything, they want to CONFORM and be accepted by the "group" — their particular crowd of human individuals that they look up to. In nearly every

case, of course, the ideas and practices of this group are at *total variance* with the laws and ways of Almighty God and with living by His every word.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses,” God says, “Know ye not that the friendship of this world is *enmity* with God? *Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the ENEMY of God*” (James 4:4). Many religious “independents” in fact make a “god” out of a pet religious idea or theory that they have concocted — AND WHICH THEY WILL NOT GIVE UP TO SAVE THEIR ETERNAL LIVES! Such people often have many points of truth because they have departed from the “rut” into which so many religious denominations have fallen, but they are so filled with spiritual *pride* and VANITY that they are totally unable to see the obvious and in many cases the ridiculous error into which they themselves have fallen!

They have made a veritable “god” out of their pet religious theory — and they serve that god zealously and unremittingly!

What Do YOU Lack?

A young man who had kept — *or thought he had kept* — all of God’s commandments came to Christ and was wondering what he yet could do to be worthy of eternal life (Matt. 19:16-22).

But Jesus knew that he was a wealthy young man and that he put that wealth *before* or *in preference to* God — that he would SERVE that wealth before he would first serve God. So Christ told him to go and sell his treasure and give to the poor, and come and be His disciple. “But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; *for he had great possessions*” (verse 22).

Like so many people, this young man thought he was keeping God’s commandments when actually he was BREAKING the first commandment by putting something else in place of God and serving it *first* and *above* the true God! He was also breaking the commandment against covetousness, because he *lusted after* and *coveted* that wealth more than he worshiped the God who made it. And he was certainly making an IDOL out of his wealth and

position, because Paul was inspired to say that covetousness "is *idolatry*" (Col. 3:5).

Thus, this self-righteous young man was *directly breaking* THREE of the Ten Commandments because of putting another god before the true God!

In what is called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ showed how the peoples of this world seek after material things and wealth and position (Matt. 6:24-32). Jesus commanded: "But seek ye **FIRST** the *kingdom of God*, and his *righteousness*; and *all these things* SHALL be added unto you" (verse 33).

You are absolutely *promised* by Almighty God every material need and blessing if you will only seek **FIRST** God's way — and *worship* and **OBEY** Him!

In this hurried, confused, modern age of luxury, gadgetry and wealth, this seems **SO HARD** to do! But it is a *living law* that **WORKS**!

You need to understand what is the most important thing in this entire life — in *your life*! Do you know? Would you believe it if Jesus Christ said so?

What is the most important thing God commands **YOU** to do?

When Jesus Christ your Saviour was asked this question, He answered: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:37-38). Then Jesus continued: "And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang **ALL** the law and the prophets" (verses 39-40).

On these two commandments hangs the **DESTINY** of **ALL** nations and individuals! If they will **OBEY** these two commandments as they are magnified throughout the Bible they will be *blessed*! If not, they will be cursed and will become *wretched* in their own confusion and frustration!

As Jesus said, the very writings of the *prophets* hang on whether or not nations obey or disobey God's Law. *Every* prophecy written against a nation shows that God foresaw that this nation would **DISOBEY** and turn away its

eyes from His Law and obedience to His commandments!

These are the *living laws* — like the law of gravity — that **RULE** the world in which you live!

Learn to Love and Worship God Above ALL Else

Jesus said the **GREAT COMMANDMENT** is to love God with all of your heart and soul and mind. You are to worship and serve God with all of your **BEING**!

This is certainly a foreign concept to this confused modern world where men think of God as “way off” somewhere and talk in sociological terms about the “brotherhood of man” while at the same time inventing greater weapons to **DESTROY** all life from off this planet!

Why *should* you love God?

God is your Creator and **MAKER**! He gives you every breath of air you breathe! God gave you every talent, every ability, every bit of strength and gracefulness and good looks — **EVERYTHING** you have.

You should worship God because of the beauty and majesty and perfection of His creation — and because He has given *you* life and everything you have! Everything good and sweet or beautiful that you see in your husband or wife is only there because God **PUT** it there — *and He has a lot more where that came from!*

The reason why David was a man “after God’s own heart” is understood by reading the Psalms which he wrote. They are simply **FILLED** with *praise* and *worship* and *adoration* of Almighty God. “I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless thy name forever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name forever and ever” (Psalm 145:1-2). Read the rest of this Psalm and see how David worships and praises God in an intimate and loving way.

True Christians ought to love God in a *personal* way because He first loved us and gave His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (I John 4:10). One of the very persons in the Godhead was willing to *empty Himself* of His divinity and come down into this world of sin and suffering to **DIE** one of the most torturous deaths a God-rejecting age could devise!

Doesn't that command your *respect*, your *worship*, your LOVE?

You should love God because of His perfect and righteous and wonderful LAW — which teaches us the way to peace and happiness. That Law reveals God's *nature* and *character* — is based on *giving* and *servicing*, not on the selfish principle of getting, competition or greed. As Jesus — the personification of that Law — stated: "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Whenever you think or speak or hear of anything good or beautiful or wonderful, you should think of GOD! Remember James' inspired statement: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Because you *love* Him, because you know *His* way is RIGHT, because you truly *worship* Him, you should MEDITATE on God's *Law* and on His *Word* daily as David did. You should *study* your Bible regularly *to live by* EVERY *word of God*. You should PRAY to God *regularly*, with *sincerity* and with *all your heart*, as Jesus did — setting us an example.

Whenever you find that God commands you in His Word to do something, you should immediately say: "Yes, Lord," and not argue, "reason" or evade the issue as so many falsely professing Christians do today.

Knowing that He made you and that your life really *belongs to Him*, you should present your body a LIVING SACRIFICE as God tells you to do (Rom. 12:1). You should *serve* and OBEY God with all your being — with a *willing heart* — and do all in your power to prepare yourself for and to further the work of reaching *others* with the message of the soon-coming *government of God* to bring real PEACE finally to this earth.

Your attitude should always be that of Jesus Christ, *your example*, when He was called upon to give His very life: "Not my will, but THINE, *be done*" (Luke 22:42).

This is what *true worship* really means! *This* is how to keep the first commandment, the GREAT commandment!

PART TWO

The Second Commandment

MAN HAS been worshipping *false gods* long enough. That is WHY God has permitted mankind to come to the very brink of human annihilation. That is WHY the Almighty will permit man — possibly within this decade or the next — to go through the most HORRIFYING time of drought, famine, disease epidemics and mass destruction by war that this world has ever seen!

But now — *for those who are willing to heed* — it is time to WAKE UP! It is high time to become *acquainted* with the true God! It is time to *forsake our* IDOLS!

Every Idol Condemned

In Part I, we discussed the *first* commandment — the GREAT commandment. We found that Jesus Christ based His entire teaching on the Old Testament — and on the Ten Commandments. He said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*” (Luke 4:4). The *only* written word of God at that time was the *Old Testament*!

In His teaching on the Mount, Jesus stated: “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 [even the *least* commandments] the same

shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19). Throughout the entire message called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was explaining and expounding and *magnifying* the Ten Commandments. He was showing that this spiritual Law was a LIVING Law — like the law of gravity or inertia: When you break it — *it breaks you!*

We have seen, therefore, that when men or nations break the first commandment — "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*" — they *automatically* bring an inevitable PENALTY of suffering and wretchedness upon themselves and their posterity. Men cut themselves off from the *source* of their being, from the purpose of life, from the *laws* that would give them happiness, peace and joy. Men cut off from the true God are empty, frustrated and miserable. And whether by the awfulness of war, personal violence, sickness or simply the rotting of corruptible human flesh, the ultimate fate of all men cut off from God is an ignominious DEATH — *with no hope or promise of eternal life thereafter* (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8).

Man is incomplete, then, having cut himself off from the true worship of the true God. Yet he is to worship *that* God alone — "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*"

The Second Commandment Stated

The *second* commandment tells us about HOW to worship the true God, what *pitfalls* to avoid in our worship, and of the *continuing blessing* or *penalty* that comes to our progeny as a result of the WAY in which we worship Almighty God.

"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: THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM NOR SERVE THEM: *For I the LORD [Eternal] 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; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments*" (Exodus 20:4-6).



The natural mind of physical man cries out for something to help him in his worship of God. He wants some physical object to "remind" him of the invisible God — some "aid" to worship. *Yet, that is EXACTLY what is forbidden in this commandment!*

Jesus said: "But the hour cometh, and NOW IS, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in *spirit* and in *truth*: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23). Notice that it is only the "true" worshippers who are able to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Many others attempt some form of worship, but because they *limit* their worship by a false concept of God it is largely *in vain*. "God is a SPIRIT: and they that worship him *must* worship him in spirit and in truth" (verse 24).

The instant a man sets up any representation of God, he *denies* that which is essential in God. God is the essence of all POWER — all WISDOM — all LOVE. God is LIMITLESS. When man erects a mental or physical image of God, he automatically *limits* in his own thought and worship the God who will NOT *be limited!*

The Basis of Idolatry

Many times after reiterating the Ten Commandments, God again warned Israel against any form of idolatry. "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: For I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 26:1). God was continually against EVERY form of idol or image used in worship.

However, lest some misunderstand, let us pause at this point to note the fact that God does *not* condemn art or sculpture, but rather the setting up of any picture or image or representation "*to bow down unto it.*" In the original command in Exodus 20:4-6, God is *not* condemning every picture and image, but the command continues,

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"THOU SHALT NOT MAKE . . . ANY GRAVEN IMAGE . . ." (Exodus 20:4) — Pictured at the left are two figurines of pagan gods. Today, people still break the commandment against idols by having the same types of images.

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.”

So it is the use of art or sculpture as a *form of worship* or “aid” to worship that God condemns!

The real *basis* of all idolatry is that self-willed, rebellious man refuses to SURRENDER himself to worship the true God *in the way that He commands!* Not really KNOWING the true God, then, nor having His Spirit, man thinks he needs some “aid” or “representation” to help him worship his humanly devised concept of God. Notice that this second commandment is not speaking of the *worship* of an idol — that’s forbidden in the first commandment. This second commandment forbids the use of *physical* “aids” or “helps” in worshiping the *invisible* God.

A Converted Person KNOWS God

No man who really knows God as his *Father* — no man who is living in daily communion with Him — needs a picture or image to help him to pray. *If* a man thinks he needs this kind of help, it is simply because he has not come to *know* God — and undoubtedly is not filled with and led by the Holy Spirit of God. In order to worship God *in Spirit*, you must *have* the Holy Spirit. “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*” (Rom. 8:9).

But God gives His Holy Spirit only after *repentance* and *baptism* — and only to those who “OBEY Him” (Acts 2:38; 5:32). Very few men in this day and age have truly *surrendered* themselves to *obey* God, to *walk* with Him, to let Him *RULE* their every *thought* and *word* and *action*. Therefore, they are not actually *acquainted* with God. He seems far off — unreal — nebulous. They need a physical “reminder” in front of them to help them realize that He exists and is there to hear their prayers!

This very practice *proves* the lack of real spiritual worship — and it comes directly from PAGANISM!

Pictures of Jesus

Thousands of professing Christians employ representations in pictures of a so-called Jesus Christ in their

worship — and even display them in their homes. What does your Bible say about such pictures?

First of all, the second commandment itself obviously prohibits the use of anything which represents God or could easily become an object of worship. Certainly, since Jesus Christ is God (Heb. 1:8), this would *directly prohibit* any picture or likeness of His person!

In addition, for those who might wish to “reason” or argue about this point, these so-called pictures of Christ have *no similarity whatever* to the way Jesus Christ really looked! Jesus — when in the human flesh — was a Jew (Heb. 7:14). The features in His supposed pictures are obviously NOT Jewish!

As the Word of God, Christ inspired the Apostle Paul to write: “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a SHAME unto him?” (I Cor. 11:14.) Yet, these pictures invariably show a man with long hair, soft feminine features and a sentimental, sanctimonious look in His eyes.

This is NOT the Christ of your Bible!

Actually, Jesus was undoubtedly very *masculine* in appearance. As a young man, He was a carpenter — working out-of-doors. And He continued spending most of His time out-of-doors even during His ministry.

Jesus’ face must have had a rugged, sunburned appearance. He was not womanish in appearance, but rather had SHORT HAIR like a man. He did not have beautiful, aristocratic features, but as He inspired Isaiah to describe His human appearance: “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is *no beauty* that we should desire him” (Isa. 53:2).

As a human being, Jesus was a normal, healthy, perhaps somewhat rugged looking young Jew in His early thirties, who with earnestness and conviction preached the message of God’s soon-coming kingdom or RULE over this earth.

However, if we think of Jesus’ appearance at all, we should think, in general terms at least, of the way He looks today. He has described this for us in Revelation 1:13-16. “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as

snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire . . . and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”

As very God, Jesus' face now shines with radiance and with POWER. As a human being, *you would not dare to look directly into it!*

So these crucifixes, pictures and images of Jesus are in TOTAL OPPOSITION to every description given of Him in the sacred Word of God! They give a FALSE impression of the true Jesus Christ in every respect.

Many will claim they do not worship these pictures or images. Perhaps so. But this *false picture* and *false concept* of Christ undoubtedly comes into their minds quite often when they think of Christ or pray. These false pictures and statues actually come between them and Christ. They separate the worshiper from Christ!

If you use such images or pictures of Christ, you are BREAKING the second commandment! And you are greatly limiting your concept of the living Christ — who now sits glorified at the right hand of God in heaven with His face shining like the sun in full strength!

(For additional information on this point, request our free reprint articles “Should We Use Pictures of Christ?” and “Did Jesus Have Long Hair?”)

Idolatrous Church Festivals

The human individuals and denominations of this world have devised many *wrong methods* of worshipping Almighty God. Jesus warned the people of His day against their human religious traditions: “Howbeit in VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . .” (Mark 7:7-8).

Many of our “traditional” religious holidays in this Western world are directly CONDEMNED by the Bible! They are condemned not only because they were directly borrowed from paganism, but because they involve IDOLATROUS practices and concepts. Just as an idol does, they give a FALSE concept of God and of His plan.

For instance, the name “Easter” is borrowed directly

from PAGANISM! It is a name of an idolatrous pagan goddess. It is nowhere commanded in the Bible, and the early New Testament Church never observed it!

But the practices and ideas associated with Easter observance — the Easter bunny rabbits, the eggs, the hot cross buns — all these come from *paganism* and are symbols of idolatrous sex worship condemned by your Bible. For full proof of this, write immediately for our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*.

In the same manner, the observance of Christmas, as the birthday of the Son of God, is also a pagan, idolatrous festival borrowed directly from heathenism! As with Easter, God nowhere commanded the observance of Christmas and it was never observed by the original apostles or their immediate followers in the true Church of God.

Any encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary will verify the fact that Christ was not born anywhere near the time of December 25th. And even if He were, we are nowhere commanded to observe the date of His birth — but rather the time of His death commemorated by the Passover celebration. The December 25th date is taken from an idolatrous pagan festival of sun worship. The traditional Christmas tree, the Yule log, the holly wreaths, and kissing under the mistletoe — all were borrowed from heathenism and used in a pagan religious orgy dedicated to the sun-god. And the idea of Santa Claus — originally a vile and sinful man — is a *direct* LIE that parents tell children every year. It is NOT just a “white lie” in the sight of Almighty God! Write for our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas* for a full explanation of these pagan symbols.

Both Christmas and Easter — and other traditional religious holidays in our Western world — give a FALSE picture of Almighty God and His plan. Space permits only a brief summary of these concepts.

For instance, Christmas pictures a “little Lord Jesus” held in His mother’s arms away in a manger somewhere. The emphasis is on a purely sentimental attachment to the helpless person of a baby boy, the trading of presents back and forth between friends and relatives, the deceitful

symbol of “Santa Claus” for the unsuspecting children, and a time of human joy and revelry. The true MESSAGE of Christ — of His *laws*, His *ways*, His soon-coming *government* on this earth — all are forgotten in this time of human merriment. Rather than the true picture of Christ sitting at the right hand of God — His face shining like the sun in great POWER, waiting to return and RULE this earth with a rod of iron — the participants in the Christmas celebration are left with a picture and concept of a helpless little baby in its mother’s arms.

Therefore, such humanly devised religious festivals give a *false picture of Almighty God* — and this is IDOLATRY!

Worshiping Systems and Institutions

One of the most common forms of modern idolatry is the making of an idol out of one’s church or society. For many people, this world’s *society* — its dictates, customs and traditions — becomes a literal “god.” Many people are desperately afraid of doing anything that might be regarded as different or “odd.” They feel they *must CONFORM* to this world and its ways.

But God commands: “Be NOT *conformed* to this world: But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). This command must seem very hard to obey for people who get to thinking that other *people* must be right in what they think and do and practice.

The Bible shows that many people in Jesus’ day FAILED in their worship: “For they love the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43). If you blindly *obey* the dictates of your family, your church or society instead of the direct commands of God, you are guilty of IDOLATRY. That group or institution becomes an IDOL to you *in place of* the true God!

Even *ritualism* in a church service is a dangerous thing, for however refined the ritualism of some institutions may be, it begins and ends in the *physical senses of human man* — and is NOT a valid substitute for the true worship of God “in Spirit.”

The Bible directly warns that people of our day would

be, "Having a *form* of godliness, but denying the POWER thereof" (II Tim. 3:5).

The true God is the invisible, Eternal Creator and Ruler of the universe. How should you worship Him? He answers: "To this man will I look, *even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and TREMBLETH at my word*" (Isa. 66:2).

You must worship God DIRECTLY — and with a *humble* and *willing* heart. You must *study* God's Word — willingly be *corrected* by it — and TREMBLE before its authority over your very life! With a heart proven to be submissive through *repentance* and *obedience*, you must pray to God in heaven many hours each week on your knees and in silent prayer as you go about your daily tasks. You must come to know and love Him as your "Father."

As Enoch and Noah and Abraham did, you must learn to "walk with God" — and be in constant and increasing communion and yieldedness to Him throughout every day of your life. Then — *guided by His Spirit* — you will never even begin to consider using an image or idol or picture as an "aid" to prayer and worship of the great sovereign RULER of this universe, and your *personal Father* in heaven.

A Solemn Warning and Promise

We have seen that God forbids the making of any image or idol to represent Him: "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; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments" (Ex. 20:5-6).

Because God is our Father, He is lovingly zealous for our eternal welfare. He is JEALOUS over us in that He will not countenance the worshiping of false gods by His children. This, of course, is *for our own good!*

If we persist in an idolatrous and vain form of worship, God says He will visit our iniquity upon our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There are many ramifications to this statement and principle.

