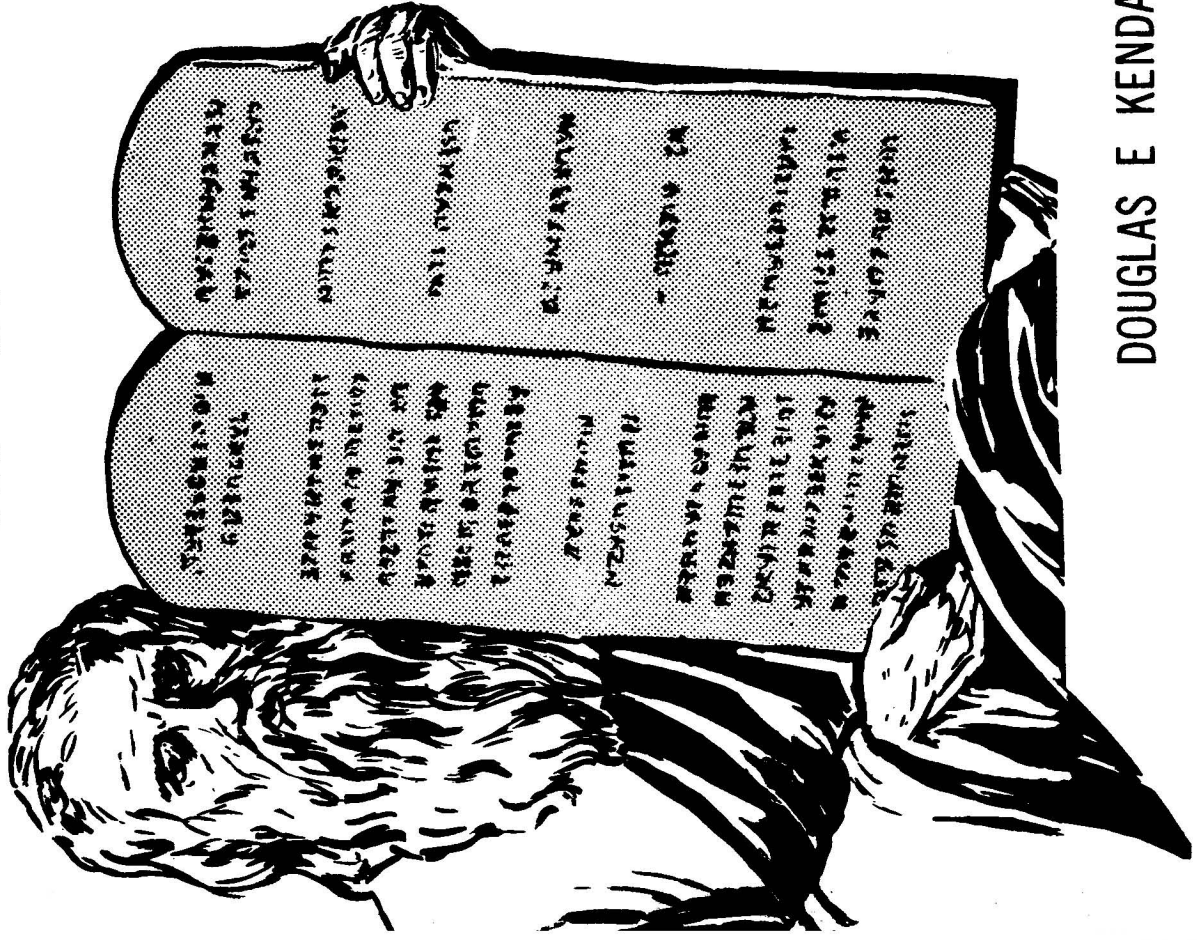


TEN RULES

FOR LYING



DOUGLAS E KENDALL

Produced through the printed word



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TEN RULES FOR LIVING



DOUGLAS E KENDALL

4. Receive Love.

When you receive Christ as your Saviour you receive then and there the love of God. If you accept Christ as your Saviour you will find love and you will want to share that love with others who do not know him.

If you practice the Greatest Commandment..... love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.....then you will love your neighbour as yourself. Then it will be easy to keep the Ten Commandments given to us all so many centuries ago.

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HOW SHALL WE KEEP THE FIRST AND GREAT
COMMANDMENT?

How shall we keep this first and great commandment of our Lord? These are four things that we can do:

1. Believe in Love.

Jesus believed in the power of love to transform men. Jesus knew that the final victory is to be found in love, not in hate.

2. Realise Love.

When a man becomes really convinced of the love of one of his fellows, that realisation makes his own love spontaneous. "We love him," says Paul, because, he first loved us." "He loved me and gave himself up for me."

3. Express Love.

Sometimes it is difficult to express love. We have love in our hearts, but for one reason or another it is difficult to express this love to others. Perhaps our love may be small in the beginning, but as we express that love it begins to grow more and more. We naturally love those who help us, who comfort us in our sorrow and reach a hand to us in our need. There is something about living sacrificially for others that makes them very dear to us. This accounts for the fact that the mother usually loves best the child for whom she has to make the greatest sacrifice. That also is one reason why it is more blessed to give than to receive. Express the love you have, and it will grow more and more.

WHY IS LOVE SUPREME?

With us, as with God, nothing counts unless it is motivated by love. This is one reason why love is so important. Another reason why love is the most important thing is that love gives value to even the smallest things which we do. Even the giving of a cup of cold water becomes a priceless service. A handclasp or a smile often becomes a treasure more precious than gold. Jesus told of a certain widow who once made an offering that was so small it seemed unimportant as men count things. But because she gave her small offering out of a heart of love for God, Jesus was greatly pleased. Jesus said that this widow had given more than all the other people who were present. The smallest thing is priceless when love is present. Love is supreme because it fulfills the law. The Apostle Paul said that love does not do harm to a neighbour. If we love our fellows we are not going to bear false witness against them. If we love them, we are not going to take advantage of them. We are not going to steal from them, either within or without the law. If we love, we are not going to kill. Love builds a wall of defense around every human life. If we love our fellows, we will not knowingly do them harm of any kind.

Love fulfills the law not only by doing no harm. It fulfills the law by doing every possible good. Love will do big things if possible. If not, it will do the small things grandly. Love will beautify a palace if it has an opportunity. If not, it will transform a little house.

Love is supreme because it is the mightiest force on earth. It sends men on the most heroic and daring missions. It keeps them at their place of duty when nothing else will. It even has power to change indifference into friendship. It has power to overcome hate. That is the most amazing power in all the world.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The Bible Way Correspondence School offers a basic series of study, the FIVE STAR Course of Study, designed for those who have had no previous training in Bible study, yet presented in such a way that those who have studied the Bible for years will find help. Any and all are welcome to study the FIVE STAR Course.

This book is a part of the GOLD SEAL Course of Study, offered only to students who have completed the FIVE STAR Course. The purpose of these studies is to take the student further in Bible knowledge and to help him understand better the Christian life.

A Bible should always be beside you as you study these lessons. You should read carefully each reference as it appears in the lesson you are studying. All scripture references in this book are quoted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. You may read the scriptures in any version of the Bible. If there are words in the Bible or lesson which you do not understand, you should look them up in a good dictionary.

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THIS IS YOUR
STUDENT NUMBER
(No one else has it)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LOVE?

What does it mean to love God? To love God is to obey him. "He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me." To love God is to enter into friendship with him. "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you." Friendship has two sides. If God is my friend, that means that he stoops to my interests. There is not a proper interest of my life that does not concern him. He is interested in every interest of my life. This is the case because he is my friend. But if the Lord stoops to my interests, then if I am to be his friend, I must rise to his interests. Is he interested in my church? He is. Then must I be interested in the multitudes that are without the church? I must be interested in these multitudes. I may begin as a disciple with narrow interests. But if I am to be God's friend in the fullest sense, I must care for the people of the world as God cares for them. God's objectives must become my objectives. To love God, then, is to obey him. It is to be loyal to him. It is to make his plans and purposes for the world my very own.

