

The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20/Deut 5)

The 10 commandments are found in 2 different places in the O.T. They can be found Exodus 20 and Deut 5. There are some differences between the two accounts, but for the most part they are the same.

The first 4 commandments deal with Man's relationship with God and the last 6 will deal with deals with man's relationship with their fellow man. The first time Moses received them was in Exodus 20, but Moses smashed the tablets into pieces when he came back and saw the Israelites worshipping a golden calf (Ex 32). The Second time Moses received them is in Exodus 34:28

I. "You shall have no other gods before me" Ex 20:3

There are many places in the N.T as well as the O.T that deals with this. We recognize Matthew chapter 4 as the temptations of Jesus. By looking at the way Mathew listed them, the last temptation must have been the most significant because he puts it in the climax. Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and said, "All the kingdoms of the world can be yours." Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."

This is the great and first commandment and the same thing is true for all of us. There is but one God and there are no others whom we will serve.

For the second passage we need to turn over to the book of Romans. In chapter one Paul talks about the sins of the Gentiles and one of the reasons why God gave them up is because they did not worship the True God. God gave them up because of idolatry.

II. "You shall not make any Graven images": Verse 4

In the New Testament there is a great amount of information about that. One of the most outstanding passages is when Paul was at a place where they had all kinds of gods. He was standing on Mars Hill in Acts 17.

In verse 28, Paul quotes one of their poets to teach a very important truth. He says, "For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Then being offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like gold or silver or stone, engraved by art and man's imagination."

It's no wonder Christianity seemed to be so different than any other religion because all the other nations had something to look at.

III. “You shall not take the Lord’s name in Vain:” Verse 7

One of the ways that most of us understand this verse in by putting God’s name in our by-words. That’s one way to do it, but from what I’ve studied there may be another way to interpret this.

In the Bible days, if you make an oath and put God’s name in that oath, that’s serious business. In Mathew chapter 5 we have the sermon on the Mount, and it is here that most of the 10 commandments are dealt with.

Verse 33 says, “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all! Not by Heaven, because it is God's throne.”

Jesus is saying that we should be the kind of people who don’t use oaths. In the O.T. God says, “If you make an oath then you better be sure to keep it.” But in the New Testament Jesus says, “don’t even make an oath. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.”

IV. “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” Verse 8

This is the only one not found in the New Testament, the Bible never calls Sunday the Sabbath. The nearest to anything said about this is in Col 2:16. Paul is talking about the old law. When Jesus died, the old law, that includes the 10 comm, was taken out of the way and nailed to the cross.

Vs 16, “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

This is talking about the law of Moses and Paul says, you don’t have to keep the old law anymore. They are just a shadow of the things to come, but the substance is of Christ, so that takes care of it.

Close: Today I’ve covered 4 of the 10 Commandments. I will cover the remaining 6 next week.

The first 4 deals with our relationship with God and the other 6 will deal with our relationship with others. The New Testament does give some additional information about these commandments. Keeping the Sabbath day is the only one we don’t have to keep, and Jesus changes our understanding about taking oaths.