But there is one obvious direct meaning in this context. If, in worship, men put an idol, image or something else in place of God and come under the influence of that false worship, then they are not only harming themselves — *but their children and grandchildren!* The principle is that their FALSE idea of worship will be transmitted to their children — damaging and wrecking their lives and happiness!

It is a solemn and terrible thing thus to pass on to your children a FALSE CONCEPTION of God. It is one of the most AWFUL things a man can do!

But together with this warning, God gives a merciful promise to those who are willing to worship God AS HE COMMANDS. In their case, He is a loving and merciful God, "Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Here is a remarkable contrast. God only visits the iniquity to the third and fourth generations before intervening with merciful punishment and awakening to truth. But He shows mercy unto the *thousandth* generation!

God calls men into His own immediate spiritual presence — to worship their Creator *directly*. Men can come to really *know* the great God of the universe as their personal Father. They can daily *walk* with Him, *talk* with Him.

Whenever a man stops short of that face-to-face worship of the Eternal God, he is working ruin in his own character — *breaking the Commandment of God*.

This is the *meaning* and *force* of THE **SECOND** COMMANDMENT.

PART THREE

The Third Commandment

IS GOD really *first* in your personal life? Results of a fairly recent poll of 1500 college students showed that they had two sets of values toward which they professed allegiance: the first level, towards *self, family* and *friends*; the second level, to *mankind* (in general) and *God*.

It is notable that God was *least regarded* by these “educated” young people! Yet in this same poll, 90 percent of those questioned indicated a *belief in God*.

This prevailing spiritual lethargy and passive disrespect toward God — and toward the great **MAGNITUDE** of His office and power — is indicative of a growing trend even among churchgoers and professing Christians. People like to *talk about* religion and God, but they do not stand in **AWE** of His *position* and His *name*.

And this spiritual cancer has within it the seeds of the **DESTRUCTION** of our western civilization!

The Third Commandment Stated

In discussing the first and second commandments, we found that we must guard against making a “god” out of *anything* — and putting it in place of the true God. And we learned that God commands us to worship Him *directly* — to walk with Him, to talk with Him, to really

KNOW and worship Him in spirit and truth — and to avoid using any image, picture or physical object to “remind” us of the great Creator as an “aid” to worship.

The *third commandment* deals with God’s *name*, His *office*, His *position* as the great sovereign RULER of the universe:

“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” (Exodus 20:7).

In the Bible, personal names have a *meaning*. The original Hebrew name of *Abram* was changed to *Abraham* — for Abraham means “a father of many nations.” And Abraham was destined to become just that — “a father of many nations” (Gen. 17:5).

So it is with *God*.

God’s Name Reveals the Kind of God You Worship

Every name or title of God reveals some attribute of the Divine *character*. In studying God’s Word, we learn new facts about God’s *nature* and *character* with each new name by which He reveals Himself. In other words, God *names* Himself *what He is!*

If men use the *name* of God in a way which denies the true *meaning* and *character* of God, they are BREAKING the third commandment.

God declares through Isaiah: “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness” (Isa 48:1). People to whom this prophecy applies use the *name* of God, but fail to obey the *revelation of God* contained in His name.

And shocking though it may be, many religious people repeat over and over the name of God in sermons or prayers. They are taking God’s name IN VAIN — to no good use or purpose!

The original command says: “The Lord will not hold him *guiltless* that taketh his name in vain.” The Hebrew word here rendered “guiltless” may also be translated

“clean” — “the Lord will not hold him to be *clean* that taketh his name in vain.” *The test of spiritual cleanliness is the attitude of a man to the NAME of God!* A man is clean or unclean according as he uses the name of God in *truth* — or for *vanity*.

Do you realize what this means? It certainly indicates that a man is better off who — because of sincere religious doubts — has dropped the name of God out of his vocabulary, than is a professing Christian who is always *talking about* God continually, but DENYING HIM in his daily life!

The IMPORTANCE of God's Name

By the Lord's prayer, we are instructed to “hallow” God's name. And the *third commandment* with which we are dealing has directly to do with showing the proper *respect* for the *name* of God. One of the *ten great points* of God's eternal spiritual Law is devoted to this very thing!

First of all, however, let us make it clear to those who may have been misinformed on the subject that *reverencing* God's “name” does NOT mean trying to speak Hebrew or Greek or learning to pronounce God's name in the original Biblical languages! There are certain sects which make a great matter out of this. Some claim that “Jehovah” is the Father's name. Others claim that it is “Yahwah,” others “Yahvah,” and others use still different variations. The truth of the matter is that since all admit that the Hebrew vowels have not been preserved, *no one knows* exactly how this Hebrew name of God should be pronounced! (For proof that “God” is the Father's name, request our free reprint article titled “The Unknown God.”)

Describing the significance of one's *name*, Moulton-Milligan's *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament* states: “By a usage similar to that of the Heb. . . [onoma “name”] comes in the N.T. to denote the *character, name, authority* of the person indicated” (p. 451, italics in original).

Also, and even more important, God Himself inspired Daniel and Ezra to use the Aramaic word for God in nine chapters of the Bible which they wrote in this language,

and the *New Testament* writers all were inspired to use the *Greek* words for deity.

The real *importance* of the matter, of course, lies not in the phonetic *sound* which is used to describe God, but in the *MEANING* which His names convey!

Thus, this respected authority on Biblical linguistics clearly shows that one's *name* signifies one's *office*, *authority* and especially one's *character*. The names of God show us what God is like — *they reveal His CHARACTER!*

Do you really *KNOW* what God is like? Do you *RESPECT* His various *offices* and His *name* as you should?

Turn to your Bible and *check up!*

God's Nature and Character Revealed

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). In this very first verse of the Bible, God reveals Himself by the Hebrew name "Elohim."

There is one God — but *more than one member* in the Godhead, or God family! This same word, "Elohim," is used in Genesis 1:26. "And *God [Elohim]* said, Let *US* make man in *OUR* image, after *OUR* likeness." Here it is clearly seen — in context with the passage itself — that *more than one person* shares the name of God — "Elohim."

From the New Testament, this is made clear by its revelation that God the Father created all things by and *through* Jesus Christ — who was *with* God and *was* God from the beginning (John 1:1-14; Eph. 3:9).

In this passage, therefore, it is revealed that God is *more than one person* — God the *Father* and the "Word" or *Spokesman*, who later became Jesus Christ when born into the human flesh. This Father-Son relationship shows that God is a *FAMILY*. And the way the word *Elohim* is used in these early passages in Genesis and elsewhere certainly indicates that God is the *creating kingdom or family!* Interestingly, *ELOHIM* is plural in form but is used either singular or plural depending on the context.

God, by virtue of being Creator, is also the *RULER* over His creation. We find that immediately after creating the first man and woman, God gave them both a *blessing* and

a *command*: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28). Yes, the true God is RULER — and you should *obey* Him because He made you and gives you every breath of air you breathe!

In dealing with Abraham, God sometimes calls Himself “El Shaddai,” which means “*Almighty* God.” So God is the source of *all* power! His name should be revered, because it stands for the One who is the source of all *power*, all *might*, and all AUTHORITY.

The name most commonly translated “LORD” in the Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew letters YHWH, sometimes rendered Yahweh or Yahveh. The original Hebrew word means the “Eternal” or “Self-Existent One.” The word is both used and defined in Genesis 21:33. “And Abraham planted a grove [tree — *eshel* in the Hebrew] in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord [YHWH], the *everlasting* God.” This Hebrew word, often translated “Jehovah” in some of the revised versions, shows God’s character as the EVER-LIVING God and is used to show His *everlasting office* in a *covenant relationship* to those whom He has created.

God has *always* existed and *will always* exist to carry out His blessings, His promises, and His covenant with His people! Our God is the *Eternal* — the Self-Existent One.

God’s Name Connected With His Attributes

Throughout His Word, God’s *name* is connected with His attributes — His power, His eternal existence, His mercy, His faithfulness, His wisdom, His love. Notice how the prophet David connects God’s *name* with His *creative power*: “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy *name* in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:1-4.)

Here God is pictured as setting His “glory” *above the heavens*. Then David proceeds to show that God has CREATED the heavens, the earth and man. *No wonder* God’s *name* and *office* are to be respected!

In Psalm 9:2, David writes: "I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy NAME, O thou most High."

Now notice *why* David will sing praises to God's name: "When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish *at thy presence*. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right" (verses 3-4). David praised God because God was his PROTECTOR and REDEEMER. God was the great omnipotent POWER to which David turned for help in the time of need! He *worshiped* and *praised* God for this: "And they that know thy *name* will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (verse 10).

Notice the *titles* or *attributes* David ascribes to God in Psalm 18:2: "The Lord is my *rock*, and my *fortress*, and my deliverer; my God, my *strength*, in whom I will trust; my *buckler*, and the *horn* of my salvation, and my *high tower*." David worshiped the living God who protected, delivered and SAVED him from every trouble and calamity!

The prophet David, whom God loved and used, did NOT think of Him as an "inner-presence" or "idea" or a God who had gone "way off" somewhere and didn't *supernaturally intervene* in the affairs of this earth and His people. Rather, these titles that David under inspiration applies to God, reveal Him as a living, vital, active RULER over His creation and as the *protector* and *sustainer* of those who serve Him!

In the 45th chapter of Isaiah, God describes His omnipotence and how He has created ALL things: "I form the *light* and create *darkness*: I make *peace*, and create *evil*: I the Lord do all these things" (verse 7). Then God proceeds to show how He has raised up various men and nations *to do His will*.

He tells the nations: "Assemble yourselves," and dares them to produce any other God who has the power that He does. Then He declares: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am GOD, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me *EVERY knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*" (verses 22-23).

Here the true God shows He is the One men **MUST** *worship* and *obey!* No wonder we are to *reverence* and *hallow* His name!

Abusing God's Name

Perhaps many don't fully realize it, but this earth is literally FILLED with men and women who abuse the name of Almighty God in many different and varying ways! It is time to REPENT of taking the very NAME of our Creator and God *in vain!*

Men and women from every facet of our society have begun to think that it is "cute" or the popular thing to do to swear by God's name or invoke His name in some oath of condemnation. In the United States, and elsewhere, actors and actresses have for years parroted oaths of profanity which are inserted by the playwright seemingly only for the purpose of "entertaining" the audience by using God's name in a vain or frivolous manner. Now, even the motion pictures are inserting more and more profanity into their scripts. But the true GOD is not going to stand for this very much longer! This very thing is one of the many reasons why He is soon going to PUNISH our so-called "Christian" nations with the greatest national punishment that has ever been meted out to any peoples in all earth's history!

In our everyday speech, many of us are *damning* the very name of our Creator and our God! We are using our breath to *curse* and *damn* the name of the very One who gives us our life and the very breath with which these individuals curse His name!

An expression used with terrible frequency is asking God to "damn" someone. Poor men and wealthy men alike give ready tongue to this vile oath — and often think they are proving their "manhood" or getting away with something by doing it! Yet it would be hard to find any normal human being anywhere who would like to see this phrase carried out with respect to his fellowman in all of its terrible meaning. This expression is trifling with the name of our God — asking Him to do something which He has never intended to do.

God NEVER "damned" a man in the way men seem to think! This idea is an awful *heresy!* God's work is the work of *salvation*, and God will deprive no man of eternal life except that man by his *own* volition and will rejects God's way.

The false idea that God arbitrarily "damns" men is being thrust into the minds of men by their own profanity of language. It is a *blasphemous* assertion, and it is a libel upon the very nature and character of God Himself! God's Word thunders His warning against this into our ears today: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"!

A similar form of taking God's name in vain is the habit of so many in some sections of society to tell stories in such a way that the name of God is made use of in a light and frivolous manner. Such stories should be shunned as men should shun the fire of hell! People using the name of their God in such a frivolous manner are robbing themselves of that deep sense of veneration and reverence for God without which there is no real worship in spirit and in truth.

God says: "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and TREMBLETH at my word" (Isa. 66:2). The very *same thing* may be said about the deep *respect* and godly FEAR we should have for God's *name* — which directly *represents* God's *character*, His Word, and His *purposes*.

Should You Swear?

Men today are accustomed not only to profane swearing and invoking God's name to back up their oaths, but also many legal ceremonies in some lands invoke the name of God in a form of swearing or an oath.

Jesus Christ said: "But I say unto you, swear *not at all*; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne; nor by the earth: for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great king" (Matt. 5:34-35).

God's *name* is so sacred and HOLY that we are commanded not to invoke it to back up our words or our oath! Fortunately, the American nation was founded by men who read their Bibles and made great allowance for reli-

gious liberty and freedom. Therefore, even though many public officials will, on occasion, ask you to raise your hand and “swear,” they all realize that provision has been made so that you can employ the word “affirm” instead of swearing.

And actually, as we should all know, the simple affirmation or formal word of a God-fearing Christian is far more to be relied upon than *ten thousand oaths* given by a liar on the witness stand! The travesty of some few businessmen, politicians and even college professors taking God’s name in vain on the witness stand in this manner bears ample proof of this statement!

Religious Titles to Avoid

Speaking of using certain expressions as a religious title, Christ said: “And call no man your *father* upon the earth: For one is your Father, which is in heaven” (Matt. 23:9). Although there is a flagrant and obvious abuse of this command in some large religious organizations, this statement of God’s Word is clear to anyone who wishes to obey it.

Our only spiritual “Father” is GOD! Any application of this word as a religious title to a man is simply a *direct blasphemy* against the Creator who has made all men — even the weak, corruptible human beings who impudently take to themselves and falsely assume that which is a divine title.

Of course, we *should* call our human parent “father” as God Himself does in the Fifth Commandment.

Another common misuse of the divine name is the application of the term “Reverend” to any human being — be he a minister or otherwise. For God applies this title to Himself *alone*: “He sent redemption unto his people: He hath commanded his covenant forever: *Holy and reverend* is HIS *name*” (Psalm 111:9).

“Reverend” means someone to be *revered* — *someone worthy of worship*! No mortal *man* is worthy of such a title! Even so great a servant of God as the Apostle Paul himself was inspired to write: “For I know that *in me* (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth NO GOOD THING” (Rom. 7:18).

Any man who thinks he is worthy of worship — or deserves the title “Reverend” — is someday going to have to REPENT of *breaking the third commandment!*

The Most Common Sin of All

In teaching His disciples, and us as Christians, how to pray, Jesus Christ set forth the right manner of approach to Almighty God and the attitude of reverence in which we should hold His office and His name. In the opening phrases of what is commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer,” our authorized translations of the Bible give what is most probably a false punctuation.

After the invocation, “Our Father which art in heaven” — the approach of the man to God — there are three requests linked together, and then a sentence following which conditions all three, and not the last one only. The correct rendering would be as follows: “Our Father which art in heaven, thy name be hallowed, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.” The phrase, “as in heaven, so on earth,” has reference, not merely to “thy will be done,” but to “thy kingdom come,” and to “hallowed be thy name.”

These thoughts contained in what is called the Lord’s prayer — the hallowing of God’s name, the coming of His kingdom, and the doing of His will — are simply different phases of the *same thing*. For a man hallows God’s name by *submission* to His kingdom and government, and by *doing* His will and *obeying* His laws.

Simply holding the phonetic sound of God’s name in reverence is only a small part of fulfillment of the third commandment.

Jesus asked: “And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do NOT the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46.) Prayer without *obedience* is a subtle form of BLASPHEMY!

The supposedly religious people who talk about religion and God but REFUSE to obey His Word and His Law are guilty of greater sin than the man who admittedly goes his own way of the flesh and at least refuses to *pretend otherwise*.

The HYPOCRISY of religious denominations and reli-

gious people is infinitely *worse* than the profanity of the street. Praise offered to God which is counteracted by *rebellion* against His ways and His laws is certainly blasphemy — and it is taking the *name* of God in vain!

A man or minister that preaches and prays with eloquent lips and beautiful sentences and devotional attitude, but then goes home to break the least of God's Commandments (Matt. 5:19), that man **BLASPHEMES** when he prays! But even if he deceives the world, *he never deceives God!*

If a man takes the name of God for *vanity*, if *truth* and unquestioning *obedience* is not behind his worship, *he had better not worship at all!*

And let us note at this point — as we have already implied — that a man who *frivolously* or *vainly* uses the name of Jesus Christ is also *breaking the third commandment*. For Jesus Christ is **GOD**. For the Apostle Paul was inspired to write in Hebrews: “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O **GOD**, is forever and ever” (Heb. 1:8). So the *throne* and the *office* and the **NAME** of Jesus Christ must be respected and revered!

As in the case with the Father, Christ's *name* represents His *character* and His great *office* as our Saviour, our Head and our coming King of kings. For God the Father has given Christ a *name*, “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and *every* **NAME** that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:21).

But the man who professes with his lips to honor God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son, and yet denies the will of God in his life, is committing a far greater **CRIME** against God than the man who openly blasphemes and makes no profession of honoring God! The most subtle and awful form of breaking the third commandment is that of religious **HYPOCRISY**.

Speaking of the “religionists” of His day who refused *complete obedience* to the will and Law of God, Jesus declared: “This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is *far from me*. Howbeit *in* **VAIN** do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of

men" (Mark 7:6-7). In like manner, many today profess God with their lips but their worship is VAIN!

"Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth the WILL* of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

May God grant you the *willingness* to OBEY the will and *Law* of your Creator! May you learn to worship Him in *Spirit* and in *truth*. May you learn to *honor* and *reverence* His great NAME — for it represents His creative *power*, His *wisdom*, His *faithfulness*, His *love* and *kindness* and *patience* and *infinite mercy*. It represents the *character* and *office* and *dignity* of the great GOD who sits at the controls of this entire universe!

PART FOUR

The Fourth Commandment

WHY WERE you born? What is the “meaning of your life”? What is the true GOAL of life — and what are the LAWS of life by which that goal can be attained?

How much TIME do you spend each week in considering these *most important* questions in all of life?

Most people are so busy with the day-to-day cares of making ends meet that they devote *almost no time at all* to the spiritual issues of life. If questioned about Bible study or prayer, most people reply that “there just isn’t enough time” for these religious activities.

Because he is so engrossed with his job during the day, and with television, movies, parties and sports in the evenings and on weekends, the average American is *totally LACKING* in even a rudimentary knowledge of his own religious beliefs. And he is *childishly IGNORANT* of the fundamental truths of the Bible — so much so that a survey showed that the average American is unable even to *name* the four gospels correctly!

God seems “way off” to him. The Bible is “for old folks and preachers” to read and understand. Yet, he proclaims that he “hopes to do better” someday.

The big question is — WHEN? *When* will he take the TIME to really get to *know God*? *When* will he take time to

study his Bible, to *pray* earnestly to the Creator as his Father, to *meditate* on the laws and purposes of life?