What does it mean to love man? To love our fellows, in a Christian sense, does not mean that we enjoy the companionship of one just as much as of another. We should be fair and impartial, regardless of our likes or dislikes. To love in the Christian sense is to be possessed of good will towards men. Love is active. The Apostle Paul describes love in 1 Corinthians chapter thirteen in this way: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

is the answer, love to God and love to man. These two commandments are like the first and the last link of a chain. Everything in between depends upon these two links. True religion begins and ends in love to God and man. LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR FELLOWS. This is what Jesus is saying. We are to do as we please so long as our lives are motivated by love.

This rule of love to God and man is not really two rules, but one. Love to God and love to man are two parts of a single whole. In the very nature of things they belong together. If we are wise we will give emphasis to both.

1. We are to love God.

Faith in God is essential if we are ever to appreciate our fellow man. There can be no love to God without love to man. "If we love not our brother whom we have seen," asks the Apostle John with common sense, "how can we love God whom we have not seen?"

2. We are to love man.

Jesus gave us one plain test of discipleship. What is that test? He showed that discipleship is not a mere matter of creed (what we say we believe). It is not a matter of denomination. It is not a matter of church attendance only. It goes far beyond all these things. "By this," Jesus declares, "shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one toward another." The true mark of the early Christians was that they "loved one another." It is still the true mark of a Christian.

There is, then, one essential rule for living. That is to love God with an undivided heart, and to love one's neighbour as one's self.

INTRODUCTION

This is a book about the Ten Commandments. You can find them in the Bible, in the twentieth chapter of the book of Exodus. Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament. It is the book which tells us about the life and the work of Moses. Moses was one of the most important men of the Old Testament. It was through him that God chose to give his law to men.

The children of God wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Study carefully Exodus Chapter 19 through Chapter 24 because these are the chapters that tell us about the giving of God's law.

As we begin our study of the Ten Commandments we will find that there are several names given to the Ten Commandments. God, himself, calls them "MY COVENANT." A covenant is an agreement between two or more people. In this case the agreement is between God and his chosen people, the Jews. God chose the Jews as his special people. He promised to make them a great and wonderful nation. He promised to do this if they would promise to worship and serve him only.

Sometimes the Ten Commandments are called simply, "THE LAW" meaning the LAW OF GOD. The Ten Commandments have been called "THE TEN RULES FOR LIVING." This is a very good name because these Ten Commandments are God's ten rules for happiness.

The two greatest events in the history of mankind are:

1. The death on the Cross of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
2. The giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

The Greatest Commandment

The Ten Commandments are very important because they teach all of us that we are sinners. They teach us that we have fallen short of what God has expected of us. God calls this sin. If it were not for these Commandments we would not know clearly that we had sinned against God.

These Commandments were given to these special people whom God had called and chosen for his very own.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-40.

MEMORY VERSE: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* Matthew 22:37.

INTRODUCTION:

We have now completed our study of the Ten Commandments, or as we have called them "Ten Rules For Living." These Rules for Happiness were given 1,300 years before the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, let us turn our attention to the New Testament and see what our Lord had to say concerning the greatest commandment of all.

THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT GIVEN

A certain lawyer, who was a Pharisee, had just asked Jesus a question. His question was not asked in sincerity. He was asking to test the knowledge of Jesus rather than to gain knowledge for himself. The Jews were a people of many rules. They had hundreds of them. In addition to the Ten Commandments, there were in all more than six hundred rules which the people were expected to keep. The Ten Commandments were given by God but many of the other rules were made by men. This lawyer was asking a question that must have puzzled every man who took these rules seriously. He was asking which one of them is most important, which is fundamental. To this question asked in insincerity, Jesus gave a sane and sincere answer. What was his answer? Among all of these rules, what rule is really the most essential? Love

indeed. This is the answer to the problem of covetousness. If a man has a contented spirit, there is a force inside him greater than any material thing on the outside.

LESSON

1

The Ten Commandments Given

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-26; 31:18;
32:15,16.

MEMORY VERSE: *"If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine."* Exodus 19:5.

INTRODUCTION:

It has been almost 3,300 years since the Ten Commandments were given to the children of Israel. It is interesting to remember that they were given on Mount Sinai, which is in modern Saudi Arabia, and is only about fifty miles from our continent of Africa.

The children of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt for over 400 years. God delivered his chosen people out of Egyptian slavery. He led them out of Egypt on their way to the land which God had promised to them. This land was called the Promised Land. For forty years the Jews wandered in the wilderness waiting for God to allow them to enter the Promised Land. It was to be the land where God's Son was to be born 1,300 years later. God had many lessons to teach the children of Israel before he could allow them to have a plan for the people he loved was to give them the Ten Commandments. These Commandments would be ten rules for happiness for the nation and for each person in the nation. These were to be "Ten Rules for Living." God wanted the best for his chosen people. God knew that they could not be happy if they did not have some rules to guide them. There is no happiness in lawlessness, which God calls sin. God's purpose was not to burden them

with heavy rules and regulations. God wanted his people to be happy and to prosper. Do you know that most Christians cannot even say the Ten Commandments by memory? They do not even refer to them very often. We need to remember that the prophets and the apostles were not forgetful or careless about the law of God. Isaiah declares that the coming of Jesus Christ would "Magnify his law, and make it glorious." (Isaiah 42:21). The Apostle Paul in the book of Romans, chapter 7, verse 12 said the "law is holy."

The law of God is eternal. We shall always need the Ten Commandments.

GIVEN ON MOUNT SINAI Exodus 19:1-9

In Exodus 19:1 we read that three months after the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt they arrived in the wilderness at the foot of Mount Sinai. This was a desert place. Moses was led of God to this place. Moses went alone up into the mountain and there God spoke to him. God reminded Moses how he delivered the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. In verse 5 of this chapter God made a covenant or a promise. God promised that he would make the Jews his special people and he would bless them in many wonderful ways. God was even then making plans to send his own Son into the world. It was through the Jewish nation that Jesus Christ came into the world more than 1,300 years later. God's promise had a condition to it. All of God's promises have conditions to them. God always says, "I will do this if you will do that." God wanted the Jews to obey him and to keep his commandments. God wants us to obey him and to keep his commandments. God wanted Israel to be a holy nation. God wants Zambia to be a holy nation.

The Bible says that Moses went down from the mountain and told the people all the things that God had said. The people agreed to God's

deeply enough is to steal outright. Every pickpocket, every gangster, every thief is, of course, covetous. Many times a covetous man becomes a murderer.

HOW CAN WE CONQUER COVETOUSNESS?

We can help ourselves to conquer covetousness by refusing to fix attention upon things which are forbidden. Refuse to look longingly at that which you cannot have. This is good sense. This is quite possible. Take your attention off that which is forbidden and fix it upon that which is permitted.

Remember, covetousness is a thing of the inner life. We need to get right with God from within. We must surrender ourselves to Jesus Christ. We must come to the place in our heart where we say, "Not my will, but yours (God's) be done." To be content, to be satisfied with what we have, is the opposite of covetousness.

WHAT JESUS AND OTHERS SAID CONCERNING COVETOUSNESS

Jesus said concerning covetousness, "Take heed and beware of covetousness." Two times the Apostle Paul tells us that covetousness is a form of idolatry. The Apostle James declares that the covetous man, the man who puts the world first, is hostile to God. "The love of the world is enmity against God." Paul says, "That no covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

A CLOSING THOUGHT CONCERNING THIS COMMANDMENT

The secret of life is not in getting, but in giving. It is not what we acquire, but what we invest in life that really counts. The person who has a contented spirit is fortunate

THE WORD "COVET"

The word "covet" means to desire or long for something. This word "covet" means unlawful desire. There are many desires of this kind.

