

# **“Introducing the Ten Commandments”**

## **Exodus 20:1-17**

**The Situation...** The Ten Commandments were first given to Israel, a nation that had indulged in the idolatry of Egypt and in spite of God’s great and miraculous deliverance of them from slavery were a people who He knew would continue to rebel against His law. We wonder why God would give His law to a people who He knew would not obey His words.

**The Purpose...** The first reason the commandments were given is to reveal sin and show how badly we all need a Savior. We cannot earn a place with God in heaven by obeying the commands we must instead receive salvation as a gift from God by faith in the Savior, Jesus Christ. Secondly, the commandments were given to guide us whom God has saved in how to live grateful lives that are good and pleasing to Him.

**How to Interpret...** A few clues for rightly understanding the commandments are the following. 1) The commandments are binding upon the attitudes of our hearts and not only our outward behaviors. 2) Each commandment concerns not only the specific sin mentioned but all the sins that lead up to it and all the supposedly lesser sins of the same kind. 3) Each commandment is two-sided, meaning that with every negative prohibition the opposite positive action should be done. 4) Jesus is the fulfillment of the commandments. He alone has obeyed them and He as the Son of God is their point and object. If we want to understand the commandments rightly we must pay attention to how Jesus interpreted them.

### **\*Questions for Discussion:**

- 1.** In what ways do you struggle with the place of God’s law in your life as a Christian?
- 2.** How has your understanding of the Ten Commandments changed as you have matured in your Christian life?
- 3.** What comfort do you derive in reflecting on Jesus’ fulfillment of the Ten Commandments?

**(Homework: Meditate upon Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 5 this week. Consider how the commands apply to your life as a Christian. Also, seek to memorize the Commands.)**