For most people, the true answer will probably be “NEVER” — *unless they learn to obey the fourth commandment of Almighty God!* Obedience to this little-understood commandment is a POWERFUL factor in bringing the lives of men and women close to the Creator God — and to His blessings and direct guidance.

The Fourth Commandment Stated

In the first three sections of this booklet, we discussed the prevalent sin of putting another “god” in place of the true God. We learned that God commands us to worship Him *directly* — and to avoid using any image, picture or physical object to “remind” us of the great Creator, or as an “aid” to worship. And we were warned against the *vain use* of the NAME of Almighty God, which stands for His *position*, His *character*, His *power*, His *office* as the great RULER of this entire universe.

The *fourth commandment* completes the first section of the Decalogue which deals with man’s relationship to God. It provides for the perpetual observance of a SIGN of the relationship between God and man.

“REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOUR AND DO ALL THY WORK: 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: 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*” (Exodus 20:8-11).

This command is, in its wording, the *longest* of any of the ten. It is placed, protectively as it were, in the very *midst* of the Ten Commandments. Yet, sad to say, it is the one command about which men “reason” and argue most and which they would most quickly tear asunder and try to separate from the rest of God’s Law.

Notice that it starts out with the injunction to

“remember.” This very statement proves that the Sabbath command was *already* understood by God’s chosen people and that, in incorporating it as part of His basic spiritual Law, God was *reminding* them of a command of which they already had knowledge.

“Remember the Sabbath day to KEEP it holy.” You cannot “keep” cold water *hot!* And mortal *men* cannot make anything holy. Therefore, to fully grasp the significance of this Divine command, we need to learn *who* made the Sabbath day holy and *when!*

Jesus said: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28). Notice that Jesus said the Sabbath day was “*made.*” Whatever was made has a Maker.

Note also that Jesus did NOT say that the Sabbath was made for the Jew, but for MAN — *for all mankind* in other words. Then He stated that He — Christ — is “Lord” of the Sabbath. In this statement, He claims to be — *not the destroyer* — but the *Lord* of the Sabbath.

In His human life, Jesus *kept* the Sabbath, and many verses in the four gospels are devoted to His instruction of the disciples in how it should be kept, and in freeing it from the traditions which the Jews had added.

But, before continuing, let us answer the question: “Who *made* the Sabbath day?”

Who Made the Sabbath?

In understanding the command to “remember” the Sabbath day and “keep” it holy, and who “made” the Sabbath in the first place — we need to turn to an account of the *very beginning* of God’s creation. The New Testament gives such an account in the first chapter of the gospel according to John.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things were made by him;* and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3). Here we find Jesus Christ described as the “Word” or “Spokesman,” as the original Greek may more

properly be rendered. This passage reveals that Jesus has been *with* the Father from the beginning, and that ALL things were made by Him — *by Jesus Christ!*

As the second person in the Godhead, the Father used *Him* as the instrument through whom the creation was brought into being. The Apostle Paul was inspired to speak of how God “created *all things* by Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:9).

In Hebrews, we find Christ described as the Son of God, “Whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb. 1:2).

These and many other scriptures show that He was the person in the Godhead who later became Jesus Christ, who actually *carried out* the job of creation! He was the One who said: “Let there be light,” and there *was* light. He was the One who *created* man — and set him on this earth in the garden of Eden.

So speaking of Him in particular who did the creating, the inspired writer of Genesis states: “And on the *seventh* day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. *And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it:* Because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made” (Gen. 2:2-3).

Jesus said that the Sabbath was made *for* man. Here we see that the Sabbath was made *when* man was made. And it was made *by* the very Divine person who later became Jesus Christ! It was made as an *intrinsic part* of the environment which surrounded man and which God made in the *seven* days of creation.

Notice that God “blessed” the *seventh* day and “sanctified” it. Such an honor was not conferred on any of the preceding six days. When God *blesses* something, He bestows His Divine favor upon, and His Divine presence in, that thing. The very word “sanctify” means to *set apart* for holy use or purpose.

Thus, we see that in the very act of creation, the Almighty God put His Divine favor upon, and set apart for holy use and purpose, a certain space of *the most enduring thing there is*.

The Sabbath Is a BLESSING

Certainly this insight into the background of the Sabbath gives added meaning to God's command: "*Remember the sabbath day to KEEP it holy.*" Through Jesus Christ, God MADE the *seventh* day of the week holy — and on His authority as our Creator *He commands us to keep it that way!*

The Sabbath, then, is HOLY time. Yet, it was made *for* man — as a great BLESSING to all mankind!

Our Creator knew that we would NEED a period of rest and worship every seventh day, and this is the basic purpose for which the Sabbath was created. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares and work and pleasure during the week. Our Creator foresaw this, and set apart His Sabbath days as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and draw closer to the Creator God in *study, meditation* and *prayer*.

Modern man desperately NEEDS this period of time in which to have real communion with his Maker and God. Taking time to think upon God and to *worship* Him, to *pray*, to *study* and *meditate* upon the purpose for human existence, and upon God's revealed laws of life, all this adds great STRENGTH and meaning to man's life the other six days of the week.

The Sabbath is one of the greatest BLESSINGS that has ever been bestowed upon the human family!

A Special Covenant

The command to keep the Sabbath is the only one in which we are enjoined to "remember." Yet it is the one command which many ministers and religious people seem most anxious to *forget!* Many have reasoned that since the Sabbath was contained in what is called the "Book of the Covenant" in Exodus 20 through 24, therefore it is no longer binding on us today who are under the New Covenant of Christ.

Such people seem to forget that, as we have already shown, God *made* the Sabbath day holy back at creation — long BEFORE there were any Jewish people, and *before*

the Old Covenant was made with Israel! They also forget that God *doubly* commanded the Sabbath by making a *special* and *separate* covenant with His people to keep it. This special covenant is spoken of in Exodus 31.

God told Moses: "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: For it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you" (Ex. 31:13). Here the Sabbath is spoken of as a "sign" that identified the true God — the God of Israel. But *how* is it a "sign"?

"It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel *forever*: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the *seventh* day he rested, and was refreshed" (verse 17). The Sabbath is a "sign" because *it identifies God as the One who CREATED all things!*

God commands: "Wherefore the children of Israel shall *keep the Sabbath* to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a *perpetual covenant*" (verse 16). Here is an EVERLASTING covenant to identify the true God of Israel — the CREATOR! *God Himself* rested on the *seventh* day, and *made it* HOLY in memory of His work of creation, and as an everlasting "sign" that He is the Creator.

The Sabbath Is of VITAL Importance

Throughout the Old Testament, the history of the nations of Israel and Judah show that they were blessed in every way when they worshiped the true God and kept His Sabbath holy. But when they *neglected* this command to "remember" His Sabbath, and began to worship the *created* instead of the Creator, they went off into pagan idolatry, human sacrifice, bloodshed and were PUNISHED by God through the stripes of men.

Approximately 721-718 B.C., the nation of Israel went into the *greatest national captivity* and *punishment* that has ever befallen any nation in all the history of this earth! The REASON for that punishment is described by God Himself in Ezekiel 20.

After describing how He brought Israel out of Egypt and gave them His statutes and judgments, God states:

“Moreover also I gave them *my Sabbaths* to be a SIGN between me and them, that they might *know* that I am the Lord that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: They walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and *my Sabbaths* they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my FURY upon them in the wilderness, to CONSUME them” (Ezek. 20:12-13).

Over and over throughout this chapter, God indicts the nation of Israel for rebelling against Him — and specifically condemns them for *breaking His Sabbaths*.

And it will be well to notice that God does not call them “*your Sabbaths*,” or “*Jewish Sabbaths*,” as so many like to say with contempt today, but the Almighty speaks of: “*MY Sabbaths*,” and *condemns* Israel for neglecting this command which He obviously regarded as of *extreme importance!*

It is important to reiterate that *God Himself* rested on *the seventh day* — and “sanctified” or *made holy* that day as a time of rest and worship pointing to the true God — the *Creator* of all.

God made the Sabbath command a *special* and *everlasting* covenant between Him and Israel. And the inspired example of Jesus Christ and His apostles certainly indicates that this identifying “sign” of the true God ought to be observed by the true servants of God — the “spiritual Israelites” today (see Rom. 2:28-29 and Gal. 3:28-29; 6:15-16).

It is an undeniable *fact* that every nation and every individual who has failed to “remember” the true Sabbath has been CUT OFF from the true God and turned to some form of pagan idolatry! For the Sabbath-keeper, God is REAL — He is the living, active Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is a God of POWER and *activity*.

But the God of the Sabbath-breaker evolves into a sort of “*essence*” or a harsh, stern unreal being who is “way off” somewhere. And in reality, such a false worship degenerates into carrying on a form of religious observance only because it is “socially acceptable.”

The Sabbath guards against *false* religions and *false* gods!

The Command Expounded

Understanding, then, that the Sabbath command is *just as binding* as the commandments against murder and adultery, let us proceed to analyze and expound this commandment of God and its application to our personal lives today.

Except for the explanatory and expository statements, the fourth commandment consists of two basic injunctions: First, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Second, "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work."

It is by the authority of God that the first six days of the week are appointed for man's business and labor. It is the will of God that man should *work* and earn his daily bread. He who idles away his time in the *six* days is equally guilty in the sight of God as the man who works on the *seventh!* The idle person is ordinarily clothed with rags and his idle mind and hands lead him into many wretched vices and sins.

This second part of the Sabbath command is just as *binding* as the first! He who never works is totally unfitted for worship! The honest, purposeful work of the six days is in itself an act of worship and obedience to God.

Man is placed in a world that contains all that is necessary for his physical being, *but to obtain it he must work!* It is part of the original intention of God, for man was placed in the garden of Eden "to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2:15).

However, in like manner, he who never pauses from his daily business and pursuits to worship as God has commanded on *the seventh day* which God has made holy and set apart is — through lack of contact with his Maker — rendered *incapable* of his highest potential achievement in *work*, in *service* and in the *joy* of accomplishment.

Since the very Creator has so commanded, we can keep the Sabbath day of rest and spiritual rejuvenation

with complete confidence that God will *bless* and *prosper* us because we have done this!

A Paid Vacation

Normally speaking, if you would quit working every few days to take a needed rest, you might naturally expect to get behind with your work and finances. But God Himself has set in motion a great LAW. God's Ten Commandments are living, *active* laws — just like the law of gravity. They are in operation — *they work automatically*.

The law of the Sabbath — backed up by the very POWER of the Creator — says that if you will pause to *rest* and *worship* Almighty God on *the seventh day* every week, you will be so *blessed* during the work of the six days that this will more than make up for what you might have accomplished by laboring on God's Sabbath! Do you realize what this amounts to?

In one way of looking at it, God is giving us a *paid vacation* every seventh day!

But this vacation is not only for the purpose of physical *rest*, it is also a time for *worship*, for *spiritual rededication*, for the *contemplation* and *exercise* of the spiritual purposes and laws of life which God has set. In the observance of *the seventh day* which God has made holy — and which *alone* points to creation — man is brought into close *communion* with his Maker and his God. For God's very *presence* as well as His divine *blessing* are especially evident in this day which He has set apart and sanctified.

These are the busiest days that humanity has ever seen. These are days in which most men seem to have little or no time for the contemplation of the spiritual purposes and goals of life — the *most* IMPORTANT questions which man ought to be considering.

The tremendous *blessing* of God's true Sabbath is that it enables man to take *TIME* to fully consider and weigh these most important of all questions in life — and to commune with his God and Creator in a way in which few men in this age have ever experienced. The true observance of the Sabbath would keep man in CONTACT with God! Without that contact, he is *cut off* from the very

purpose of his existence, from the *laws* that govern his success or failure in life, from an *understanding* of what he is, where he is going and how to get there.

Without this contact with the Creator God, the life of man is *emptiness*, *frustration* and a thing of VANITY. In this age above all others, man *needs* the contact with God, the spiritual strength and understanding, and the Divine *blessing* and *guidance* which proper observance of God's true Sabbath provides.

How to Keep the Sabbath

Through a complete misapplication of the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, some men have tried to make the Sabbath command appear as a "yoke of bondage." They often call it "Jewish" with a sneer and a smirk. They talk as if the Sabbath were *very hard* and *difficult* to keep — as though it were a great *curse* to mankind.

Actually, however, as many Protestant religious writers have themselves admitted, the essential Hebrew idea of the Sabbath was not that of gloom, but rather of *gladness* and *joy*. The Sabbath was a day of *delight*, a day in which man found — in cessation from toil and labor — the full understanding of his purposes and spiritual capacity.

God speaks through Isaiah: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on MY *holy day*; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasures, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isa. 58:13-14).

Notice that God says we are to DELIGHT in His SABBATH DAY. Yet we are not to seek our own *human* pleasure, but rather to increase our spiritual joy through *honoring* and *worshiping* our heavenly Father and God.

We are not even to speak our *own* words. Rather, we should spend the time during this holy day in *prayer* to

God, and in *studying, discussing, and meditating* upon God's Word or related things and events — literally *saturating* our minds and hearts with the thoughts and character of our Holy Father in heaven. Such observance of the true Sabbath brings deep *happiness* and *JOY*, because we are able to completely *rest* from worldly work and care, to *worship* our Maker with peace of mind and unhurried freedom, and because we have the *TIME* to think on and exercise our spiritual capacities and thus strengthen ourselves for the days and weeks ahead.

Although Christians are to live by the "spirit" of the law, we will certainly do well to follow the principle God gave to the Israelites in regard to *preparing ahead* for the Sabbath and thus enable ourselves to have that day completely free from worldly cares. In Exodus 16:22-23, God told the Israelites to do any heavy cooking or baking the day *before* the Sabbath. Since, as any real Bible student knows, God's days begin and end at sunset (Gen. 1:5; Lev. 23:32), a real Christian should plan to have his work *completed* before sunset on the evening of the sixth day. A Christian woman should have her house cleaned up, her dishes washed, and any heavy cooking or baking done before sunset on this day so that she and her husband may begin the Sabbath in an atmosphere of *rest* and *worship* — and that it may be a day which is truly kept *HOLY* to God.

Jesus' Example

In many places, by teaching and example, Christ taught us how to observe the Sabbath. In Mark 2:23-28, Christ showed that it is all right to procure food on the Sabbath *if one is hungry and* it is really necessary. He told the Pharisees that He was *Lord* of the Sabbath — it is *His* day, the true *Lord's day*.

Then on another Sabbath Jesus showed them that it was lawful to *do good* on the Sabbath day — and healed a crippled man to back up His point (Mark 3:1-5).

Further instruction on how to keep the Sabbath is found in Matthew 12:9-13. Here Jesus taught that it is certainly all right to relieve a human or an animal of

physical suffering on the Sabbath day — and to pull an ox out of the ditch. Jesus also taught, in principle, that you should feed and water your stock on the Sabbath day (Luke 13:15).

So the Sabbath is a day in which you should concentrate on the spiritual *worship* of God, but in which you can *do good* to others in spiritual matters of relieving suffering, and in which you may take care of any necessary “chores” such as feeding livestock so as to prevent their suffering on that day.

Jesus Christ — the inspired EXAMPLE of how every true Christian ought to live — taught by His own life and actions that the Sabbath is a *holy convocation* or *commanded assembly* for God’s people as is taught in Leviticus 23:3. Jesus’ example and customary practice is recorded in Luke 4:16 where we read that Jesus, “as his custom was . . . went into the synagogue on the *sabbath day*, and stood up for to read.”

Certainly the true Sabbath is a day for the united *worship* and *adoration* of God by His called servants. And it is a time for the preaching and expounding of God’s Word and His living laws. It is the duty of every true Christian, then, to find out *where* is that church in which he can really worship God “in *spirit* and in *truth*,” a church which properly observes the true Sabbath of the Creator God, and a church in which man is taught to “live by EVERY word of God.”

There are *several* churches which believe in keeping the *fourth commandment*. But most of these churches — in their teaching and practice — directly BREAK one or more of the *other* commandments. Jesus founded only ONE church (Matt. 16:18), and it *alone* keeps ALL of God’s commandments.

You need to find out about this church. Write immediately for the informative *free* booklet *Where Is God’s True Church Today?* Also the booklet *This Is the World-wide Church of God*.

We also offer you personal services to help you understand where God’s Church is and to help you with any questions you may have.

Personal Counsel

The Worldwide Church of God has ministers available in all parts of the United States and many other parts of the world, ready to counsel with you PERSONALLY — to answer any questions you may have about the Church or how to keep the Sabbath.

Of course, none of these men will call on you uninvited. But, if you of your own volition want to discuss these vital subjects with a qualified and dedicated servant of God, please write and let us know. We'd be happy to send our men to see you. See details on page 141.

REJOICE in God's Sabbath

Learn to keep the Sabbath in a *positive* way! Use the *seventh day* that God has *sanctified* and *made holy* as He has intended — to rest from worldly labor, to *pray*, to *study* and to *meditate* on God's Word and the purposes of human existence. Take time to *do good* to others, to care for the sick, to visit the afflicted. Assemble with other *true Christians* on the Sabbath if this is possible.

Be *thankful* and *grateful* that God has set aside twenty-four hours of precious TIME every single week in which you can *worship* Him and meditate on the really IMPORTANT lessons of life! This physical rest and spiritual rejuvenation will give your life new *purpose* and MEANING. Because you have plenty of TIME to do so, you can establish a personal, vital *contact* with Almighty God the Creator by observing the very day which points to Him as the great Author of all creation, and the One in whom "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

The beginning of all truth is to FEAR God (Prov. 1:7). You who understand should *fear* to break the fourth commandment and thus violate God's Sabbath day!

God calls the Sabbath: "My holy day" (Isa. 58:13). The Creator Himself has sanctified and set apart this period of time in which to *rest* and *worship* Him. If you appropriate this day for your own business or pleasure, you are STEALING from God — and you are guilty as a thief and a violator of the eighth commandment! You are

also "coveting" time that *does not belong to you*, but to God, and are therefore *breaking* the tenth commandment also! You are certainly putting something ahead of the true God, and are therefore reckoned as GUILTY of breaking the first commandment! You are breaking the fifth commandment as well, for you are *dishonoring* and *disobeying* your spiritual Father in heaven!

And regardless of the silly and often contradictory arguments of carnal minded men, you are BREAKING the fourth commandment — the "test" commandment — which God has set as an identifying SIGN between Him and His people forever — which points to Him as the Creator and Ruler of all, and which keeps those who obey this God-given "sign" in a right relationship with the *true* GOD!

In this materialistic age of "modernism" and *religious confusion*, of increasing *crime* and *violence*, and of constant threat of *war* and *human annihilation*, we need more than at any other time in human history to OBEY the *fourth commandment* of Almighty God! We need to *keep holy* and *sacred* the seventh day that God *made* holy. More than people of any other age, we desperately need this sanctified TIME in which to, as was suggested, "*re-evaluate the meaning of life.*"

The seventh day and that day *alone* which God made holy is the commanded and God-blessed *time* for *rest*, for *worship* and for *contemplation* of the vital keys to the *MEANING* of life.