1. Desiring that to which we have no right. We are not to covet or desire unlawfully our neighbour's property, his house, his ox; we are not to covet his wife. This law includes all kinds of coveting of that which belongs to someone else. The Bible says, "You shall not covet ----- anything that is your neighbour's."
2. But coveting or covetousness goes deeper than this. The man who desires more than he needs, more than he can possibly use, is covetous.
3. To covet means to put the things of the world above the things of spiritual value. It is to put a gain above God.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH COVETOUSNESS?

- Someone might ask, "What is the harm of covetousness?" The answer is:
1. Covetousness kills contentment because it fixes our eyes on what we do not have instead of what we really have. Covetousness makes for unhappiness.
 2. Covetousness leads to wrong doing. Covetousness is a fountain from which flow many poisonous streams. The one who breaks this rule is likely to break every other rule.
 3. Covetousness often leads to lying, to bearing false witness. To covet the wife of another is to become an adulterer. To covet the goods of another man is, at times, to become a legal thief. To covet

plan, and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

GIVEN BY A HOLY GOD Exodus 19:10-13

There are many reasons why God gave the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel and to us. Let us list just a few of these reasons.

1. That they may know the nature of God.
2. That they may have some guides for living.
3. That they may pattern their lives after God.
4. That they may realise that God and his laws are eternal.
5. That they may know that God loves them.

The Ten Commandments themselves tell us much about the character of God. The Commandments teach us that God is holy; God is pure; God is good; God is love. Even the manner in which the Ten Commandments were given teaches us much about God. Because God loves us he gave us the Ten Commandments. The Commandments require that we be good even as he is good; that we be pure as he is pure; that we be holy even as he is holy. The Commandments teach us that God is Spirit and that we must worship God in spirit and in truth.

Notice that the people were told to sanctify themselves. This means to purify themselves. For three days they were to get ready so that God could speak to them. The people were forbidden to go up on the mountain or even to touch the border of the mountain. God warned them that if they disobeyed and tried to climb the mountain to see him they would be put to death.

On the morning of this day there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud upon the mountain. There was the sound of a loud trumpet and all the people were filled with fear.

The Tenth Commandment

Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God. They stood at the edge of the mountain. There was fire and smoke on the mountain and the earth shook violently. The sound of a trumpet sounded louder and louder. Then Moses spoke for the people. God answered by a voice out of the clouds so that all the people would hear him.

The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai. He called Moses to come up into the mountain. Moses went up to meet with God.

The people were anxious to see God. God sent Moses down to warn the people that they would perish if they tried to come into his presence. Even the priests could not come up. God invited Moses and Aaron only to come up and talk with him.

GIVEN TO SINFUL MAN Exodus 20:1-26

God is holy and man is sinful. Sinful man cannot look upon a holy God and live. Later - 1,300 years later - Jesus was to die on a cross for our sins. This would make it possible for a sinful man to come into the presence of a holy God and live, not die.

God spoke that day and gave the Ten Commandments which we will study carefully in the next lessons of this book. The sinful people were very much afraid when they heard the thunderings, and saw the lightning, and heard the noise of the trumpet, and saw the mountain smoking. They asked Moses to speak to them, as they were afraid to hear God for fear they would all die. Moses told them that they did not need to fear God. And Moses told them God's purpose was that they should learn to respect and obey God and avoid sin.

God was hidden even from Moses by a thick darkness. The holy God wanted sinful man to know that he had spoken to him. God did not want sinful man ever to forget who gave the Commandments to him. These laws or commandments were not made by man, but rather they

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:17.

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall not covet....."
Exodus 20:17.

INTRODUCTION:

The Tenth Rule for Living which God gave is, "You shall not covet." This is the last commandment which God gave on Mount Sinai. The Tenth Commandment, in a certain way, sums up all of the other nine commandments and yet it is different from all the others. The other commandments are concerned with visible acts. The Tenth Commandment is concerned with desires. The other commandments forbid the act of sin -- this commandment forbids the desire to sin. If we keep this commandment perfectly, if we can keep our desires pure and good, it will not be so hard for us to keep the other commandments. Selfishness is the root of all sin. Covetousness is basically an unwillingness to trust the Lord. Covetousness is also basically a faithless attitude. Pride, expressed through greed and envy, is at the heart of man's conduct. This commandment deals with his character. This commandment deals with envy...."You shall not envy" is the tenth word of the Lord. Next to the First Commandment the Tenth Commandment is the most important of them all. The First Commandment deals with "no other gods." The Tenth Commandment deals with unlawful desire for "things" which can eventually displace even God in one's life. Paul said that covetousness was the same as idolatry

for a critical spirit is a large dose of love." Lying also stirs up trouble, bitter feelings, heartache. Lying causes us to lose respect for the liar. Lying is a serious matter because it undermines the very foundations of health and happiness. It undermines the home and it undermines spiritual values. Most of all it is a serious matter because lying affects our relationship, not only to man, but also to God. God condemns lying. He classifies liars with murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and yes even idolaters.

"But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Revelation 21:8.

Lying leads others away from God and into Hell and everlasting destruction. Most of all lying separates us from God.

And so this commandment says positively, "Tell the truth at all times if you would be happy and help others." We are to speak the truth in the spirit of love. Christians ought to tell the truth because Jesus said, "I AM THE TRUTH." A Christian should be one who is like Jesus. God is interested in character, and the very foundation of character is truthfulness. Let us look to Jesus who is our example in all things.

were made by God, himself. These Ten Laws were given to the Jews and to all mankind.

GIVEN IN TWO DIVISIONS Exodus 31:18; 32:15,16

The Ten Commandments were first spoken by God and afterwards they were engraved on both sides of two tables or pieces of stone. The Bible says that they were "written with the finger of God." (Exodus 31:18). The Bible also says that "The tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God." (Exodus 32:16). They were kept for centuries in the Ark of the Covenant. It is thought that possibly they were destroyed when the Jews were later captured by heathen nations.

The Ten Commandments were the basis of Hebrew Law. The first four laws have to do with man's attitude toward God. The last six are concerned with man's attitude toward his fellow man. Respect for God is the basis of the Ten Commandments.

GIVEN TO BENEFIT ALL MANKIND

The Ten Commandments were given for the happiness of all men. The Ten Commandments are not temporary. They stand forever. They are eternal because God is eternal. These commandments reflect the character of God. The Ten Laws are universal because they are for all men everywhere. They are for men of every country, every tribe, every individual on the face of the earth. They apply to men and women of every generation down through world history. They have been given for us and our children's children.

These Ten Rules for Living are as changeless as the will and purpose of the God who gave them.

The First Commandment

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-3.

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3.

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible says, "And God spoke all these words saying, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'" (Exodus 20:1-2). After these brief words, God gave the first of Ten Commandments or as we have said, "Ten Laws" or "Ten Rules for Living."

This First Rule for Living says: "You shall have no other gods before me." This commandment was something new among the religions of the world. It was different from any commandment ever given before that time. For in those days men worshipped many gods, and bowed down to images of every imaginable kind. In those days the people did not worship one god only.....they worshipped many, many false gods. They thought that one god would help them in love. They thought another god would help them in sickness. They thought that still another god would help them in war. They even had a god who they thought could help them in death. To worship only one God was certainly a new idea to a nation of people. Even the Jews sometimes had worshipped false gods before the giving of the Ten Commandments.