If you have any doubt whatsoever about which day the Sabbath should be observed on, write for our free, fully illustrated booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

Properly understood and properly observed, the *fourth commandment* — *God's Holy Sabbath* — is one of the greatest BLESSINGS that the Creator has ever bestowed upon the children of men! It is an identifying SIGN between man and the *true* God. *Remember* it — *keep it holy!*

PART FIVE

The Fifth Commandment

YOUTHFUL *violence* and *insolence* characterize the age in which we live. Broken homes are increasing. Teen-age crime is literally *skyrocketing!*

Although the number of 10- to 17-year-old juveniles in the United States rose by 29 percent in the last decade, arrests of juveniles grew more than 100 percent in the same period. (See page 35 of the 1970 *Uniform Crime Report*.) This is a shocking situation.

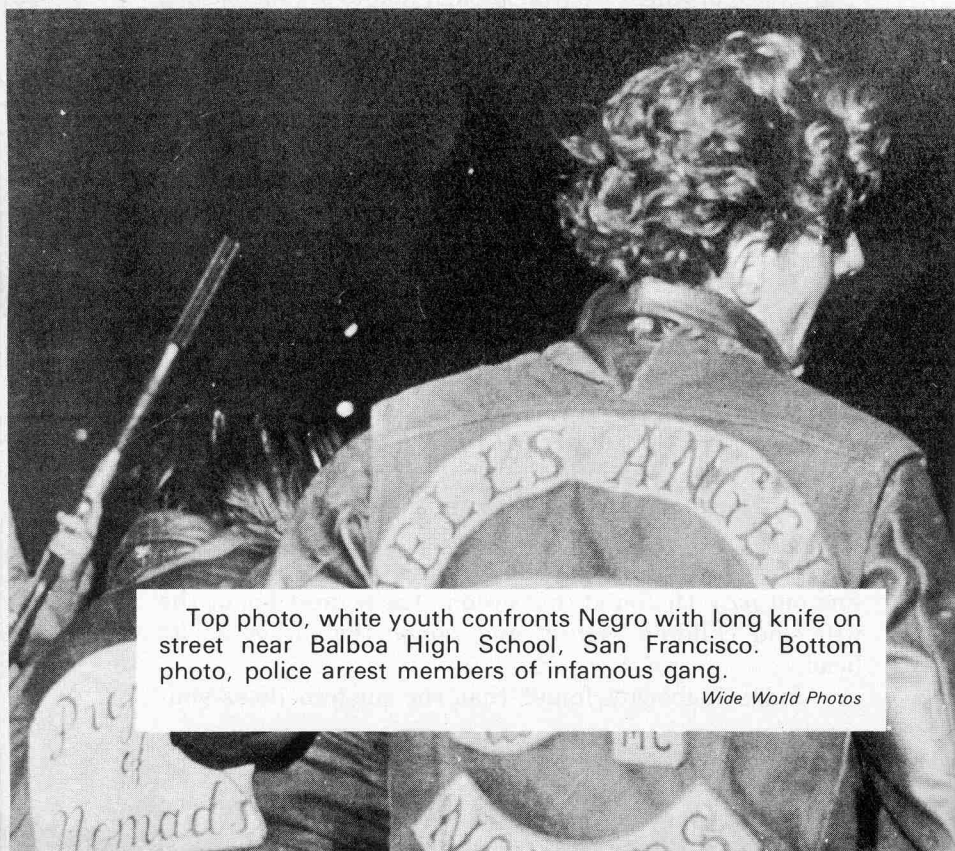
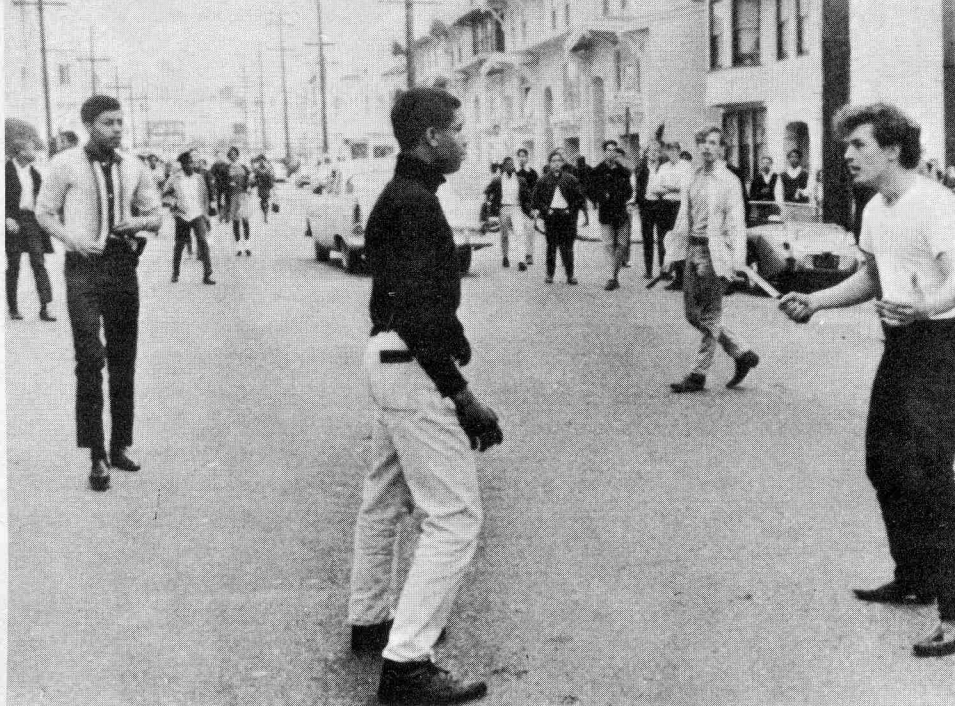
Why Youthful Crime?

One of America's most respected authorities on juvenile problems, Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz, set out to find the answer to the frustration of America's youth. He decided to go to the Western nation with the *lowest* reported incidence of juvenile crime, Italy.

He sought the answer from police and school officials throughout the nation. From every part of Italy, he received the same answer: *Young people in Italy respect authority.*

Then Judge Leibowitz had to go into Italian homes to find out *why*. He found that even in the poorest home, the wife and children *respect* and *honor* the father as its head.

Judge Leibowitz found that the modern do-as-you-



Top photo, white youth confronts Negro with long knife on street near Balboa High School, San Francisco. Bottom photo, police arrest members of infamous gang.

Wide World Photos

please, "permissive" world does not really make a child happy and balanced. Rather, he found, a child wants the solid walls of discipline and rules around him, defining his world — telling him exactly how far he can go.

Just as will be expected of him in the adult world, *a child must be DISCIPLINED to do things he does not necessarily want to do*. From babyhood, a child must be taught to *respect* and OBEY his parents.

Judge Leibowitz concluded his investigations with a nine-word solution to juvenile delinquency: *Put father back at the head of the family*.

The remarkable ANSWER to juvenile problems given by this eminent authority goes deeper than might be realized. For it goes to the very *source* of the problem: *A lack of deep-seated respect for constituted authority beginning in infancy and continuing throughout life*.

This problem has its origin in childhood — in the HOME! Long before a child is even aware of the existence of the church, the school, the nation, he is forming *attitudes* and *habits* toward those who are his superiors in the nursery, the home, and the neighborhood.

Developed *from infancy*, this part of a child's character will undoubtedly affect his thoughts and actions *for the rest of his natural life!*

The Fifth Commandment Stated

The *first four commandments* define *man's relationship with God*. They teach us the *magnitude* of God's power and name — and exhort us to *remember* Him as Creator of *all* that is.

The *fifth commandment* is placed first among those which govern our human relationships. It is not only chief in importance among these when we understand its full meaning, but it acts as a "bridge" between the two sections of God's Law.

For true obedience to the fifth commandment is inevitably linked with *obedience* and *honor* toward God Himself!

Our Creator knew this when He inspired it to be "the first commandment with promise."

HIPPIES, BAROMETER OF SICK YOUTH — Hippies and spectators during "love-in." Signs illustrate the hopelessness and their views of "morality."

Maidani — Ambassador College



“HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: *that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*”

Why “honor” our parents?

The true *answer* reveals the DEPTH of this commandment and its true import. If only EVERY *parent on earth* might come to realize the *tremendous* INFLUENCE upon a child’s later life that automatically comes as a *direct result* of obedience or disobedience to this God-given command!

This commandment is one of the TEN GREAT POINTS of God’s eternal, spiritual Law. Under the Old Testament dispensation, the penalty for directly and flagrantly violating this law was DEATH!

“He that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely *put to death* . . . And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be *put to death*” (Ex. 21:15, 17). That is how IMPORTANT this command is in God’s eyes!

The home and the *family unit* is the basis of all decent society. And the *relationship* of children to their parents is an exact type of the *spiritual relationship* between true Christians and God. The lessons of *character* learned in that relationship may last children *the rest of their lives* — and for ETERNITY!

In the eyes of a small child, a parent stands in the place of *God Himself*. For the parent is the child’s provider, protector, lover, teacher and lawgiver.

A child’s early training and response to this relationship will in large measure determine his later response to the larger relationships with society. And, ultimately, it is certain to affect his relationship with his spiritual Father in heaven.

Honor and Respect for Parents

The New Testament magnifies this command in many places. The Apostle Paul wrote: “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise*” (Eph. 6:1-2).

The original command to “honor” father and mother applies to all of us throughout our lives. But in this place

children, specifically, are told to *obey* their parents "in the Lord."

Because of his total lack of experience and judgment, it is absolutely necessary that a child *be taught to OBEY* his parents *instantly* and *without question*. Explanations and reasons for this may and should be given to the child from time to time. But, at the moment a parental command is given, *there may not be time or opportunity to give the reason why!*

Therefore, it is imperative that a child be taught the HABIT of unquestioning *obedience* to his parents. For, until the young child develops, his parents stand to him *in the place of God*. And God holds them RESPONSIBLE for teaching and directing the child properly.

Obedience "in the Lord"

By direct implication, a parent is bound by the fifth command to *make himself* honorable. For to be honored, one must *be honorable*.

Every parent needs to realize that he *represents God* to his child! Realizing this, he should live a life *worthy* of the child's deep *respect* and *reverence*. Then, he should *teach* his child to *honor* and *respect* both of his parents.

As the child matures, the parent should *instruct* his child about the existence of the great spiritual Father of all life, the Creator of heaven and earth, the sovereign Ruler of the universe — Almighty God.

Christian parents should teach their children to *honor* and *obey* their spiritual Father with even more implicit faith and love than they do their earthly parents. For the *GREATEST* lesson that a child or *anyone* can be taught is that of *fear* and obedience to the One who set in motion all life in the first place!

Thus, a child will be taught the *habit of obedience*. He will learn to *respect authority*. In due time, if his mind is opened to know the Supreme FATHER of all life, he will already have learned *the very basis of God's character* — loving OBEEDIENCE to God, and deep *respect* and *reverence* for all law and constituted authority.

BLESSING for Obedience

The Apostle Paul re-emphasizes the *blessing* attached to the fifth commandment: "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:3).

If a young person had been taught from childhood a *deep respect* for his elders and the *habit of obedience* toward those lawfully set over him, he would NEVER become a juvenile delinquent! He would NEVER think of robbing or beating an elderly person! He would NEVER think of contemptuously defying school or police authorities!

Obedience to the fifth commandment automatically results in the building of habits and character which tend to long life. A young person so trained will avoid the *recklessness*, the *violence*, the *wrong companionships* and the *rebellion against authority* which often result in untimely death.

And, in its ultimate meaning, those who learn to *respect* and *obey* their parents and later — because of this training — God Himself, will certainly "live long on the earth." For, as Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek [the *humble* and *obedient*]: for *they shall inherit the earth*" (Matt. 5:5).

There are also many *everyday* blessings to the obedient child. Certainly not the least of these is the sense of *security*. As Judge Leibowitz pointed out, a child is confused unless he is told the bounds of his activities. But if a child is told what those bounds are by his parents — and stays within them — he is then relieved of the *responsibility* which he innately realizes his parents must shoulder.

Frustration is another problem which is alleviated! The disobedient child is a *frustrated* child — for his mind is constantly plagued with feelings of *guilt* and *rebellion*.

A child who loves, honors and obeys his parents is a BLESSED child indeed! He will tend to live a more truly happy, carefree and purposeful life. And in his spiritual life, he will pass through the natural and beautiful

sequence from the honoring of his parents to the joyful worshipping of his God!

Thus far we have dealt primarily with the application of the fifth commandment to children and young people. But the original command to "honor" our parents is not addressed to children — but to *everyone*.

Even Adults Should Honor Their Parents

The time may come when it is no longer necessary or right that a person should strictly obey his parents. But the days should NEVER come when he should cease to honor them.

The word "honor" has a much larger meaning than that of obedience. It indicates a *high respect* as for *worth, merit* or rank. It denotes a feeling of *high esteem* and *reverence*.

A person who has properly *obeyed* his parents in childhood later expresses his honor for them in a deeper appreciation of the comforts and training they provided him as a child. This honor expresses itself in *courtesy, thoughtfulness* and *kindly deeds*.

As we mature, it becomes increasingly evident that untold hours of work, of anxious thought and agonized prayer were bestowed for our welfare by faithful and loving parents. It should become the delight of every decent man and woman *to return this love which our parents created*.

In the evening of life, many parents long for this affection and fellowship with their children more, perhaps, than for any other blessing.

Let us THINK and *act* on this opportunity to return the love our parents so freely gave!

A Common Sin

To the everlasting SHAME of our professing Christian society, thousands of elderly parents are reduced to living on a mere pittance that comes to them through governmental agencies. In all too many cases, the children are able but simply UNWILLING to provide additional comforts as generous as their ability allows.

Jesus Christ gave one of the most forceful interpretations of the fifth commandment in its application to this very problem. In His day, men were excusing themselves from providing for the necessity of their parents. They were saying that funds which might have been used in this way were "Corban," that is, dedicated to the service of the altar. These funds were *not* part of God's tithe, but rather an additional *offering* which was used to gain favor in approaching God.

Reproaching these hypocritical religionists, Jesus said: "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death" (Mark 7:9-10).

Now notice how these hypocrites "reasoned" their way around this commandment!

Jesus continued: "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me*; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition . . ." (verses 11-13).

Jesus CONDEMNED these hypocrites. His words plainly teach that a Christian person MUST give material and financial assistance to his aged parents if it is possible and their needs so require. He must NOT excuse himself by saying that all his extra funds are "dedicated to God"!

This is a part of our obedience to the fifth commandment.

Jesus' Own Personal Example

Jesus Christ LIVED the message He taught. His own personal life is a dramatic illustration of *obedience* to the fifth commandment.

Just before His death, Jesus said: "I have kept my Father's commandments" (John 15:10). Through *obedience* to His heavenly Father, and to his human parents as well, Jesus grew in *wisdom* and *maturity* even as a youth.

Speaking of His childhood, Luke records: "And the

child grew, and waxed *strong in spirit*, filled with WISDOM: and the *grace* of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40).

Then we read the remarkable account of His trip to Jerusalem for Passover at age twelve. After the days of unleavened bread, His parents started the trip home without Him — supposing Jesus was with neighbors or relatives (verses 43-44).

This in itself shows that Jesus' parents relied on His dependability and good judgment — supposing He was with other young people in the caravan as the group headed back toward Nazareth. As parents, Joseph and Mary had learned to TRUST His obedience and wisdom.

But now, perplexed about Him, perhaps, for the first time in their lives, they turned back and finally found Jesus. They did NOT find Him in a pool-hall, nightclub or place of amusement!

They found Him in God's temple, "sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions" (verse 46). He had remained to investigate and learn more of the ways of His *heavenly* Father!

Jesus' Wisdom as a Youth

Remember, He was only *twelve* years old. But His parents had instructed Him from *God's Word*. And He had HEEDED their instruction! He had STUDIED diligently. He had GROWN in the knowledge and understanding of God's ways.

Now, even in the midst of these highly educated doctors of the law, Luke writes: "And all that heard him were *astonished* at his UNDERSTANDING and his answers" (verse 47).

When Jesus' mother asked Him why He had remained behind in this way, He said: "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49.)

Jesus undoubtedly gave special emphasis to some of these words. "Didn't you know, Mother — you who have always taught me about God — that I must be about His business?"

There must have been a special understanding

between them when Jesus said: "I must be about my *Father's* business," as He looked at Joseph and Mary. For it had been a long time now since His supernatural conception and birth, and Jesus may have been gently reminding His human guardians that He fully understood, more than they had realized, the nature of His birth and that His real Father was God in heaven!

Honor to the Very End

But although gently reminding them of this, "he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them" (verse 51). So Jesus continued to *respect* and OBEY His human parents while maturing physically and preparing for His Divine mission in behalf of His heavenly Father.

Even in His dying moments, *while suffering one of the most agonizing deaths ever devised by men*, Jesus HONORED and loved His mother to the very end.

Just before He died on the stake, John records: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:26-27).

Here Jesus made final provision for His mother to be taken care of by John after His death. At a time when the thoughts of all other men would have been of *self*, Jesus still remembered the fifth commandment and extended *love* and *honor* to the woman who bore Him, who had nourished Him from infancy, who had taught Him from the scriptures, and who now stood in this awful place — unashamed — weeping at His death.

REMEMBER the *perfect example* of Jesus Christ!

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

PART SIX

The Sixth Commandment

THIS IS an age of HATE and violence. It is an age of intense *competition, strife* and personal *tensions*.

The nations of the earth — and the individuals within them — are conditioning their minds and consciences to the likelihood of *wholesale MURDER* — and possibly *world suicide*. Naturally, this situation is *devastating* to the spiritual principles and ideals of our people. The effect of this is being felt NOW — *even as you read this book*.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in its *Uniform Crime Report — 1970*, declared that a serious crime such as murder, rape, assault with intent to kill, robbery, burglary, or auto theft occurred 11 times a minute in 1970!

During the 10 years between 1960 and 1970, serious crimes in this country increased 176 percent while population rose 13 percent.

So you see, crime grew *over 13* times faster than population. (See pages 2, 31, and 65 of 1970 *Uniform Crime Report* and page 5 of 1971 Statistical Abstract of the United States.)

The Sixth Commandment Stated

Men have *forsaken* God and His Law! Modern man does not know and does not FEAR the true Creator God.

He *breaks with impunity* the great spiritual LAW of God. And now he is beginning to *pay the penalty*.

Obedience to the Ten Commandments would stop the growth of a living HELL which is rapidly festering in what we call "civilization" today!