When God called out and chose this Hebrew nation to be his, the first law for their happiness was this one: "You shall have no other gods before me." Let us never forget that the worship of one God is the priceless gift of the Hebrews to the whole world, yes even to us.

how to tell the truth. If they once did know how to tell the truth they have forgotten now. Some men lie because it is the easiest way out. These are just a few reasons why men lie. They can all be summed up in one word --- SIN. It has been said that a man lies to escape the judgment of men who are temporal, only to find that he must face the judgment of God who is Eternal.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO TELL LIES

There are many ways to tell lies. Simple lies are the kind which little children often tell. Although they are not telling the truth, they do not mean to cause serious harm. Many people lie by telling only half the truth. Some people lie by overstatement --- by stretching the truth all out of size. Half truths are under-telling the truth while over-statement is over-telling the truth. Each one is equally dangerous and deceitful. Another way of lying is to give false testimony in a court of law. Harmful gossip is another way of breaking this commandment. Tale-bearing and whispering against other people also break this commandment. Another way of bearing false witness is by flattery. Still another form of lying is to speak one thing and to live another. One of the most dangerous forms of lying is to lie by implying an untruth, even if one does not directly state it. We can even lie by not saying anything at all when we should speak. When we hear gossip and know that it is a lie and we keep silent we are being a false witness.

TELLING LIES IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER

Telling lies is a very serious matter because it affects our relationship with our fellow man. Lying stirs up back-biting (saying about others what one dares not say to them face to face), and slander. Lying shows a spirit of lovelessness. Love allows no room for evil. Someone has said, "The only cure

THE SOURCE OF ALL LIES

We might ask ourselves the question, "What is the source of all lies?" The Bible tells us that lying goes back to the Garden of Eden. Satan, in the form of a serpent, said to Eve, "You will not die." Satan was telling Eve that it was not true, as God had said, that she would die if she ate the fruit of a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. When Eve believed the lie of Satan rather than the truth of God the first sin entered into the world. The terrible consequences of lying have been with mankind ever since. Satan is the true source of all lies. Satan is called the "Father of Lies." The very names given in the Bible for Satan describe his character as a liar. He is the chief liar. Believing the lie of Satan rather than the truth of God is the one main thing which sends a man to eternal destruction and damnation. Men die and are condemned to Hell because they have believed the wrong person. God says "the wages of sin is death..." and man says God is a liar. Man has chosen to believe Satan rather than God. And for man there is no hope but to confess this to be a lie and to turn to Christ who can change his lying heart.

WHY DO MEN TELL LIES?

There are many reasons why men tell lies. Some men lie to escape the consequences of the truth. Some men lie because it is their very nature to do so. Liars show the kind of character they have as well as who their father is (Satan). Some men lie because of a wrong kind of self-love. They seek to put themselves in the best possible light while putting others in the worst possible light. Some men lie because of their pride. They are too proud to tell the truth. Pride separated man from God in the beginning. Christ came to restore humility. Some men lie to be different, to get attention, to get sympathy, to pamper self. Some men lie because they do not know

GOD LIVES - "I am"

This first commandment teaches us that there is a God. It is very fitting that the first commandment begins with God. That is always the best place to begin - "With God." In the very beginning God said, "I am." God does exist. God does live. The Bible does not seek to prove that there is a God. The Bible simply proclaims him. Everything truly good has its roots in God. And it is true that God is the source of all happiness. We can find true happiness and peace only in him.

GOD IS PERSONAL - "Your God"

This commandment also teaches us that God is personal. God not only exists, but God is personal. This means that he knows and cares about each one of us. He knows our name. He knows our problems. He knows our temptations. He knows our sins. He knows our strength and our weakness. God's laws are personal and, like God, they are eternal. God says, "You." This is a very personal word. It is a word that applies to each one of us. God sees us and knows us all one by one. Each one of the commandments is personal. It is the word of the living personal God. The commandments are addressed to you and to me personally and individually. God is a living personal God.

GOD IS AVAILABLE TO DELIVER US

"Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

This commandment also teaches us that God is personally available to deliver us out of our difficulties. The Jews were slaves in Egypt and God looked down upon them. He loved them. He delivered them. He gave them a leader, Moses. He divided the Red Sea so that the people could cross over. He brought water out of a rock when they needed water to quench their thirst. He sent quails into the desert so that the people could have food to eat. He

sent manna from heaven so that they would not be hungry. He sent a pillar of cloud to direct, enlighten, and shield them. God gave them Ten Rules for their happiness. This very first commandment is God's plan to prevent man's misery and to promote his happiness. God does not want us to depend upon any person or any thing. God is the source of all good. He wants us to depend upon him.

This law says that every man may have God for his very own. God does not change, but our ideas about God do change....God remains the same forever and ever. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, forever." The good news is that God is available and no man need miss God. Possessing God, we do possess all things. To say that God cares is to say that God loves. The God who personally loves us will surely deliver us from the bondage of sin and death even as he delivered the children of Israel. The fact that he is our God is enough to strengthen the courage of the weakest or strongest Christian.

GOD MUST BE FIRST - "No other gods before me."

Now we have come to the very heart of this commandment. The Bible declares --THERE IS BUT ONE GOD. There are not many divine beings --- only One. The universe is not large enough for more than one God. He only is to be worshipped. This is what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8:6 "For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." We are told that we are to place no other gods before or beside God. God wants our whole-hearted love. There can be no divided allegiance between him and another. The Bible says, "The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4,5.

LESSON

10

The Ninth Commandment

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:16.

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall not bear false witness." Exodus 20:16.

INTRODUCTION:

The Ninth Rule for Living which God gave is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour." This commandment has to do with telling the truth. Put into a simple positive way this commandment says: YOU SHALL TELL THE TRUTH AT ALL TIMES, EVERYWHERE. Here is an underlying rule of life that is fundamental to health and happiness. This is a commandment that has to do with the control of our tongue. It is the commandment which safeguards reputation, even as the Eighth Commandment protects private poverty. In fact, deceit may injure a person more than robbery. Giving false witness is most evil when it takes the form of telling lies while under oath in a court of law. Giving false witness also includes all whispering, tale-bearing, slander, flattery, half truths, overstatements, pretense, judging or accusing others or wrong motives, and also bold-faced lies. Any lie which tends to injure another in his goods, his person, or his character is against the spirit and letter of this law. Even if we withhold the truth when we know it so that a person is cheated of his property, or his good name, or is hurt because we have not told the truth, is a crime against this law. Whoever does these things comes under the curse of this law of God because his testimony is false. The true meaning of this commandment concerns telling lies in whatever form. God condemns this with a strong, YOU SHALL NOT.

Yes, this commandment is against stealing and dishonesty in whatever form it may take. Injury can be done to another man if we steal his reputation. If we lie about his reputation, or his good name, or his character we do him wrong. This is stealing in the sight of God. If we are not careful we can rob people of their faith, and courage, and even hope. We can rob another person of those inner supports without which life falls into ruins.

Someone has said that many a man is saved from being a thief by finding everything locked up. How much better it would be if each of us could be saved from being a thief by following the will of God.

JUDAS WAS A THIEF

The most typical thief in history was Judas Iscariot. He was one of the twelve apostles, and we are told that our Lord made him their treasurer. Judas Iscariot had the bag, and what was put into it he kept for himself. Judas did not know that the measure of a man does not consist in what he has, but in what he is.

JESUS SAID

Jesus said, "Be rich toward God." What you have in your pocket may roll away, but what you have in your heart and mind is there to stay. That is why Christ speaks of "treasures which neither moth nor rust can corrupt (destroy) and where thieves cannot break through and steal." If we are Christians no one can steal our salvation away from us, not even Satan. The Apostle Paul said, "Let him that stole, steal no more." If we have stolen we must make restitution. We must repay. We must make things right in the sight of God and men.

If we are wise, we shall seek to obey this commandment of God. Honesty is the road to true happiness - honesty with ourselves and with others.

This commandment teaches that the children of Israel must worship God only and that they must turn from all other gods. There are many forms of spirit-worship in Africa, and many customs which go against the true worship of God. This commandment is for all people: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." God must be first in your life.

This commandment is saying positively, "If you will turn from false gods, then you shall have me." We find God when we are willing to give up all else in order to find him. These ancient Jews could have the God of Israel only as they were willing to let the false gods of all other nations go. Jesus says, "If any man will open the door, I will come in and sup (eat) with him and he with me." This means that if we are willing to give up our lesser gods we shall know the real God. This commandment becomes to us not merely a forbidding law....You shall not....but rather a radiant gospel.

Martin Luther once said: "Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is properly your god." The Israelites were tempted to put false gods in the place which belonged to the one true God. They were trying to worship God and the false gods at the same time. Christians do not give up their faith in God. However some Christians have things in their lives with which they divide the devotion due to God alone. "Him only shall you serve." Matthew 4:10.

The question is not whether we believe, but in whom or what do we believe. This commandment assumes that men will give their loyalty to the true God or to false gods. Who or what is your god? Who and whatever receives your supreme preference and obedience is god to you. Remember: you belong to the power which you choose to obey. (Romans 6:16). God wants first place in our lives. God wants

first place in our hearts. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15. The Bible says, "Choose this day whom you will serve....but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

course this is very wrong, but such a man is to be pitied. Sometimes a man learns to steal from bad company, and because his friends tempt him. Many a man has been persuaded to help with a robbery, because he is weak and vain, and is ashamed to say "No." Sometimes a man gives way to a sudden temptation. Some people steal from envy. They cannot bear to see other people doing well, other people richer than themselves. "Why should he have a motor-car," a man says, "and I only have a bicycle? I'm as good as he is, aren't I?" And so he steals. But the most common reason for stealing is just laziness. It seems so easy. "Why should I work? I can have a good time. I can run about town. I can have drinks. I can have girls. I can have smart clothes." And then....the poor fellow steals, and is caught and finds himself in jail.

WHAT OTHER THINGS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS COMMANDMENT?

There are many ways of breaking the Eighth Commandment: unjust wages, unfaithful service, dishonest gains, cruelty, oppression, destruction of employer's property. These and other forms of theft endanger society. There is a close connection between a man and his property. In ancient times the thief would be put to death. In the Old Testament all property was looked upon either as the possession or the gift of the Lord and therefore sacred.

To steal means to take that which belongs to another for ourselves or another. Stealing is wrong in the sight of God. Stealing is sin. Stealing is taking the easy way out. Stealing shows our contempt of and disrespect for others. It is an outward act which shows our own selfishness and lack of love and concern for others. Even cheating in school is a form of stealing. Some people cheat at games. But what is the use of winning a game, unless you win fairly?

The Eighth Commandment

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:15.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"You shall not steal."
Exodus 20:15.*

INTRODUCTION:

The Eighth Rule for Living which God gave is, "You shall not steal." This commandment has to do with respect for the rights and property of others. This commandment has to do with basic honesty. It teaches us that we must be honest with ourselves and with our fellow man.

WHO IS A THIEF?

The thief says, "Only a fool will work for his living. If you are smart, you can get what you want without work." A thief may be a burglar, or a pickpocket or a bag-snatcher, or a car thief, or he may forge other people's names, or he may be a clerk who cheats his employer, or he may carry a gun, and hold up a bank, or he may rob people by violence. And always the dream is that he is smart, and that big money can be had without work. The thief is a man who makes other people poor, without getting rich himself. Thieves are the ticks on the ox, that suck its blood and make it weak. Thieves do no good. They are selfish, greedy and wasteful, and stealing leads to lying and cheating and violence. The usual end of a thief is that he is caught and goes to prison.

WHY DO MEN STEAL?

Men steal for many reasons. Sometimes a man learns to steal because he is hungry, and he does not know anyone who will help him. Of

The Second Commandment

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:4-6.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"You shall not make for yourself a graven image....."
Exodus 20:4.*

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous lesson we learned that the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me," is a positive command to worship God alone. This Second Rule for Living, "You shall not make any graven image," deals with all representations or symbols of deity (god) that man may make to bow before or use in his worship of the one true God. The heart of this Second Rule for Living deals with making and worshipping idols.

THE DANGER OF IDOL WORSHIP

The Israelites were in danger of idol worship. This is one of the reasons why God gave this commandment to them. The children of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt. The Egyptians were people who worshipped many, many gods. They worshipped the sun and the moon and the stars. They also worshipped animals such as snakes, bulls, crocodiles and yes, even beetles. Worship is natural. It is natural for people to want to worship. People are made that way by God. But because of human limitations this natural desire often has been twisted into something bad instead of something good. It is good to worship provided we worship in spirit and in truth. False worship is never good. It leads men away from God instead of towards God. The children of Israel were in danger of falling into false

worship. Because all of their neighbours worshipped idols it became increasingly easy for the Jews to turn to idol worship. God gave this second Rule for Living so that there could be no doubt that he expected them to worship him and him alone. He did not even want them to worship him through an idol that represented him.

We are also in danger of worshipping false gods today. Therefore we need this commandment just as much today as the children of Israel needed it in their day.

GOD FORBIDS MAN TO MAKE IDOLS

We might begin by asking the question, "Why does God forbid man to make images or representations of God?" There are two main reasons why idol worship is condemned by God. One is that images rob men of the true knowledge of God. All of man's representations of God are misrepresentations. They degrade God; they insult God. They deceive and corrupt man. The Apostle Paul said to the people of Athens who were great idol worshippers, "God....does not live in shrines made by man; nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed any thing....Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man." (Acts 17:24,25 and 29)

You see -- God is Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. We must also remember that the Creator (the one who makes something) is always superior to or greater than the thing which is made. Wherever people worship idols we find that they fall into sin and evil ways. They become less than their best. They take the easy way out. It is easier to worship an idol made of silver or gold than it is to live a holy life for God.

JESUS SPOKE CONCERNING THIS COMMANDMENT

In Matthew 5:27-32 Jesus, himself, spoke concerning this commandment that was given in the Old Testament times to Moses and the children of Israel. It still applies to us even today. Jesus said that the way we feel in our heart towards another person affects us. No person can constantly give himself to thought of immorality and not become emotionally twisted. Jesus said that a lustful heart is self-destructive. He condemned an inner attitude of lust because of the direct relationship between motivation and deed. The intention today may become the act of tomorrow. The New Testament writer, James, tells us that purity of action depends upon purity of thought. Jesus is always concerned with the motive of a man. Lustful thoughts betray a lack of appreciation for the dignity and worth of a human being made in the image of God. Because adultery brings sorrow and distress to people everywhere, Jesus urges us all to be pure in heart and deed. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

IF YOU SIN REMEMBER....

If you fall into sin remember that there is hope for you yet. Jesus, the one who loves you, said, to another who had fallen: "Go, and sin no more." Paul says, "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh." God loves us and will help us to live pure lives for him day by day.

forgiven. When you are forgiven, put it from you, and, if possible, return to it no more in thought.

The Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament says, "He who commits adultery has no sense; he who does it destroys himself." Proverbs 6:32.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN

In the beginning God created man. Male and female created he them. Our sex is something which is a part of us, and which affects the whole of us, body, mind and spirit. It is God-given, and it is God's plan that male and female together should make up the whole human being. It is a part of God's plan that a man will leave his mother and father and go and take unto himself a wife. It is God's plan that we should love and honour our partner. It is true that many people who are not Christians live on the animal level of life. But let us remember that the animal level of life was intended for animals, not for men. Men created in the image of God were created for a higher way. Marriage is a sacred relationship, a holy relationship. This law of God protects the marital rights of the husband and of the wife. Like the sixth commandment, "You shall not kill," this commandment is based on the sacredness of human personality. God wants us to love and respect the personality of one another.