We have seen the BLESSINGS that come through *fear* and *respect* for the one true God, through *reverencing* His name and office, through *hallowing* His Sabbath day to keep it in the true knowledge of Him, and through *honoring* our fathers and mothers in their high office which directly reflects His fatherhood and love for all creation.

In all these commandments, we have seen *love* and *wisdom* and BLESSINGS. And so it is with the *sixth commandment*.

Amid the thunders and lightnings and the literal SHAKING of Mount Sinai, God's voice *thundered* the sixth commandment:

"THOU SHALT NOT MURDER" (Exodus 20:13, Jewish translation).

Biblical authorities agree that "murder" is a more correct reading of the original inspired Hebrew than the word "kill." For it is possible to kill and yet not to murder. And it is important to understand that only the *letter* of God's Law was given to ancient Israel, whereas Christians are to live even by the *spirit* and *fullest intent* of that Law as magnified by Christ Himself.

Israel Understood Only the Letter of the Law

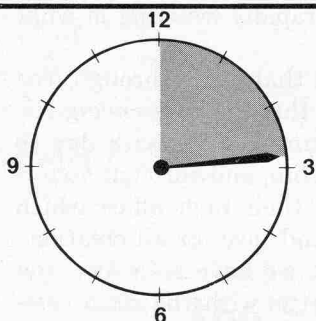
Under the original letter of the law, it was *intentional* killing or *murder* which was forbidden. Remember that in this same "book of the Covenant" given to Israel, God commanded them to *kill* or *execute* those guilty of major crimes (Ex. 21:12-17). Also, the instructions in Numbers 35:9-34 show that *accidental killing* was not regarded as murder.

Even here, though, manslaughter was obviously a terrible offense — and the careless or "unwitting" slayer had to remain in a city of refuge for perhaps *many years* until the High Priest died.

Just as capital punishment was commanded by God

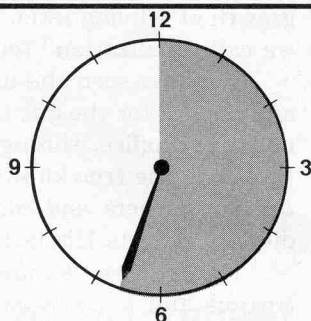
CRIME CLOCKS

1970



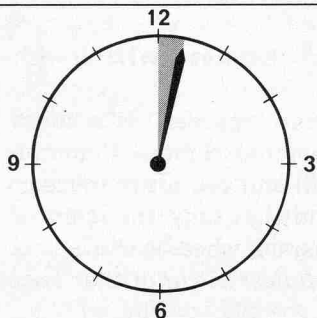
FORCIBLE RAPE

ONE EVERY **14** MINUTES



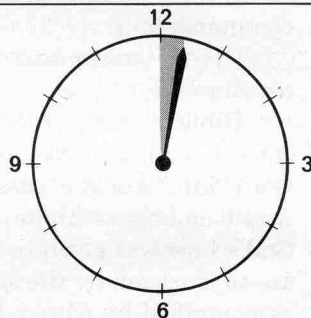
MURDER

ONE EVERY **33** MINUTES



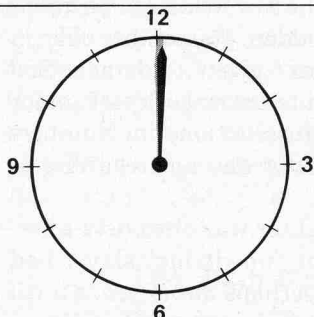
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

ONE EVERY **96** SECONDS



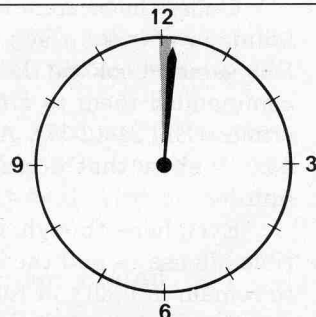
ROBBERY

ONE EVERY **91** SECONDS



BURGLARY

ONE EVERY **15** SECONDS



AUTO THEFT

ONE EVERY **34** SECONDS

for serious crimes under the “letter” of the Law, so the *commanded wars* of Israel are viewed not as acts of wholesale murder but the carrying out of the Divine will through human instruments. Notice in Deuteronomy 7:1-2, that God directly commanded Israel to *exterminate* the heathen tribes in the land of Canaan!

This was NOT humanly devised warfare nor was it personal vengeance or malice. It was the express WILL of Almighty God who gives life — and who *alone* has the right to say when it shall be taken.

It is worthy of note in passing to say that the history of the time indicates that these nations occupying Canaan were absolutely WICKED in the extreme — and were *burning alive* their own children in human sacrifice to their pagan gods. This was part of the intelligent *reason* why the Creator ordered their extermination at that time.

Notice that in all these cases where God permitted man to take life, it was only *as His agent* — *at His express will*.

When the nation of Israel entered a war on their *own* initiative, they were routed with slaughter. In those instances when God ordered them to war, He was using them as His INSTRUMENT of judgment instead of a plague or famine.

In considering the things permitted ancient Israel, bear in mind also that they were one of the *physical* nations of this earth — whereas God’s kingdom is now a *spiritual* entity. Describing the difference in the operation of God’s Law in the carnal Israelite and the Spirit-led Christian, the Apostle Paul stated: “*For the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life*” (II Cor. 3:6).

Remember the principle set forth by Jesus Christ regarding what Moses “permitted” the unconverted, carnal-minded Israelites to do in certain cases: “*For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the BEGINNING it was not so*” (compare Matt. 19:8 with Mark 10:5).

God’s *original* PURPOSE is that man should *learn not to kill*. And although it was “permitted” in certain instances to the carnal, unconverted people of Israel, we

shall see that God is now developing in His Spirit-begotten children the character to *love*, to *serve* and to *save* life — NOT to destroy it.

The SOURCE of Life

“And God said, Let us make man in *our image*, after *our likeness*: and let them have *dominion* . . .” (Gen. 1:26).

Man is given life by his Creator. He did not give it to himself. Neither may he take it from himself — or from others. Life is sacred because it is God-given.

Man has been made in the very *image* and *likeness* of God. Of all the physical creation, only man has the type of *mind* that God possesses. God is the RULER of all that is. But out of human flesh he is forming *literal sons* who will some day share in that rule. So God said: “Let them have *dominion* . . .”

Man needs *experience* in order to develop the CHARACTER God purposes for him. Experience requires *time*. And a man's *life* consists of just *so much time*. God GAVE that life for the supreme *PURPOSE* of preparing another son to be in His kingdom and family *forever*.

The *giving* of life, and breath, and ability includes all. It is the most wonderful gift of which man has knowledge.

The *taking* of life ends all. It cruelly and unexpectedly CRUSHES all the hopes and dreams and plans of a man made in the very image of the CREATOR Himself. It is a wicked usurpation by man of a prerogative belonging to God alone who gives life in the first place — and who alone has the authority to take it away (Job 1:21-22).

That is why *any* form of murder is one of the *ten great* sins. It is DESTROYING the highest creation of Almighty God! In effect, it is an attempt to thwart the very *PURPOSE* of the great, sovereign *RULER* of the universe!

The *Giver* of all life is God. And puny, mortal man has *no business whatsoever interfering with GOD's greatest gift!*

Personal Application of the Command

Jesus Christ came into this world to “magnify” God's Law and make it honorable (Isa. 42:21). Jesus cast a

spotlight as it were on the Ten Commandments, and showed their real spiritual *intent* and *meaning* in the full Christian life.

Jesus said: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: *But I say unto you*, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:21-22).

Here murder is traced to its source — *hate* and *anger*. Christ declared that if personal anger filled the heart of one of His subjects, such a person is in danger of *judgment*. If that anger leads a man to have utter derision and contempt for his fellow human being, that man shall be "in danger of the council" — of God's *punishment*. If in bitterness and scorn a man shall say of his fellow, "Thou fool," such a man shall be "in danger of the hell of fire."

This is Jesus Christ's application of the sixth commandment to you and me! If we harbor *hate* and *anger* in our hearts, we are harboring the "spirit" of *murder*!

Action follows thought. First we think, then we do! The Spirit of Christ guides us not only to control our actions, but to control our *thoughts* and our *attitudes*!

In part, the New Covenant is the process of God writing His LAW in our *hearts*, and *minds*, and inward parts (Heb. 8:10).

God spoke through Paul: "Dearly beloved, avenge NOT yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

Man is *incapable* of taking vengeance with proper wisdom and justice to all concerned. God ALONE has the wisdom and power and the "right" to take vengeance on human beings — to the extent of *executing* them if need be. The true Christian must learn that God is REAL — and that His *protection* and His vengeance is *just as real*!

The Character You Should Build

How, then, should you deal with your enemies? "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; If he thirst, give him drink: For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (verses 20-21).

It takes real *strength* of character to *help* and *serve* your fellow human being when he has directly tried to harm you! It takes the spiritual *wisdom* to realize that he is a fellow human being, made in the image of God, and simply misguided for the time being in his thoughts and actions.

Instead of the natural tendency to want to "get even" with one who has done us wrong, a real Christian must really LEARN the lesson that the Apostle Paul was allowed to bring to us directly from the lips of Christ: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

God is the GIVER of every good and every perfect gift (James 1:17). He has given us our *lives*, our *strength*, our *minds*, our *abilities* — everything we have or hope to have comes from Him! In order to live happily forever as God's son, man also must learn to GIVE — to *serve* — to *love*. This is the great LESSON of life.

The *perfect* definition of this highest of all attributes — *Christian LOVE* — is given in the 13th chapter of I Corinthians. *Read it. Study it.*

The spirit of *malice* and *murder* is the *exact* OPPOSITE of this basic attribute which God requires of His sons.

Notice the Apostle John's emphasis of this point: "We know that... no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:14-15).

A continued lack of love in carnal human beings leads to *hate*. And hate leads to MURDER. God says the spirit of hate *is* murder!

And this "spirit" of murder is not an indefinable nothing. Doctors and psychologists have clinically proved that people in the attitude of *strife* and *malice* and *hate* literally become SICK physically — and have a form of mental INSANITY if this mental attitude is not changed! And in all

too many cases, these wrong emotions lead to the *literal* MURDER of a fellow human being.

Mass Murder in the Christian Home?

Concerning these wrong emotions of *lust* and *hate* and *covetousness*, God warns us: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the *lust* of the flesh, and the *lust* of the eyes, and the *pride* of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:15-16).

Certainly there is no more dramatic example of the *drinking in* and *cultivation* of LUST, and VIOLENCE than that of a professing Christian sitting and absorbing — hour after hour — a literal DELUGE of fornications, adulteries, beatings and murders from his television screen or that of the nearby motion picture theater!

Jesus said: "Whosoever looketh upon a woman to LUST after her *hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*" (Matt. 5:28).

So it is with *hate* and *violence* and *murder*! If you'll "look on" this sort of thing night after night and *entertain* these thoughts in your mind and heart, you are bound to be GUILTY, in spirit at least, of the very actions with which you are saturating your heart and mind!

It is time to WAKE UP!

It is time that professing *Christian* people and nations learned to *quit saturating their minds and hearts with filth, violence and murder*!

The Breaking Down of Spiritual Principles

To a far greater extent than most of us realize, our modern society is literally based on a system of *competition*, *greed* and *selfishness*. In other words — in plain language — it is based on the spirit of MURDER!

You have never thought of it that way before, have you?

Well, it is a *fact*, and it is time you *came out* of this modern "Babylon" (Rev. 18:4) before Almighty God intervenes to PUNISH!

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VIOLENCE IN MOVIES

Typical movie marquees in United States cities. The emphasis is on violence and bizarre forms of murder.

Ambassador College Photos



There is not space here even to enumerate all the conceivable forms of *murder* indulged in regularly in our Western world. But we do need to understand the *principle* of the sixth commandment, and to OBEY it!

In "respectable" business, it is all too often a practice to overlook *the cumulative damage* to human beings that the use of certain manufactured products involve — particularly *the emasculation* of life-sustaining food products. The manufacturer and the advertiser alike both close their eyes from what — in many cases — scientists KNOW is a grave danger if certain products are used regularly.

"It's just business," people say to excuse themselves.

But God says your first and most important "business" is to OBEY His Law of love!

To a great extent in the past, and in some cases even at the present time, certain industries have forced their employees to work under such conditions, with such equipment, or such long hours that those at the top really KNEW that a certain percentage of God-given human LIFE would be sacrificed in their business operations to make more money! Those who think this is "respectable" murder will come to a rude awakening in the cold light of God's impartial judgment!

In like manner, modern employees have banded themselves together in labor union movements. They — like the employers — have literally MURDERED to get their way or to gain more of what God describes as "filthy lucre." To all those who read and understand, we may only echo Jesus' words: "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*"

Other Personal Violations

There are hundreds of those in our society *who take their own lives*. But this, too, is *violating* the sixth commandment! It is GOD who gives life — and no man has the right to take that God-given life, even the one to whom it has been committed as a steward. For such a one is *refusing* to fulfill the purpose for his creation — and is in effect *condemning* and BLASPHEMING the very Creator in one of the strongest possible ways!

The modern psychology of pleasing the "self" has led

many to other forms of *murder*. *Thousands* of young women each year are committing a crime against God and man which is far greater than most of them have perhaps realized. In their desire to evade responsibility or to cover up shame, they are willfully *taking the lives* of unborn babies still carried in their wombs! This practice is called *abortion* — and it is clearly MURDER in the sight of the Almighty God who gave these little lives!

So-called “mercy killing” is simply the revival of an ancient *pagan practice*! It advocates the medical “murder” of a patient suffering from an incurable disease or in great pain.

But, once again, men who advocate such practices have left GOD *completely out of the picture*! They don't think of God as REAL. They forget that God GAVE life — and that he *alone* has the right to take it away. And in many cases they are *ignorant* of His divine POWER to heal *any kind of disease or sickness* — no matter what the medical science of the moment might be able to do.

God has NEVER given the right to puny, mortal men to carry on such a so-called practice as “mercy killing.” Its practitioners will stand guilty before His judgment for MURDER!

There is another species of murder that uses the *tongue* as its instrument. This is the case of a man so *reviling, condemning* and *scandalizing* his fellow human being as to lead him to physical and mental sickness — and possibly *death* or *suicide*.

The Apostle Paul describes the *attitude* of these men who have forgotten God: “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters . . .” (Rom. 1:29-30). Paul says the judgment of God indicates that such men “are worthy of *death*” (verse 32).

Those who *revile* or *scandalize* their fellow man to the point of misery and distraction are GUILTY of the spirit of murder — and perhaps *literal murder* if such action leads to the death of a fellow human being!

"*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof*" (Prov. 18:21).

Humanity's Greatest Crime

Perhaps the greatest international crime of humanity is the scourge of *war*. Millions of human lives created in the image of God have been mercilessly *slaughtered* down through the ages in useless, senseless, idiotic wars which in most cases *failed utterly to accomplish their stated purpose!*

The spirit of God's Law as magnified by Jesus Christ is as *totally opposed* to every form of war as would seem possible! Nearly all the really great religious and political leaders of the world have acknowledged the utter FUTILITY of war.

Before the outbreak of World War II, Pope Pius XII declared: "Everything is gained by peace; nothing is gained by war."

One of the most respected statesmen and military leaders of our time, the late General Douglas MacArthur, has stated: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace . . . military alliances, balances of powers, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. *We have had our last chance.* If we will not devise some greater and equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is THEOLOGICAL and involves a spiritual recrudescence, and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. *It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.*"

Humanity's "last chance" is to REPENT of the sin of war before *human annihilation removes every vestige of life from this planet!*

United Press International Photo

" . . . it must be of the spirit, if we are to save the flesh" —
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR.



General MacArthur acknowledged that the problem we face is *theological* — it is a *Christian* problem involving a true knowledge of the true GOD! He went on to say that it involves an “improvement of human character.”

The greatest statesman of all times was Jesus Christ. He was the Spokesman for the government or kingdom of God. Christ said: “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you . . .” (Matt. 5:43-44).

There is a great deal of highly respectable, cultured, and most interesting paganism abroad in the world today under the name of “Christianity.” But can even this sophisticated paganism face these clear words of Jesus Christ without confessing that His life, His teaching, and His Spirit CONDEMN the very essence of war?

More lives have been snuffed out prematurely, more suffering has been endured, more homes have been wrecked and broken, more time and property has been utterly wasted because of the scourge of war than through any other means in the history of man!

And war has NEVER solved the problems of men or brought permanent peace. Instead, it only *breeds more war!* “For all they that take the sword shall PERISH with the sword” (Matt. 26:52).

The Bible Teaching

Jesus Christ came into this world as a *messenger* of the government or kingdom of God. He took no part in this world’s politics or wars. On trial for His very life before Pontius Pilate, He said: “My kingdom is NOT of this world: If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews: But now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).

As we have stated, only GOD who gave life has the right to take life. Therefore, only *God* has the right to wage war! And, as Jesus taught, God does not choose to have His children wage war for Him during this age.

Jesus said that His servants would fight IF His kingdom were of this world. But it is NOT. And wars fought by and for the governments or kingdoms of this world are in *defiance* of the higher government and RULE of Almighty God from whom all real authority proceeds.

The Apostle Paul stated to the Christians at Corinth: "For though we walk in the flesh, *we do not WAR after the flesh*" (II Cor. 10:3).

Through the Apostle James, God shows that war results from a type of spirit *exactly opposite* that which He wants His servants to have. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your LUSTS that war in your members? You lust, and have not: Ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: Ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:1-2).

A Lack of Real FAITH

Men do *not* BELIEVE that God could give them — individually and nationally — the material possessions that they want and need. Instead, they feel they must *compete* and *fight* and WAR to get these things.

When an aggressor attacks, peoples and nations of this world REFUSE to trust God to deliver them as he did ancient Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14). Today, we are *divided* and *confused* in our religious, political and national loyalties. There is no modern Moses to command us: "The Lord shall fight for you, and *ye shall hold your peace*" (Ex. 14:14).

In plain language, *there is no nation on earth* — including America and Britain — that really KNOWS and TRUSTS the true living GOD for His supernatural protection in time of war!

Instead, we seem to find it easier to spend countless BILLIONS of dollars and man-hours to protect ourselves. Countless millions of lives are killed or crippled or ruined. And millions of young men are taught to become effective killers — *murderers!*

Indeed, one of the most devastating indictments against war is that it breeds in whole populations the spirit of *violence* and MURDER. In one generation, Americans are

taught to *hate* the British in a Revolutionary war. Later, they are taught to *hate* the Mexicans and the Spanish. Still later, they must *hate* and *destroy* the Germans and the Japanese! And now, the entire Western world — called “Christian” by some — is taught to return the *hate* and *violence* and spirit of MURDER of the Communistic hordes of the East!