WHY DID GOD FORBID ADULTERY?

God forbids adultery because it is humanly hurtful. God loves us and wants us to have and enjoy the best things of life. Adultery leaves us with feelings of guilt and fear and leads to unhappiness and sometimes even to death itself. The husband who is unfaithful is a cheat; the same is true of the wife. We cannot cheat without hurting someone else.

Another reason why God prohibits the worship of idols is because God has only one image of himself. It is a holy Image. This One is Jesus Christ, "He is the image of the invisible God." (Colossians 1:15) Christ alone can fully reveal the God of glory. No one else in all the universe had a right to say, "He that has seen me has seen the Father." The only perfect revelation of God's love is in the person of Jesus Christ. Only at his feet can we truly worship God the Father. Christ never refused worship. The blind men who had received their sight, the lepers who were cleansed, the often-amazed disciples, and the devoted women ---- all worshipped at his feet. None were rebuked. All were accepted.

TWO KINDS OF IDOL WORSHIP

Covetousness (desiring something you should not have) is the root of idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Idolatry originates in the unrenowned, corrupt heart of man. Outward idols are the creation of man's inward lusts. We might say that basically there are two kinds of idols:

- 1) Outward idols and
- 2) Inward idols.

Outward idols may be made of sticks, or stones, or silver, or gold, or some other material. God is concerned that we do not worship and serve such gods as these. The other kind of idol is inner idols which spring from lust. Perhaps it is lust for power, or lust for money, or lust of the flesh, or the lust of the eye, or the pride of life. We must even beware of worshipping evil spirits, and powers of darkness which include all kinds of witchcraft. God is also concerned that we do not worship and serve these gods which separate us from him. There is something within man that is the idol-maker. This idol maker "self" must die. Certainly the Christian should have no trouble with outward idol-worship, but if

The Seventh Commandment

self (our will over against God's will) rules our lives, we will find it difficult to worship our Lord and Saviour truly and freely.

GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD

The Second Law carries with it a warning against idol worship. It tells us that God is a jealous God. This means that God is not willing for us to divide our love for him with another - any other. God wants us to worship and to serve him alone. God forbids us to make any idols or to worship them because idol worship will turn away our hearts to other gods. God permits no rival. Jehovah is a God who punishes those who turn away from him. Everyone who worships idols will suffer. Also their children will suffer and even their children's children. Punishment will befall the idolater. This law calls attention to the simplicity and purity of worship. It reminds us that communion with God is direct. We do not have to go through a priest in order to reach the ear and heart of God. Every person can come to God through Jesus Christ.

Once again God commands us to love and worship him, and to keep his commandments. This is the way to find real happiness. And God has promised to bless us and our children and our children's children if we love him and serve him, and keep his commandments.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:14, Matthew 5:27-32.

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall not commit adultery."
Exodus 20:14.

INTRODUCTION:

The Seventh Rule for Living which God gave is, "You shall not commit adultery." This commandment has to do with purity of heart. It is a commandment against adultery and uncleanness. It was given by God to safeguard the home and the family.

THIS COMMANDMENT INCLUDES ALL KINDS OF IMPURITY

This commandment includes all kinds of impurity, not only adultery, but fornication, uncleanness. All impure books, songs, paintings, which tend to inflame and degrade the mind and the body are against this law of God.

THE MEANING OF ADULTERY

Adultery is the sin of the man who makes love to another man's wife, because her husband is away at work. It is the sin of the wife, who will have a "friend" as well as her husband. Or of the husband, who leaves his wife and family for the sake of another. It is any sin against the purity of Christian marriage. Yes, a Christian should guard his eyes from seeing impure acts, impure books, and impure pictures. A Christian should guard his tongue and his ears from impure talk. A Christian should guard his mind from impure thoughts and his body from impure acts. These are the rules. If you slip into some sin of the flesh, repent of it quickly, and be

4 The Third Commandment

into hate. We should shun hate because the hater is a potential killer. Jesus is concerned with our feelings towards men, for "From within --- out of the heart of man" proceed murders.

We need to understand that we can kill a man in many more ways than just taking his physical life. There are other methods of killing a man that are quite as effective as cutting off his head or shooting him. To call him "Raca" -- a block-head, a worthless nobody -- and treat him so again and again is to murder his personality, even though his body is not molested. We must even be careful not to "murder" the character of another man because if we "murder" his character we may destroy that man or cause him to destroy himself. This commandment forbids another attitude that is deadly, and that is not caring about the life or soul of another. This is perhaps the deadliest sin both of those who are within and those who are without the church.

Jesus says that we are to "Love one another." If we do this we will surely be keeping this commandment, "You shall do no murder."

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:7.

MEMORY VERSE: *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."*
Exodus 20:7.

INTRODUCTION:

The Third Rule for Living which God has given to his people concerns respect for the name of God, and truthfulness. The commandment says:

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." Exodus 20:7.

Martin Luther said of this commandment, "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive by his Name, but call upon him in every time of need and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving." Martin Luther's words sum up the very heart of this commandment given for our happiness.

This commandment forbids several things. Let us study them carefully and see that our lives are in keeping with this law of God.

FORBIDS CURSING WITH OUR LIPS

In Old Testament times the name of a man was very important because a man's name stood for his character. A good name was something to be proud of. The reputation of a name was something to be protected at all cost. A name represented a man's honour, his family, his place in society. There are almost a hundred

names for God in the Old Testament alone. Each one of these names tells us something about the character of God.

This was true also in the New Testament where we read about some of the names given to Jesus. These names tell us something about his character....what he is really like. Let us list just a few of the names given in the Bible for Jesus: Alpha and Omega (which means The Beginning and The End), Author of Eternal Salvation, Christ the Lord, Bread of Life, Counsellor, Comforter, Jesus, the Son of God, King, Living Bread, Prince of Peace, The Way, The Truth, The Life, and many many more which give us an idea of his character.

Now, the name of God is sacred because it stands for his person. This commandment forbids us to speak God's holy name as a curse word --- as a dirty word.

The only time some people ever use God's name is when they use it as a swear word. Swearing indicates spiritual sickness. They who truly know God will not take his name in vain --- in a dirty or empty kind of way. The name of God, and of Christ, should be used properly to glorify rather than degrade -- to drag down --- God. The right way to use God's name is to say: "Not my will but your will be done." Remember, even the heathens thought that the names of their gods should be treated with reverence. How much more then should we respect the name of our Lord and Saviour.

FORBIDS FALSE SWEARING IN A COURT OF LAW

This commandment also forbids swearing falsely in a court of law. When a person appears in a court of law to give testimony, he is asked to place his hand on the Holy Bible. Then he states that he is going to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God." Every man who places his hand on the Bible like this is

murder of any kind and he said, "They that take the sword shall perish by the sword."

THE REASON FOR THIS COMMANDMENT

The reason for this sixth law, "You shall do no murder," lies in the fact that life is a gift from God and therefore sacred in the sight of God. This commandment applies to human life. It does not mean that we are not to kill animals, or birds, or fish for food. It means that we are not to take another man's life. Only God can give life and no man has a right to destroy human life. Man is made in the image of God. Man has a soul. Animals do not. When a man kills another man he destroys something that is God-like. This is wrong in the sight of God.

JESUS SPEAKS CONCERNING THIS COMMANDMENT

In the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5:21-22, Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire."

Jesus is saying that our inner motives and thoughts and attitudes are very, very important because from these come our outward deeds. Jesus goes beyond the strict letter of the law to the spirit of the law when he says that we are not even to be angry with our brother (any other man) because anger is the seed which can turn into murder if we are not careful. To the mind of Jesus selfish anger is wrong. If a man is angry with another, the difference between him and the one who kills is in degree rather than in kind. Anger is usually dangerous and may become deadly. One danger of anger is that it tends to harden

The Sixth Commandment

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-22.