No wonder there is so much violence, crime, adultery and broken homes in the wake of every war! More than any other one thing, war breeds the *spirit of murder*! And that evil spirit is growing and increasing throughout the world today!

God's Government Will End War

Jesus Christ came preaching the good news of the government or RULE of God. That rule is based on the *Ten Commandments* — God's spiritual Law.

Jesus *magnified* that Law and showed its spiritual intent and purpose. He taught that if we even *hate* our brother, we are spiritually *guilty of murder*! Jesus taught that men should OBEY the laws of God and prepare for His coming kingdom by yielding themselves to let God's Laws — His *character* — be placed within them.

When God's government does come very soon now to this earth, His LAW will go forth as the standard of conduct of all nations (Micah 4:1-2). At that time, God *alone* will wage war to punish rebellious nations in perfect wisdom and justice.

As for the peoples of the world themselves? “Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war anymore*” (verse 3).

War involves *learning* to hate and kill! Young men will no longer be forced to LEARN an attitude which is diametrically opposed to the rule of God's Law of love!

The late President Eisenhower said: “Man's hope for world peace does not rest in opposing armed camps, but in an idea. That idea is *the concept of a RULE OF LAW* as the means of settling disputes among sovereign states.” Whether this former President realized it or not, he pointed up the fact that only the government of God based

WAR — THE ENEMY OF MAN!

DPA Photo



on His LAWS will solve the problems of men and nations!

But meanwhile, true Christians must work and pray for God's kingdom of peace, and we must realize that the spirit of war is the spirit of MURDER — and avoid it with all of our strength.

Jesus Christ and War

Speaking before the League of Nations, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick put this thought in a very powerful way: "We cannot reconcile Jesus Christ and war — that is the essence of the matter. That is the challenge which today should stir the conscience of Christendom. War is the most colossal and ruinous social sin that afflicts mankind; it is utterly and irremediably unchristian; in its total method and effect it means everything that Jesus did not mean and it means nothing that He did mean; it is a more blatant denial of every Christian doctrine about God and man than all the theoretical atheists on earth ever could devise. It would be worth while, would it not, to see the Christian Church claim as her own this greatest moral issue of our time, to see her lift once more as in our fathers' days, a clear standard against the paganism of this present world and, refusing to hold her conscience at the beck and call of belligerent states, put the kingdom of God above nationalism and call the world to peace. That would not be the denial of patriotism but its apotheosis."

The essence of the matter is that Jesus Christ is against the *spirit of murder* in every form. He is against *war* — and someday He will put an end to it forever!

He is against all malice and envy and hate. Jesus Christ taught the dignity of man and the sacredness of human life — "Created in the image of God."

And the great Father of Jesus Christ, the Almighty God who governs the universe from His throne in heaven, that God *thunders* at an age of violence and rebellion: "*Thou shalt not murder.*"

PART SEVEN

The Seventh Commandment

IS "SEXUAL COMPATIBILITY" the all-important thing in marriage? In this age of broken homes, juvenile delinquents and modern psychology, many will say that the answer is "yes."

But the fact remains that the more these "modern" theories are put into practice, the faster the *divorce rate* climbs and the more little children are doomed to grow up without the blessing of a stable, happy home. It is a painful FACT that *one out of three* marriages in America ends in the divorce courts.

The marriages *end* — but the *suffering* and *anguish* and *grief* do not. For the little children of such broken homes, the years of *frustration* and *emptiness* are only beginning.

Is there a real MEANING to marriage that modern man needs to understand? Are there God-given LAWS and *principles* that can safeguard a Christian marriage and make it happy and purposeful?

The Seventh Commandment Stated

The Creator God devoted *two* of His ten great spiritual laws — the Ten Commandments — to protecting the relationships in the home and family. In this book, we

have already discussed the first of these: "Honor thy father and thy mother. . . ."

The other law directly governing the home and family is contained in the *seventh* commandment: "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY" (Ex. 20:14).

Almighty God gave this commandment to protect the honor and sanctity of marriage. Immediately after the sixth command which declares the sacredness of human life, God gives this law to safeguard the *highest earthly relationship*. For marriage and the home is the BASIS of all decent society.

The words of the command directly forbid adultery as violating the sacred rights of the marriage relation. Its spirit makes evident the fact that all unchaste conduct before marriage is a wrong done to the future marriage and unfaithfulness before marriage is violating the command as much as adultery committed after marriage.

In this "permissive" modern age, it is important to remind ourselves that God has promised to reward those who break this commandment with the penalty of DEATH. "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be *put to death*" (Lev. 20:10).

Again, in the New Testament, God says: "For the wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom. 6:23).

WHY is the sin of adultery so great as to merit *death*, and, in God's judgment, *eternal death* in the lake of fire — unless really repented of? The answer is this: The reason adultery is such a TERRIBLE sin in God's sight is that marriage is such a precious, righteous, holy thing that MUST NOT BE DEFILED!

The *meaning* of marriage and its great PURPOSE in God's plan needs *desperately* to be understood in this age of unhappy marriages and broken homes.

The PURPOSE of Marriage

It is impossible to understand the true *meaning* of marriage without first understanding that sex and marriage are *God-given* and *God-ordained*. To leave God out

of the picture — as this modern age is doing — is to degrade the marriage union to mere animalism.

Notice *God's* PURPOSE in creating man and woman! “And the Lord God said [after He had made only the man], It is *not good* that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18). God saw that man was INCOMPLETE by himself, and so He decided to make a help “meet” or *suitable* for the man — one with whom man could really *share* his life.

Then God brought all the other living creatures to Adam — and he named them. “But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him” (verse 20). There was *no other creature* really LIKE Adam — one who could share his sorrows and joys, his hopes and dreams.

And so God created *woman* out of Adam's very flesh and bone. “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man” (verse 23).

Here now was a creature *equal with Adam*, another *person* with whom he could share EVERYTHING. And she was created to be a suitable “help” to him, and to be his wife and companion. For God said: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be *one flesh*” (verse 24).

God made us *male* and *female*. God *created* SEX as a beautiful and holy thing to be used to His glory. And, as we have just seen, GOD instituted *marriage* — not man, or the laws or courts of man.

So the *first* and primary purpose of marriage is to make man and woman *complete*. Each is *incomplete* without the other. Man alone was not able to fulfill the *purpose* for which God created him — was not able to learn the *lessons* of CHARACTER which God intended — and so God created the woman as a “help” to the man. And, in the very creation, God showed that they were to dwell together as man and wife in one *fleshly union* — to share EVERYTHING in this life, and so make their lives *meaningful* and *complete* in a physical sense at least.

The *second* purpose of sex and marriage is the begettal and training of children. For God had told the man and

woman: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it . . ." (Gen. 1:28).

In *begetting* children comes the responsibility of *protecting* and *training* them. A stable, happy home and marriage are indispensable to the correct nurture and training of a child. And God commands: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Both parents are responsible for the supervision and training of their children. But the minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour responsibility of care and training of the children falls the lot of the wife as the God-given "helper" of her husband. The Eternal God commands that the young women are to be taught "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, KEEPERS AT HOME, *obedient to their own husbands*, that the Word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5).

The Home Is a School for Character Development

The home and family is the BASIS of all decent society! The lessons of *character* learned in the home — patience, understanding, kindness — all of these are qualities that God wants in man for *all eternity*, and the *family* relationship is one of the best places in which they can be learned!

Better than any other place, the lessons of *decency*, *loyalty*, and a sense of *responsibility* are learned in a happy and well-balanced *home*.

And so, in addition to making man complete and for the begetting and training of children, a *third* great purpose in sex and marriage is the building of CHARACTER in the home and family relationship. The kingdom and law of God is based on LOVE. Jesus said: "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35). To obey GOD's law of marriage, man and wife must literally GIVE themselves to each other in every phase and facet of their lives.

Showing that this principle must be practiced in the sexual relationship as well as in others, the Apostle Paul commanded: "Let the husband render unto the wife due

benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency" (I Cor. 7:3-5).

The material act of bodily union is a debt each marriage partner owes the other. But it is a debt of LOVE and is so intimate and holy that God often blesses it with a NEW LIFE.

The Divine purpose in sex attraction is to kindle love and intensify it until there is complete and mutual surrender of two lives. Love in its highest sense is union. The marriage union of mind, heart and body. It is made sacred by God's command, for He instituted marriage to be the perfect expression of this love of man and woman. If you do not yet have a copy of the free, full-color booklet *Your Marriage Can Be Happy*, send for one today. This booklet brings you the true perspective of the modern marriage crisis, and gives concrete laws that will lead to real marital happiness. Mailing addresses where this booklet can be obtained without charge are listed on page 144.

Marriage Pictures Christ and His Church

As ordained by God, the marriage union is a HOLY thing. It is *so holy* that in His Word Almighty God uses the marriage union as a type of the relationship between CHRIST and His Church!

Notice Ephesians 5:22-33: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, EVEN AS Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

In this place, God shows that in the Christian home the wife is to submit herself to her husband as the HEAD of that home just as she must learn to submit to *Christ Himself* for all eternity! In this holy relationship,

she is learning a *lesson* of LASTING *faithfulness!*

Then the husbands are addressed: "Husbands, LOVE your wives, EVEN AS Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it . . . so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself" (verses 25, 28).

Jesus Christ *served, helped, trained, protected* and eventually GAVE Himself for His Church. So are husbands to protect, to provide for, to guide, to encourage, to *love* and GIVE to their wives!

A Christian man is to be the HEAD of his house. Yet he is to use that office to *serve* and to *give* protection, guidance and happiness to his wife and family. And Almighty God holds him *responsible* for being the RIGHT kind of head!

Because of this great *lesson* and *purpose* in marriage, God says: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be ONE FLESH" (verse 31).

In the marriage union, man and woman are made ONE. Their relationship is then to picture the eternal, loving and serving relationship of Christ and His Church. Therefore, NOTHING can come between them!

The lesson of marriage is to teach us *eternal* FAITHFULNESS to Jesus Christ as our Head! To separate from one's God-given mate is to FAIL to learn the lesson which God intends for us to learn in marriage. It is a REPROACH to Almighty God — for it denies His wisdom in ordaining the marriage union in making us truly "*one flesh*" with our mate!

How can we ever be faithful to the living God throughout *all eternity* if we selfishly REFUSE to be faithful to the mate to whom we are bound in this life for only a few years — and to learn the lessons of patience, kindness, longsuffering, self-control, LOVE and FAITHFULNESS in the sacred marriage union?

The Teaching of Jesus Christ

Now it becomes increasingly clear why Jesus Christ taught the BINDING quality of the marriage vow.

When Jesus was asked by the hypocritical Pharisees why Moses allowed divorce in Old Testament times, He answered: "For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be ONE FLESH: so then they are no more twain, but *one flesh*. What therefore GOD hath joined together, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER" (Mark 10:5-9).

Divorce generates divorce! A moment's reflection will recall that the commonplace granting of divorces was absolutely *UNHEARD OF* only fifty years ago. The religious leaders of that time and before warned us that if divorce were once tolerated there would be no restraint powerful enough to keep it within the limits then fixed or foreseen. Today we see the TRUTH of this warning! We now behold the sad and miserable spectacle of *one third* and in many areas as many as ONE HALF of all marriages — a *holy* and *sacred* and *lasting* relationship ordained by Almighty God — end in FAILURE in the divorce courts of men!

And after divorce, what?

It is a matter of record that most divorced persons seek another mate, and many find a *second* or a *third* or a *fourth* mate to satisfy a desire which GOD intended should be satisfied and channelled and uplifted in the *holy* and *sacred* marriage with their first and only real mate — who in most cases is still living.

And the words of the living Christ THUNDER: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, *committeth* ADULTERY against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another she *committeth* ADULTERY" (verses 11-12).

The God of creation through His Son Jesus Christ calls divorce and remarriage ADULTERY!

He did NOT say that the second marriage *ceremony* is adultery. He says the one who remarries "*committeth*" adultery. The word is used in a progressive sense and means such individuals *practice* or *continue in* or *live in* ADULTERY!

The penalty for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). This is indeed a **SERIOUS** matter!

Marriage Is BOUND by God

We now see that marriage is not something that just “evolved” through the reasoning and gradual civilization of man. Rather, marriage was *ordained* by the Creator GOD. He ordained marriage as a *holy union* picturing the everlasting **FAITHFULNESS** between Christ and His Church!

And every form of adultery is so very *wrong* and **EVIL** because marriage is so *holy* and **SACRED** in the sight of Almighty God.

Adultery is not only an offense to the aggrieved husband or wife involved. It is an offense to their *home* and their *children*. It is an offense against *society* — because it strikes at the very *basis* of all decent society. But, most of all, it is an offense against **GOD** Himself and against an institution which He has ordained and made holy!

In America and Britain today, a God-rejecting society all too often sentimentalizes about remarried couples who may both have living mates by a previous marriage bound by God. Modern society thinks it is a “shame” to *speak evil* — as they would put it — about such a “love” between two formerly married people. They think a second marriage must be blessed because children come along — and that it must not be spoken against on their account. Or they sympathize with the “love” and “happiness” that such a couple claim to have found in such a second “marriage.”

What they do **NOT** consider is that **GOD** sets the laws concerning marriage and divorce! They often fail to consider the *suffering* and the *frustration* of the children involved in the original and *God-ordained* marriage of such a couple being married for the second time. Society often *refuses to consider* that this couple ought to have learned the *patience, wisdom, self-control* and real **LOVE** which would have made a success of their *first* and **ONLY** real marriage in which **GOD** **BOUND** them for the remainder of their natural lives!

People fail to realize that anything which constitutes

adultery such as divorce and remarriage — *unfaithfulness* to a marriage partner — or even *lust* which is the beginning of all adultery — is regarded as REBELLION against the Law of Almighty God who gives them every breath of air they breathe!

The sin of *lust* is more fully understood when you realize how *righteous* and *holy* the proper use of sex in marriage is to Almighty God the Creator. The process of *adultery*, and the process of *divorce* and *remarriage* usually begins in the *heart*.

Notice how Jesus Christ covered this point in magnifying the law of God and making it holy: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, that whosoever LOOKETH on a woman *to lust after her* hath committed *adultery* with her already in his heart” (Matt. 5:27-28).

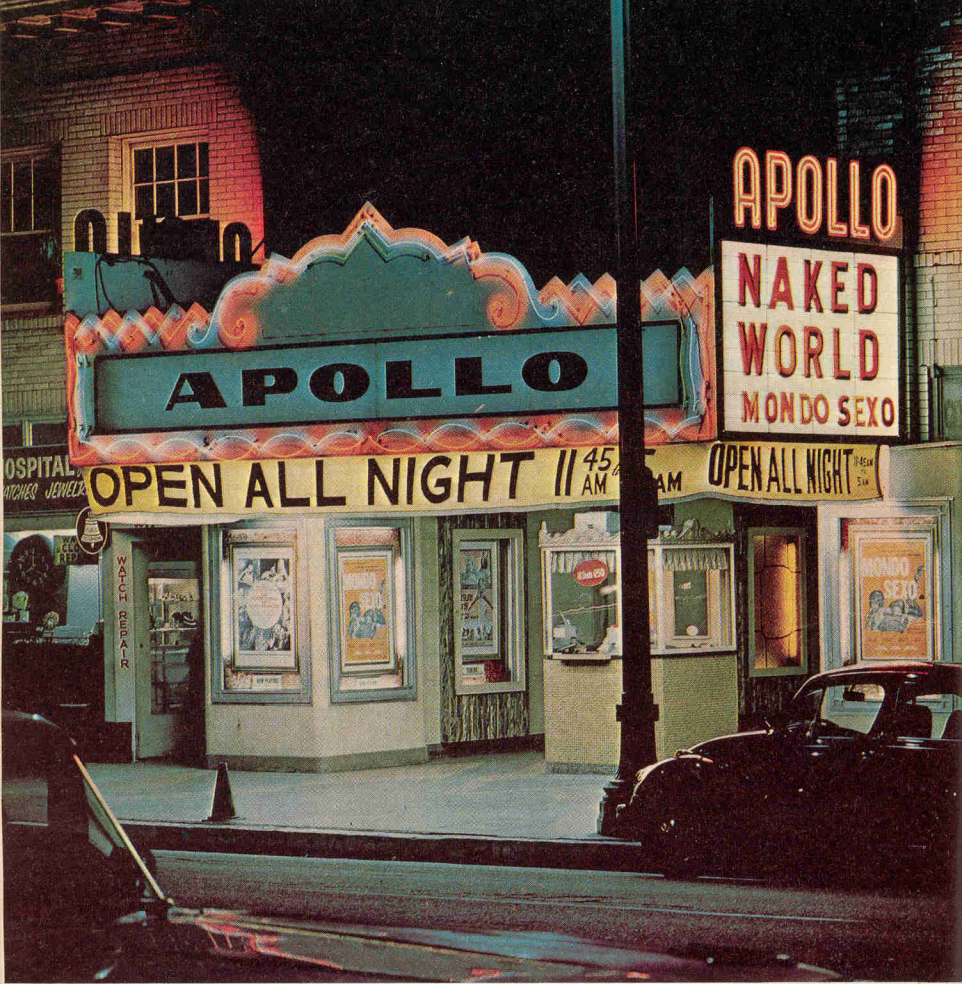
Jesus taught that you BREAK the *seventh commandment* when you even so much as entertain thoughts of *sexual lust* toward another person. Action follows thought. So it is part of the development of Christian character for every God-fearing person to learn to guide and to channel his thoughts AWAY from all lust and sensual desires.

The CRIME of Modern Society

More than most people even begin to realize, the sordid emphasis on SEX in our modern society is *terribly wrong!* Yet that sex emphasis is so deeply permeating every phase and facet of modern society that most people have become accustomed to it and do not even fully realize what is going on.

The dress and clothing styles of modern women emphasize one thing — *sex*. Our newspaper headlines emphasize and exploit things having to do with *sex*. Most modern magazines emphasize *sex* continually — and often think that they will not be able to sell enough copies unless they can get the word “sex” in the title of some article appearing on the magazine cover!

Throughout the newspapers, magazines, billboards and TV advertisements, SEX is emphasized over and over again in different and varying ways. More modern books



Ambassador College Photo

Sex in all forms is increasingly being portrayed on the screen. Another sign of the times.

and novels are using just plain "raw" sex as a theme than ever before. And now we are in the age of the "pocket book" — and we behold row after row of these paperback filth purveyors in our book stores, cigar stores, magazine counters, drug stores, dime stores and our American supermarkets continually! Displayed on the cover of many of these books is a picture of a half naked woman in a suggestive pose with a directly erotic and suggestive title.

This sort of thing is simply the lowest form of degrading human FILTH! And yet this type of literature and

advertisements and articles are literally FLOODING the markets!

Meanwhile, in the industries that control the most realistic, life-like media that *influence* and *move* young people to action — movies and television — the emphasis in an ever-increasing number of productions is upon SEX or violence, or a combination of both.

But modern society is *paying* a terrible PENALTY for these widespread sins and abominations! More and more homes are made miserable and wretched because of adulterous relations of one or both mates. Increasing numbers of homes are ending in divorce. More children are being left without the love and guidance of both parents! And illicit sexual intercourse before marriage — called “fornication” by God — is becoming almost a commonplace thing among young people in today’s society.

Yet any and all of these things are *breaking the seventh commandment!*

Those young people, who are cheapening and damaging the happiness of their future marriages through illicit sex before marriage, are seriously injuring their entire future in this present life. And unless they repent and stop this vile practice, they will force God by an eternal necessity to exclude them from His Kingdom and everlasting life and happiness therein (I Cor. 6:9). God’s laws are always for our own good and the good of those around us. They should be obeyed. We should fear being counted with the “abominable” and “whoremongers” who will have their part in the lake of fire which is the *second death!* (Rev. 21:8).

OBEY the Seventh Commandment

God gives some important advice to those who are tempted to commit fornication or adultery. In this age of sex stimulation and lust, it is invaluable to HEED this advice if you would enter into the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

God says: “*Flee fornication*” (I Cor. 6:18). He does not say to let your mind dwell on wrong sexual ideas or

desires. He does not say to place yourself alone with another man's wife or with a single woman with whom you might be sexually tempted. He does not say to watch movies or television or read books which wrongly stimulate the sexual appetite.

God DOES say to *get as far away* from these things as you possibly can! He says to *run* — to FLEE — away from temptation to sexual sin.

Sex is NOT a "toy" to be played with and experimented with. It should be regarded as a God-given *blessing* in the *holy* and *sacred* marriage union which the Creator Himself has ordained. It should always be thought of with reverence, and as an expression of unselfish LOVE in a Christian union which pictures the everlasting FAITHFULNESS of Christ and His church!

Those who are married or are about to be should look forward toward marriage as an expression of *love* in the sense of GIVING — not selfishly getting and taking. They should look forward to home and family as a *training ground* to build CHARACTER to better fit them for eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Realizing this, they should let nothing turn them aside from their *faithfulness* to each other, from their growth in *patience*, in *understanding*, in *kindness*, in *self-control*, in *wisdom*, in LOVE.

"Cheap" and *temporary* loyalties are wrecking and ruining many of the departments in our governments — as they all sadly realize. They are hurting industry, the schools, and even the Church.

The God-intended *blessing* of being able to really DEPEND upon your own beloved partner in marriage is being withheld from *most married people* in our modern "scientific" society! And the *fears, doubts, mistrusts* and *frustrations* that this breeds are affecting the relations of people through *every phase of their lives*.

This generation *needs desperately* to learn the lesson of *lasting* FAITHFULNESS in marriage and in the home! It needs to obey both the *letter* and the *spirit* of God's seventh commandment: "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*"

[Editor's Note: Recently Ambassador College pub-

lished, as a public service, not to be sold, a VERY IMPORTANT BOOK. It is a book of 236 pages titled, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

This important book makes plain the MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge of sex and marriage. It makes plain the reason why this vital knowledge is missing.

We offer you this book, entirely gratis, your free copy on request, postpaid.

The publishers must, regrettably, refuse to send this book to unmarried minors. And although it is hoped that parents will recognize the urgency of placing this volume in the hands of their own adolescent and teen-age children, that must remain solely the responsibility of the parents.]

PART EIGHT

The Eighth Commandment

THE UNITED STATES crime clock indicated a major offense was committed every 5½ seconds in 1970.

Compared with 1960, the 1970 crime statistics revealed that murders were up 56 percent, forcible rape up 95 percent, robbery up 186 percent, burglary up 113 percent, and major larceny up 204 percent. Increase in crime was over thirteen times as great as the population increase — as was mentioned in a previous chapter. (See pages 31 and 65 of 1970 *Uniform Crime Report*).

We live in a society that is *sick* and *dying*. We have *lost* the right values! We have *cut ourselves* off from God. As we have seen in the previous parts in this book on God's Ten Commandments, obedience to God's Law is **THE WAY** to *peace*, to *happiness*, and to the *abundant life*.

But with our increasing disobedience to God's living laws, we are suffering the consequences in physical as well as in spiritual ways. In God's Law, the *most important* thing is our **RIGHT** relationship with *Him* — covered by the first four commandments — and the protection of *the home*, *the family* and *human life* itself — covered in the next three commandments.

The rebelliousness of the human mind is remarkably evidenced by the fact that human laws have *reversed* this order of importance. At the present moment, there are far

more laws on the statute books protecting property than there are to protect human life, the home, and the true worship of God.

It is true that it is not given to human beings or courts of men to legislate upon the true worship of the Living God. Yet it is an appalling FACT of our modern society that the lack of *any* respect or worship of Almighty God is *hardly counted as sin at all in public opinion*.

And this sin of REBELLION is the root from which all others grow!

And so — in spite of the multitude of laws protecting property — men CUT OFF from the true God are *stealing* in many devious ways *more than ever before in human history!*

The Eighth Commandment Stated

After the God of Heaven thundered from the top of Mt. Sinai the commandments ordaining the true worship of Him, and laws protecting the most sacred human relationships — the home, the family, and human life itself — God gave the *eighth* commandment. This is God's *Law* protecting all private property and possessions: "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL" (EX. 20:15).

Because men do not think the God who gave this commandment is REAL — and do not *fear* to disobey His Law — we have more literal theft than ever before. But we also violate the eighth command in *hundreds* of ways through a "watered down" system of morality.

After discussing some debased scheme by which to cheat a business competitor or customer, executives shrug their shoulders and say: "Well, that's *just business*."

Or, after a reception involving false measurement, poor quality or misleading advertising, a businessman will say: "What's the difference? If I don't do it, somebody else will."

When cheating the government or falsifying an income tax return, the common American phrase to salve one's conscience is: "Let Uncle Sam sweat this time. The

government is taking too much money anyway. So what?"

Yes, SO WHAT? Is that "just business"?

Well, it also happens to be GOD'S *business* — and He has set in motion a LAW stating: "Thou shalt not steal."

When you break God's LAW — *it breaks you!*

For God's Laws are living, moving things — like the *law of gravity*. When you transgress them, the punishment is *automatic* — and it is SURE.

The Right to Property

According to God's Word and His Law, there are only *two* right ways in which you can come into possession of anything.

The first is by a *free gift* of another person, or from God Himself. The second is by honest labor, which earns something as a legitimate return.

Any other way is *theft* — the taking from another that which belongs to him.

The eighth commandment recognizes the legitimate acquisition of property, and *forbids theft*. It is important to note that, in principle, the eighth command FORBIDS *all forms of communism* which deny man's right to property.

It also forbids international THIEVERY in which nations forcibly *confiscate* and *steal* the property and possessions of others. And, to our lasting shame, ALL nations stand GUILTY of breaking God's Law in this respect!

In principle, gambling is also a violation of the eighth commandment. A man who gambles, whether in play or in serious business, puts into his pocket money for which he has done no honest work. By this very fact he *robs* the man from whom he receives, and violates God's Law of love.

Yet, throughout Britain and America today, professing "Christian" people gamble in lotteries, sweepstakes and many other ways to the tune of MILLIONS of dollars! This lust for possession without toil, this act of trying to get something for nothing, is a blatant *denial* of the teachings of Christ.

And it is a well-known *fact* that wherever any large amount of gambling takes place, the traffic in dope, in

prostitution, and in organized CRIME almost immediately skyrockets!

Young people today are learning to STEAL in an immensely large and organized fashion. Not only are they purloining articles by the thousands from stores, shops, schools and even churches, but they regularly organize an intricate system of CHEATING on tests and exams in schools and colleges.

Because it is generally looked on without too much alarm, this practice is growing at an unprecedented rate. But what the young people may not have been told is that "cheating" is *taking* a score or grade illegally — and is STEALING. It is *directly breaking* the eighth commandment of God!

Organized THEFT in Modern Industry

The industrialist or merchant who uses false weights and measures or a poor quality of material or workmanship to deceive the public is just as GUILTY of breaking the eighth commandment as a common thief! He is trying to get something more than a legitimate return for his product.

Viewing the illegal excess he hopes to receive, he is trying to get that extra *something* for NOTHING. In principle, he is simply STEALING!

Yet, in how many *thousands of cases* this type of lawlessness and deception is practiced, God alone knows.

Another little-realized method of thievery is the modern practice in growing and preparing foods. Through refusal to let the land lie completely idle every seven years as God commanded (Lev. 25:3-4), and through the use of water soluble chemical fertilizers, many farmers are *robbing* the soil of the nutrients which would bring forth health-producing food. Instead, the foods produced on these devitalized fields have been ROBBED of the natural vitamins, minerals and food elements which God intended should be there.

In effect, the people forced to eat these foods are *robbed* of health, vitality, and in some cases of life itself! Witness the trend toward vitamin pills and capsules,

toward "enriched" bread and milk with vitamins artificially "added." These artificial vitamins — which in many cases your body *cannot use* — would NEVER be necessary if the foods we eat had been properly grown and processed in the first place!

The *same condemnation* is due the processors of food who through greed for "filthy lucre" remove the health-giving elements from the foods we eat. Or, in thousands of cases, they add chemical "preservatives" to foods which are absolutely *dangerous* to the health of those who eat them.

Needless to say, there is not time or space here for a complete explanation of this principle. But it is important to realize that MILLIONS of human beings in our "Christian" civilization are suffering the effects of man-made deficiency diseases. These are brought on partly because of personal *ignorance* of what to eat and partly because of SIN and GREED on the part of food manufacturers who have *knowingly robbed our foods of lifegiving elements!*

For all those who STEAL in this or any other similar fashion, there is a day of solemn JUDGMENT coming.

Thievery Through False Advertising

One of the great commercial SINS of our age is the common practice of *false advertising*. The consumer is led to expect that a certain "pill," for instance, will cause him to lose weight, gain weight, increase his potency, restore his thinning hair, or whatever the case may be. And, in most cases, this statement is a direct, willful LIE without any doubt.

Such a practice is, in effect, STEALING from the people who pay money to achieve the promised result.

In many cases, the victims of these gigantic frauds are not only robbed of money, they are robbed of *health, happiness* and *peace of mind*. Many a "respectable" businessman and community leader has attained his position largely through this type of *mass deception* and *theft!*

Our nations and peoples need to WAKE UP! Just because a sin can be made outwardly to appear "respectable," remember that GOD is the *real* Judge.

The Almighty has this to say: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators . . . nor thieves . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:9-10).

Lest any misunderstand, remember that it is God's *will* that His servants *prosper* in material wealth — as long as they gain it *honestly*, and *don't set their hearts upon it*. The Apostle John wrote: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest *prosper* and be in *health*, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

Tarnished Wealth

However, we must also learn that an industrialist's wealth which is tarnished by an unnecessarily high death rate in his plants or factories is ill-gotten gain — and he is branded in the light of God's Law as a THIEF, if not a murderer!

The principle behind the eighth commandment is broken again and again in the relations of *capital* and *labor*. James was inspired to warn the dishonest employer: "Behold, the hire of the labourers . . . which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries . . . are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth" (James 5:4).

It is also equally true — *and especially so in this era of corrupt unionism* — that many a workingman **ROBS** his employer! He does this by taking his wage and yet withholding his full share of honest labor. And that is **STEALING!**

All too often one laboring man tells his fellow: "Slow down, buddy, you're working too hard. If you keep on working like that, we'll *all* have to work hard around here!"

British and American laborers, spending from a third to a half of their working time on "tea breaks," "coffee breaks" and "cigarette breaks," are causing our industries to be *badly beaten* in the worldwide trade war now going on. It is affecting the **DESTINY** of the American and British people!

The eighth commandment of Almighty God has a message for *both* capital and labor.

To capital: "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work."

To labor: "A fair day's work for a fair day's wage."

But just stealing from a fellow human being is not the only principle involved in the eighth commandment. God owns far more property than any man (Hag. 2:8).

Stealing From God

In Malachi 3, speaking to modern-day Jacob or *Israel* (verse 6), God declares: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In TITHES and OFFERINGS." God here indicts our modern *English-speaking peoples* for ROBBING our very Creator and His Work today! No wonder there is so little true religion left on earth today! *No wonder* there is so much confusion and deceit going about in the name of Christianity!

God continues: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

THEN GOD PROMISES IN HIS WORD: "Bring ye all the TITHES into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and *prove me now herewith*, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:8-10).

Here is a blistering CHALLENGE from Almighty God!

God says He WILL BLESS YOU if you begin *tithing* — as *He commands* — through *faith* in Him and in His Word. Literally hundreds of case histories may be cited to show that God certainly *does bless* the tither even in *material* ways. He may not always do so *immediately*. You may have to obey Him and exercise *faith* for a while. But as you *serve* Him, *obey* Him, *trust* Him, God WILL keep His part of the bargain.

Your blessing is CERTAIN to come!

Notice this joyful letter from one of our listeners who took God's promise literally:

"A few weeks ago I was absolutely broke financially. I received ten cents. I was tempted not to tithe the one cent. I did. Then a few days later I received one dollar. Again, I was tempted to keep the tithe because of many needs. I just received forty dollars and am getting the tithe off to

you as soon as possible. I have been faithful and SO HAS GOD."

For a more detailed explanation of other important points on the subject of tithing, write for our free booklet, *Ending Your Financial Worries*.

Mailing addresses where this booklet can be obtained without charge are listed on page 144.

The Command Applied Positively

The definite positive application of the eighth commandment is stated in the New Testament letter to the Ephesians. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28).

On the one side, stealing is *condemned* in this passage. On the other, *working* and *giving* are outlined as the WAY OF LIFE the positive application of God's command dictates.

Property and possessions are to be gained by *honest work* — not merely to satisfy personal desires and needs — but so that any excess may be freely GIVEN to the brother in need. In the real intent or "spirit" of God's Law, a man not only steals by *taking* from another that which is his, but by refusal to work in order to *share* and GIVE to others in need!

The true Christian should be: "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to *hospitality*" (Rom. 12:13).

As God's begotten children, we are to become *like Him* (Matt. 5:48). And Jesus said: "My Father *worketh* hitherto, and I *work*" (John 5:17).

God's kingdom is a *creating*, a *working*, a *producing* kingdom. God creates and works *in order to give and share with others!*

For the inspired James wrote: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father . . ." (James 1:17). And so the very *nature* of God — which we all MUST come to have if we are to have eternal life — that nature is *working*, *producing* and GIV-

ING. It is the very *antithesis* of stealing in any and every form!

The *positive* lesson of the eighth commandment is also summarized in these all-inclusive words of Jesus, the Christ: "*It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

If, through God's Spirit, we can truly learn to *live by* those words, we will have indeed fulfilled the spirit of the *eighth* commandment!

PART NINE

The Ninth Commandment

THIS IS the age of the "sophisticated lie," the double standard of morality.

This is the age of respectable-appearing industrial leaders, government officials and college professors perjuring themselves on the witness stand and even before the United States Senate. This age also presents the peculiar spectacle of millions of people who believe in evolution attending churches which nominally, at least, believe in the Creator God of the Bible.

The Christ of the Bible thoroughly condemned the HYPOCRITES of His day. *What would He say about our generation?*

Society Living a Lie

In his book, *Sex, Vice and Business*, Monroe Fry tells of "the willingness of communities to accept vice when it brings an indirect profit to their respectable businessmen." His book shows plainly what thousands of sophisticated adults already know: that "respectable" church and civic leaders are often ready and willing to support gambling, prostitution and narcotics if it is to their financial advantage to do so.

To the community at large, they appear as the pillars

of virtue and respectability. To the procurers of prostitutes, narcotics or big-time gambling czars, they are ready to make an "undercover deal." They are ready to use their civic influence or position to let organized vice and crime flourish in their community — so long as they get a financial "cut."

In plain language, they are *living a LIE!*

The revelation of how much our entire "Christian" society is based on this type of HYPOCRISY is absolutely astounding! But we are paying a stern *penalty* nevertheless — for we are breaking the ninth commandment of God.

In this book expounding the Ten Commandments, we have seen that the GREATEST sin of all is putting something else *in place of* the true God. This, in turn, leads to *idolatry*, to *blaspheming* God's name, to *breaking* His Sabbath, to dishonoring our human parents, to *murder*, *adultery* and *stealing*.

And the exact SAME principle applies to the *ninth commandment* of God.

The Ninth Commandment Stated

"THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR" (Ex. 20:16).

It is only seeking for and bearing witness to the *truth* that man is associated with God. For, in literal fact, God *is* TRUTH!

Jesus said: "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). And again: "*I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life*" (John 14:6).

No matter what other faults and weaknesses a man may have, IF he is willing to speak the *truth*, live openly and *truthfully* what he really is, and acknowledge the *truth* when it is shown to him, that man can be *respected* and *helped* to overcome his personal weaknesses.

The far-searching spiritual application of the ninth commandment is *tremendous*. Consider: (1) There *is* a personal, living Almighty God of this universe whose ways and laws are intrinsically "right." (2) Therefore, a man who is *honest*, who is willing to speak the *truth* and acknowledge the TRUTH when it is revealed, MUST even-

tually be “converted” to the true God and His ways!

But a man whose word is no good, who is in the habit of LYING to others and to himself — *that man’s very character and mental processes are so TWISTED and PERVERTED that he can NEVER come to understand even the truth of God until his mind is literally “cleaned up”!*

That is why it is so VITALLY important that — even though among humans there may be honest differences of opinion on many matters — we all learn to *live and speak TRUTHFULLY.*

Yet, we are living in a society which is increasingly *permeated* by various forms of untruth, hypocrisy and self-deception. If we are ever to build the character of God — and inherit eternal life — we must consider the *ninth commandment* in all of its ramifications — and learn to OBEY it.

The Danger of False Testimony

The ninth commandment *protects* every upright and decent man in that it helps guard his *reputation*. Perhaps there is no more despicable sin than that of *slander*, the lie invented and spread abroad with intent to harm one’s fellowman.

A thief takes only material goods, which may usually be replaced. But a false witness who slanders may rob one of esteem and reputation in the eyes of his fellowmen — and the chances make it difficult for it ever to be fully regained.

The aggressive nature of man makes him the most guilty party in countless outward acts of sin. But one of the most common and degrading sins among women is that of spreading *gossip* and *slander*. How many lives, homes and careers are wrecked by this vile practice is known to God alone.