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall not kill."
Exodus 20:13.

INTRODUCTION:

The Sixth Rule for Living which God gave is, "You shall not kill." This commandment has to do with reverence and respect for human life. A better translation might be "You shall do no murder." This commandment is against murder and cruelty. "Murder." Look at that word. It is an ugly word, standing for a horrible thing. The first recorded murder in the Bible was when Cain killed his brother Abel. Since that time men have killed and been killed because of evil and sinful desires. The origin of murder is to be found in the heart of a man. It never begins as murder. It begins with the seed of jealousy, or bitterness, or selfish desire to have first place, or envy, or hatred. The outcome is the destruction of the body and in some cases the soul of a man.

MANY DEGREES OF MURDER

There are many degrees of murder recognised by society and civil law. There is willful murder caused by an ugly attitude of heart, an attitude that desires to see others suffer. Then there is sudden murder when a person takes revenge on another who is thought to have done wrong. Sometimes this kind of murder is caused by insult, or when a person is drunk and goes to commit sudden murder without great thought and plan before-hand. Then there is suicide, the taking of a person's own life. Then there is the murder of infant children because of an evil heart. Jesus was against

publicly calling on God to be his witness that he is telling the truth. To do this and then to tell lies is very serious. It breaks this third law of God and God says that he will punish anyone who does this.

This commandment indicates the sacredness of an oath taken before God and the importance of telling the truth at all times. Words are like the blade of a knife. Be careful how you use them. A Christian's word ought to be trustworthy. A Christian should keep his word, his promise. A promise is a very serious thing, and if we break our word, we are breaking this command. We are showing people that we cannot be trusted. Lying, cheating, stealing are like three ugly brothers.

In Moses' time there were those who had forgotten how to tell the truth. We are living in a day when there are those who have forgotten how to tell the truth also. Jesus said, "Swear not at all...." This commandment is saying: "Tell the simple truth."

FORBIDS THE UNWORTHY USE OF GOD'S NAME

God's name is holy - pure. If we call ourselves Christians then we must be very careful not to use God's name in any unworthy way. This law calls upon us to live and to speak the truth. Jesus said, "hallowed be thy name," when he prayed to God, the Father. The word "hallowed" means "blessed," and carries with it the idea of reverence and respect. We should respect God's name at all times because God's name stands for himself.

If we claim the Lord as our God we are hereby warned against bringing shame upon him by any impure word, or deed, or by any insincere profession. To call yourself a Christian and to act like a heathen is another sin against the third commandment.

A WARNING FROM GOD

This commandment ends with a serious warning from God, which says, "The Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." God is saying that if we abuse his name, if we curse, if we swear falsely in a court of law, if we use God's name in an unworthy way, God, himself, will hold us accountable and he will punish us. The Apostle Paul's warning to Timothy concerning Christians was, "Let every one who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity (sin)." 2 Timothy 2:19.

Let us be careful to respect the name of God in every way and always to tell the simple truth so that we can bring honour and glory to the name of our God.

their parents, even so, should man look up to and reverence God and serve him with gratitude for all that he has done for us in the giving of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

And so let us honour our father and mother; that our days may be long upon the land which the Lord our God has given us.

The Fourth Commandment

actions of their parents are an offense both to God and to man.

We should not forget to honour our parents while we have the opportunity to do so and while it may be most meaningful to them. Unless we are careful, life will soon run its course and the deeds that we often thought to do will have remained undone. After your parents die it will do little good to profess your deep honour for them if you never properly expressed it before. If you have not honoured them in this life, it does not matter how deeply you mourn their dying.

PARENTS SHOULD SO LIVE THAT THEY WILL COMMAND THE RESPECT OF THEIR CHILDREN

We tend to be like those we honour. We can compel the respect and honour of our children by being the kind of man or woman that we ought to be. What virtues win and hold respect? Sincerity, unselfishness, goodness. We should be sincere, unselfish, full of goodness. Fathers and mothers must not only give good advice to their children. Fathers and mothers must live good advice. They must be worthy of respect, if they are to be honoured by their children. Love must be in the home. It is love which ties fathers and mothers to children, and children to parents.

ALL PEOPLE SHOULD OBEY THOSE IN AUTHORITY

The principle of honour and respect is due not only to parents, but to those who are set over us. We should respect the President of our land. We should respect government officials who have been set over us. We should respect teachers, pastors, and other religious leaders. We owe this respect because it is right.

Above all, let us not forget that we owe obedience to the highest authority, God. Just as children should look up with gratitude to

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:8-11.

MEMORY VERSE: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8.

INTRODUCTION:

The Fourth Rule for Living which God gave is, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God."

It is easy to think that breaking this fourth commandment is not as serious as breaking the other nine commandments. But anyone who would break the fourth commandment already has it in his heart to break any and all of the other commandments.

The very heart of this commandment recognises that all time, all labour and rest, are to be consecrated to God.

THE JEWISH SABBATH DAY

God said: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." This was not the first time that this law had been given to the people, because God said: "Remember." From the very beginning of creation God had given this commandment to man. The book of Genesis tells us that God created the world in six days and that on the seventh day God rested. The very word sabbath means "rest from labour." The people had forgotten to keep God's original commandment. Therefore God reminded them that they were to keep one day out of seven as a holy day of rest and worship. The Jewish sabbath was to be different. It was a gift from God and was to be a hallowed day. This

commandment is based on the fact that God worked six days in creating the world and that he rested on the seventh. This law goes on to say, "Six days you shall labour." Anyone who idles away time on any of the six days is as guilty before God as he who works on the sabbath. It is a dangerous thing to neglect this holy day. This is the day that belongs to God. Christianity is not the place for sluggards. There is no place for laziness in the Christian's life. This is a command against idleness. It is completely clear that one day in seven is to be kept holy. It is to be kept a holy day by keeping it free from the labours of man. The one day is to be consecrated to rest in God.

But there is more to this commandment than the observance of a rest day; it is just as truly a commandment for hard work and against laziness. This fourth law is a command to work six days heartily as well as to rest one day reverently. Jobs are sometimes hard to find and just as hard to keep. If a person is out of work, what can he do? If we are in earnest, the Bible gives some definite instructions.

The Bible teaches that everyone should work. If a man cannot work for a wage, he should work without a wage. We can always work. A man without a job must not be idle. In Proverbs 14:23 we read, "In all toil there is profit." This is a promise from God, himself. God says that if a man will apply himself to labour in his home or neighbourhood, even though he has no prescribed income, there will be profit in his labour, both morally and financially. Jesus said, "Seek first his kingdom, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33). God says if we seek his kingdom and his righteousness and commit ourselves to labour in obedience to God's commandment, with his kingdom in mind, he will control our lives and provide us with our necessities. The Apostle

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1.

It is a privilege for children to obey their parents because by so doing they find it easier and more natural to obey their heavenly Father. This is the reason that obedience to this rule has the promise of both well-being and length of days. Those who obey live more richly than those who do not. Every child should have the privilege of obedience. Children need to remember that their parents know more than they do because they have had more experiences in life than children.

Many parents have paid a dear price for the knowledge which they possess. Children should not forget this. Children must honour their parents for the whole of their lives, but the particular manner in which children are to honour parents must change as the children grow older.

As children we are to honour our parents by obeying them, and by the way we speak to them, which always must be cheerful and respectful. We should honour them also in the way we speak of them, which must be with proper respect.

As grown-up men and women we must always show respect for our parents. We should have a proper consideration for their feelings. We should be ready to give our parents what help they need. Children should pay honour and respect to parents, grand-parents, uncles, aunts, and to all old people.

There is a degree of affection and respect which is due to parents. No other person can claim that respect.