The Apostle James was inspired to warn against this careless use of the tongue: “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (James 3:6).

The first and basic application of the command is

against false testimony in the courts of justice. This we call *perjury*. It is a criminal offense and rightly so, for justice is based upon *truth*.

Yet even this most basic application of the command stands as an indictment against literally THOUSANDS of men and women in our society who have the effrontery to call on the name of God to witness to their wretched lies and wholesale distortions of truth. The parade of witnesses openly doing this before the American congressional committees is alone a terrible parody on our nation's morals — a tragic spectacle for our children to behold. For it reveals an entire society of businessmen, industrialists, government bureaucrats, labor leaders and even college professors all basing their lives on *deception, lies* and HYPOCRISY.

More than most people fully grasp, this is a *dangerous situation!* For this means that we must not only distrust our avowed enemies, but also our professed "friends." It means that MILLIONS of man-hours and dollars or pounds must be spent in order to "check up" on the honesty of those in the government, in business, and so on down the line. And it breeds throughout our entire society an attitude of *cynicism, despair* and futility.

For it is the result of *breaking God's LAW*.

The Practical Value of Honesty

The immediate value of being able to rely on a man's word would not only guard every decent man's reputation, and eliminate millions of wasted hours from the burden of "investigating" every statement and report several times over, it would prevent unworthy men from ever being placed in high positions of responsibility. It would literally "clean up" our society!

How often today are entire NATIONS guided by men who are in power *only because of their ability to delude and deceive their own people!*

Throughout the world, we see puppet dictators arising and promising their followers "something for NOTHING." By means of clever propaganda, the leader makes the people believe what he himself knows to be a big LIE. Then

follow many months or years of uncertainty, anguish, frustration until ultimate disaster strikes and the TRUTH is finally made plain only by force of circumstance.

Even in our democratic nations, men are all too often recommended for high office — *not because of integrity and ability* — but because of what seems “expedient” at the moment in party politics. The political and governmental leaders who countenance this are certainly “bearing false witness” against their fellow countrymen! They are *living* a LIE — as well as helping tell one.

In the field of industry and business, think of the TREMENDOUS benefit that would come to the public if each company would really tell the TRUTH about its own product and honestly seek to *serve* the consumer’s real needs! The effects of this would be literally ASTOUNDING!

Think of a society where each brand of toothpaste and breakfast cereal, for example, was not just an imitation or needless variation of another but was the only and BEST of its particular type, *honestly* priced and *truthfully* advertised! Apply this to every phase of society and you get something near UTOPIA.

But this is NOT a far-fetched or fantastic suggestion. It is simply the BLESSINGS that would come if the entire society really and literally *obeyed* the ninth commandment of God!

If you would live *forever* in the society of God, you are COMMANDED by Him who gives you life and breath: “*Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man TRUTH with his neighbor: for we are members one of another*” (Eph. 4:25).

The *unbounded blessings* that would result from obedience to this eternal law of God stagger the imagination. *Every* bit of propaganda, *every* bit of news in the papers, *every* advertisement of any and all products, *every* business dealing, *every* personal conversation — *all would be based on TRUTH*. Jesus Christ expressed how this living law would operate to *bless* those that obeyed Him completely: “*And ye shall know the TRUTH, and the truth shall make you FREE*” (John 8:32).

Apply the Ninth Commandment in YOUR Life

The very root principle of all sin is VANITY. "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; ALL is *vanity*" (Eccl. 1:2).

The real reason most men reject the true God is that *they* want to be "gods" in their own eyes and the eyes of their fellowmen. It is *vanity*.

Every sin that is committed by man has its ultimate roots in this one principle. And so it is with *every form of lying*.

Men LIE because they are more concerned with their own self-esteem and sense of importance than they are with the ultimate good of their fellowman. They speak and act *falsely* because they fear the opinions of men much more than that of Almighty GOD Himself! The daily actions and words of nearly all men bear eloquent testimony to the literal truth of this statement.

As John said even of the religious leaders of his day: "*For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*" (John 12:43).

Men and women are often ashamed of what they call "failure" in a business or social sense. They will cheat, falsify and LIE in order to avoid this "failure" — or to cover it up.

But from the point of view of what is intrinsically "right" — and of *eternal* values — the thing they should fear is SIN. For, as the Apostle Paul said, "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" (Rom. 8:31.)

Jesus said: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall speak all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matt. 5:11).

We had all better QUIT WORRYING so much about what puny, mortal *men* think — and become far more concerned about what Almighty GOD thinks! Then we will learn to cease from all *hypocrisy* in business, in social life, in politics — yes, in our *religious* and *scientific* endeavors.

Remember that many whom this deceitful world condemned have received God's blessing and are heirs of *eternal life*. Never forget that it was through the sin of *false*

testimony and *lying* that Jesus Christ was MURDERED! "For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together" (Mark 14:56).

Since, *through vanity*, men want to believe what is "popular" at the moment, they will "kid themselves" and their associates into believing even religious and scientific theories that have NO BASIS WHATSOEVER in actual fact!

God warns against all such HYPOCRITES: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). Most Bible commentaries or lexicons show that the expression "hold" should have been translated "hold down" or "suppress." Men *suppress* the truth.

For God is condemning those who knowingly *hold down* or SUPPRESS the truth of God's existence and His purpose on this earth! God says the vain philosophers and scientists of this world are "without excuse" for denying that God literally CREATED this universe and is now *ruling* it through His power (verse 20).

Most scientists and theologians who believe in the Satan-inspired theory of evolution *ought to know better*. Some of them *do* know better! But they are going along with what pleases men, and they are *living* a LIE!

God says they are "without excuse"!

And in the same category are those ministers and Bible students who continue to teach and practice what they KNOW are ancient *heathen* and *pagan* beliefs and customs *condemned in the Word of God*. In all too many cases, *they know better!*

They are "without excuse."

The continued teaching of these basic scientific and spiritual LIES is the very thing that is BLINDING most of this world from the real *nature* of God and of His true plan and *purpose* here below. This is the truly TERRIBLE result of bearing false witness, self-deception and LYING.

For as long as supposedly "educated" leaders keep deceiving themselves and others about the very *existence* and *power* and *plan* of God, our civilization is DOOMED!

Live by the TRUTH

In your own personal life, then, learn the importance of *telling* the truth, *believing* the truth, *living* the TRUTH. Be CAREFUL not to base your whole life on a series of LIES — whether they be personal, political, scientific or religious distortions of truth.

Remember, it is the real TRUTH which will make you free (John 8:32).

In your personal speech, *guard your words carefully*. You need not always speak everything you know. But when you speak, let it be TRUTH. Remember: “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof*” (Prov. 18:21).

Never forget that a man is only as good as his *word*. If a man becomes a habitual liar, it is almost impossible to help him — for anything he says or does may simply be another deception.

One of the basic qualities of God’s character is that He *is* TRUTH. If we couldn’t rely on God’s Word, there could be *no real assurance* of forgiveness from past sins, of present help in time of need, or of future reward and eternal life.

Even though God had tremendous well-meaning *love*, and all *wisdom* and *power* — but you *couldn’t rely on His Word or His promises* — WHERE WOULD YOU BE?

Have you ever thought of it that way before?

The very diametric opposite of God’s character is that of Satan the devil. As Jesus Christ revealed: “When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: *for he is a LIAR*, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

Those who follow Satan in his refusal to live by truth have a terrible fate awaiting them: “But the fearful, and unbelieving . . . and *all LIARS*, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

Remember, there are no “white” lies in God’s sight. Half-truths, distortions and deceptions are *condemned* throughout God’s Word.

Jesus said: “Thy word *is* TRUTH” (John 17:17). Let us

live by that inspired Word that we may inherit eternal life in the kingdom that is based on what is literally true and right.

This is the message of the *ninth commandment.*

PART TEN

The Tenth Commandment

DID YOU know that recent surveys have revealed that the financial troubles plaguing most families are NOT the result of low income? Rather, they are directly caused by overextending a normally adequate income for *luxuries* and *personal indulgence*, and by the American habit of *installment buying*!

“Buy now and pay later,” say the advertisements.

But do you really NEED to buy this item *now*? And are you SURE you will be able to “pay later”?

A Society Based on Lust

“Keeping up with the Joneses” is a popular American slogan.

High pressure advertisements constantly encourage this idea. It is made to seem “backward” or *wrong* not to *strive* and *compete* and LUST after as many material possessions as your neighbor owns.

The modern idea is to “GET *all you can while the getting is good.*”

The incessant pressure to “get ahead” — which usually means to acquire more money and material property — has become a thing of *idolatry*. It is BLINDING the minds and hearts of millions to the life of God.

Several years ago, a prominent religious publication,

"The Canadian Churchman," ran a sobering article revealing the effect of this material idolatry on young African Christians studying in the United States and Canada.

One such young man said: "Before I came to study here, I was a good Christian. I dreamed some day of becoming a medical missionary. *Now I'm an atheist.*"

"Why?" asked the shocked interviewer.

"Since coming here," he replied, "I've discovered that *the white man has two gods*. One that he taught us about, and another one to whom he prays. A Presbyterian mission school taught me that the tribal doctrines of my ancestors who worshiped images and believed in witchcraft were wrong and almost ludicrous. But here *you worship larger images — cars and electrical appliances. I honestly can't see the difference.*"

Surprising?

It shouldn't be. Except that most people get so close to their own sin that they can't see it.

We live in a so-called "Christian" society which is literally *based on LUST and greed* for more and more material things!

The frenzied effort to *compete* with others and "get ahead" is the source not only of most financial problems, but the real cause of much physical and mental illness, broken homes, frustrated lives.

Most important of all, this form of *idolatry* leaves almost no time, strength or desire ever to become acquainted with the true GOD — whose living laws and ways alone would bring real inner peace and joy.

The Tenth Commandment Stated

In studying the preceding commandments, we have seen that *every* problem and sorrow in our individual and national lives is directly caused by *DISOBEDIENCE* to one or more of the Commandments of God. We have seen that God's *spiritual* Law, the Ten Commandments, reveals *THE WAY* to peace, happiness, prosperity — everything man really wants.

But man usually wants to achieve these results in *his own way* — the *WRONG* way. And so he *suffers*.

Most men fail to realize that the Ten Commandments are *living, moving, ACTIVE* laws — like the law of gravity. They are *automatic*. When you break them, *they break you!*

So it is with the final commandment of God's Law. Even though it may be broken *without the knowledge of any other human being*, the penalty for its violation is absolutely CERTAIN!

This present generation above all others needs to *understand* and *apply* this command in personal and social life.

"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" (Ex. 20:17).

Of all the commandments, the tenth refers most specifically to man's relation to man.

The force of the commandment lies in these words: "Thy neighbor's . . . thy neighbor's . . . his . . . his . . . his . . . his . . . thy neighbor's." This is a *sevenfold* guarding of the interests of another.

It is not wrong to lawfully desire a wife, a servant, or an ox or ass. But where the object admired is legitimately out of reach of the one admiring, admiration merging into *desire to possess* breaks the commandment.

Although this commandment deals most obviously with human and physical relationships, the *spiritual requirement* of the command is in some ways more rigid than any that has preceded it. This command regulates even the *thoughts* in the mind and heart of man.

Most men look on sin as an *outward* or *physical type of thing*. They do not realize that the holy, righteous CHARACTER which God purposes in us necessitates that even our *thoughts* be completely purified and made like His.

Action follows thought. What you think, *you are*.

If you secretly reject God's standard and His way, if in your heart you lust after something which you either cannot or will not come to lawfully possess with His

blessing, then — sooner or later — this mental rebellion will bring forth outward SIN. The actions will then proceed to *defy God* — to break His Law — because the *thoughts* have been doing this all along!

This command pierces through all “surface Christianity” and shows whether a man has really surrendered his WILL to his Maker! It is a searching and fearful principle. But it is a command you must learn to OBEY if you are ever to receive *eternal life* and *glory* in the kingdom of God.

Obviously — when *all eternity* is involved — God *will not* give eternal life to one who in his mind and heart disdains the very *character* and *way of life* God purposes for those in His kingdom. And so when we come to deal with the true God, it is time to stop “kidding” ourselves about religion. We either come to LOVE the Creator God and His ways and laws with all our being, or we will automatically begin to resent His authority and rule over our lives.

That is where the *tenth commandment* enters in. For it shows God’s *authority* even over our inner thoughts! We must learn to think as God thinks!

“Let this *mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5).

Through God’s Spirit in us, we must *fight* the fight of faith — put down the lustful human nature within us — and ultimately succeed in “*bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT* to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:5). This is the ultimate GOAL of the true Christian — to be fully attained in the resurrection.

But we are to GROW in God’s character during this life. We must learn as did righteous Enoch, Noah, Abraham and other servants of the Most High to “walk with God.” We must go His way — do as He does — think as He thinks.

But the normal mind of man is filled with *selfishness, vanity, competition, greed, hate, lust*. It is a mind CUT OFF from the ways and thoughts of God (Isa. 55:8, 9).

That is why Jesus emphasized how important it is to get our minds *changed, converted* and CLEANED UP when

He said: "Blessed are the *pure in heart*: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8).

Where Do WE Stand?

Especially since World War II, life in our Western society has *speeded up*. We are rushing to make more *money*. We are *in a hurry* to have a good time, to GET everything we can out of life. On every side, we are taught to *compete* with our fellowman for social honors and material advancement.

We have come to literally CRAVE material luxuries that were in some cases *completely unknown* just two generations ago. We are urged to spend more than we make — to do more than we ought. "You owe it to yourself" the subtle advertisement reads in putting over the idea that we would be foolish not to buy a bigger car, eat at a more expensive restaurant, or take longer and more costly trips.

The emphasis is on *getting* and on SELF.

Nationally, the nations of the world *fight* and KILL because of this same attitude of heart. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:1, 2).

All too often, the capitalist *lusts* for more money than he can easily attain by paying fair wages. So he ROBS his employees by paying too little, and spending too little on improving working conditions and safety.

Likewise, the modern laborer — often misguided by unscrupulous union leaders — learns to LUST after more money than he can honestly earn. Through organized pressure and political trickery, he thinks he can *get something for nothing*.

This is BREAKING the *tenth commandment*. It is hurting not only the man who does it, but it is *destroying* the ability of his nation to compete effectively in the world trade markets! The nation of any people who practice this form of COVETOUSNESS and hypocrisy will ultimately be

put out of business — taken over and ruled by some other aggressive system!

Why do millions of Britons and Americans gamble? It is certainly not through a desire to *produce* good things which will serve their fellowman, and thus honestly and proudly earn their daily bread. It is because of man's basic desire to *get something for nothing* — to COVET a reward he has not legitimately earned.

“The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy” (James 4:5).

Why do so-called “authors” write cheap, paperback novels based on nothing but *filth*, *obscenity* and juvenile *stupidity*? Why do publishers print such corruption which degrades the human emotions of love, kindness and idealism to a level lower than the dumb brutes?

Is this through a desire to *serve* God and their fellowman, to *give* something worthy and helpful in return for the blessings which a good income can make possible?

The answer, of course, is that this obscene “literature” is the result of a particularly *foul* and *perverse* form of COVETOUSNESS — a selfish desire to “get” the good things of life without having to GIVE anything good in return.

Look about you. You see a society literally FOUNDED on this principle!

You can quickly see *hundreds* of other major examples of COVETOUSNESS in our society if your eyes are really open. But be willing to see your *own* covetousness as well! Be willing to *repent* of it and ask God for the love and strength to *overcome* it.

Jesus Christ's Answer

Our generation NEEDS these words of the Son of God: “Take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).

Did you get that? Your real success and happiness in life, Christ said, is NOT truly able to be measured by how new or powerful a car you drive, the kind of home you live in, the clothes you wear, or even the food you eat.

Happiness is a state of MIND. It comes from having

the very *Spirit* and *mind of Christ* inside your own.

Jesus said: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). The love, joy and peace which Jesus exemplified came from *giving* and *SERVING* — not from any material thing Jesus was able to "get."

Jesus, the Son of man, was able to overcome human *vanity* and *covetousness* because He put the service of God FAR AHEAD of anything and everything else. After telling how the unconverted seek after — and *worry about* — the material necessities and comforts, He commanded: "*But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matt. 6:33).

The Commandments Join Together

And so at this point the *last* commandment joins hands with the *first*. For WHATEVER you seek contrary to God's will, you *covet*. If in your mind and heart you *lust* and *covet* something more than to obey the Creator and receive His blessings, that thing becomes an IDOL to you. "Covetousness . . . is IDOLATRY" (Col. 3:5).

Then, whatever you idolize you *put in place* of the true GOD. And you BREAK the *first* commandment: "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*" (Ex. 20:3).

The Apostle Paul said: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16.)

When you begin to *covet* material things, you "serve" them. You spend your *time*, your *energy*, your *money* for these things.

In such a situation, you have neither time nor energy to really STUDY the Bible, or to spend an hour in earnest PRAYER before the One who gives you life and breath. And you find yourself being "stingy" and jealous of the money you owe your Maker to finance the proclamation of His truth.

By this simple process, the material things you lust for and *covet* literally become your "GOD." For you truly serve and worship *them* — and find in your life little time,

strength and wealth with which to SERVE the true God with all of your heart, strength and mind.

Do you see?

Covetousness is a TERRIBLE thing — for it *cuts you off* from the fellowship and blessings and love of the great God of Heaven who made ALL that is — but intended that this material creation be used in His service and for His glory.

And, in practical daily life, covetousness violates the basic principle of the WAY OF LIFE set forth by all the commandments of God and by Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus summarized this principle when He said: "*It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

If you strive to see how much you can *give* to others and SERVE them, you will find the true way to happiness and eternal life. You will need to ask God for His help and Spirit. But you will find that this positive approach is the *only* way you will be able to keep the *tenth commandment*.

In learning to lovingly, sincerely and intelligently *serve* your fellowman, and to *serve* and WORSHIP the true God, you will find the only real sense of *fulfillment* and JOY in this life. And in the *World Tomorrow*, you will be given *eternal life* and *glory* in a Divine government literally based on the principle of LOVE, of *giving*, of the joy of *servng* and *contributing* to the lasting happiness of others.

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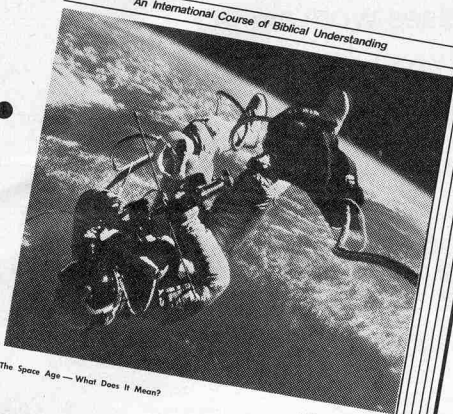
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