God tells us that we are to honour our parents and to count them of supreme worth. People who honour their parents will never cease to care for their parents, even when the

The Fifth Commandment

Paul said, "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23,24)

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:12.

MEMORY VERSE: "Honour your father and your mother....." Exodus 20:12

INTRODUCTION:

The Fifth Rule for Living which God gave is, "Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you." This commandment has to do with the things which make for success, happiness and security, things which all of us desire.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE

The Apostle Paul called this the first commandment with promise in Ephesians 6:1-9. This passage gives us a beautiful picture of a happy home firmly built on honour, respect, obedience, and love. Homes such as these are the glory and strength of a nation. When a child is brought up in a good Christian home, this is the first commandment that he will learn. From the beginning he will be taught to love and obey his father and mother. He will be taught to behave with proper respect for others. This is the foundation of a good life. Let us remember that honour of parents is not characteristic of the Christian religion only. Most religions have praised this virtue. As Christians we must look to Christ for our example of love for parents. Jesus loved Joseph and Mary.

CHILDREN SHOULD OBEY THEIR PARENTS

Paul in Ephesians 6:1-9 applies the promise to children of Christians when he said,

The Jews made the sabbath into a day of "don'ts." They surrounded the day with many rules and regulations until it became a burden to keep this day a holy day.

THE CHRISTIAN LORD'S DAY

The Lord's Day is our sabbath --- our day of rest. The seventh day of the Jews, Saturday, was changed as a day of worship by the early Christians to the first day of the week, Sunday, which almost all Christians observe as their day of rest and worship. The Lord's Day comes to us as a gift from believers of the past who won it for humanity's sake, and who hallowed it as the Lord's Day for Christ's sake; and the use to which we put it makes it a judgment day. It is our judgment of what we are and of what we seek. The uses to which we put our Sundays are searching tests of what we are and of what we think of Christ. The highest use of Sunday is to make it a day of worship and of rest. Worship and rest go together. Every one needs this holy day. When we forget this day, we are on the way to forgetting God. It is a day for families to be together, for friends to see each other, for fellow believers to worship in common. To worship is to grow spiritually strong. "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength." It was because of the resurrection that the sabbath was turned into the Sunday. What Christians keep is not the sabbath, but Sunday, not the seventh day but the first day of the week. The Christian church kept this day from the very beginning, calling it, "The Lord's Day." It was a day given under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

A SPECIAL KIND OF DAY

The Fourth Law sets apart the seventh day as peculiarly God's day....a day reserved for rest and for worship. The sabbath was given to the Jews of long ago. Sunday was given to the Christians of all generations. The underlying purpose was the same -- a day of rest, a day to honour God.

Whether we think of the original Jewish sabbath or the Christian's Lord's Day, this day is to be a special kind of day.

A Holy Day. From the beginning this was to be a special holy day. God, himself, hallowed it. Jesus said that he was Lord of the sabbath. Not only was this to be a holy day, but more important it was to be a day of worship. For most Christians Sunday is the day which is set aside for worship and praise. Every Sunday is in a sense "Resurrection Sunday." It is a time to worship the Christ who died for our sins on Calvary's Cross.

A Day Made For Man. From the very beginning God intended for this special day to be a day of rest for man. This day of rest was intended especially to protect those whose time was not their own. It gave even the slaves a chance to rest. This special day was made for the benefit of man; it fits human needs. This day was never meant by God to be a burden. It was to be a day of rest and gladness. It was to be a day of goodness to man. Jesus always put the benefit of man ahead of the day itself. The civilised world to-day owes this work-free day to the efforts of the Christian church.

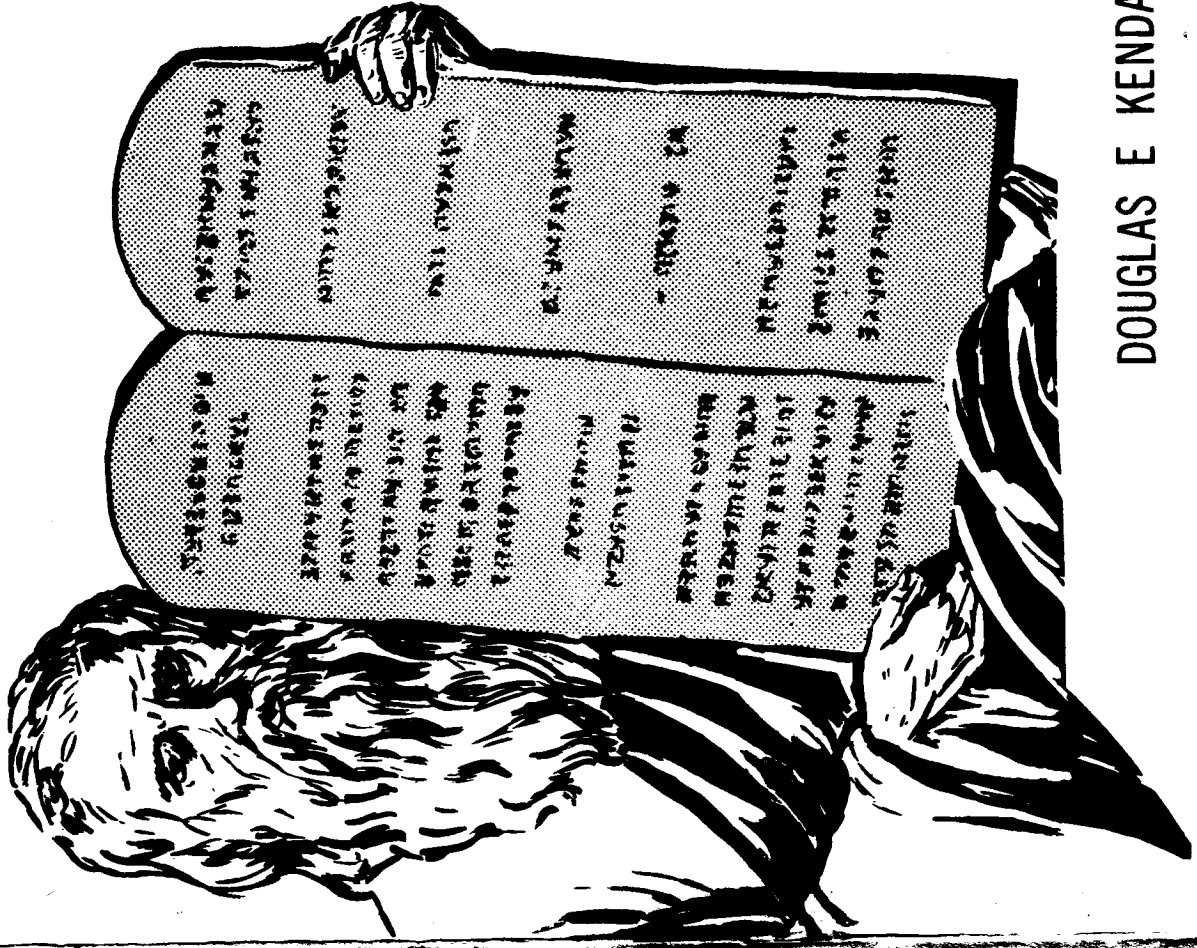
A Happy Day. From the beginning God intended for this to be a happy day. A day when those who were weary could rest from their labours. A day of blessing for all. A day of refreshing of mind and body. Because of God's love for us he gave us this day.

The true meaning of the day has not changed. The purpose of the day has not changed. It is still to be a day of rest and worship to the glory of the Lord who made us.

This is truly the day that the Lord calls his own.

TEN RULES

FOR LYING



DOUGLAS E KENDALL

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4. Receive Love.

When you receive Christ as your Saviour you receive then and there the love of God. If you accept Christ as your Saviour you will find love and you will want to share that love with others who do not know him.

If you practice the Greatest Commandment..... love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.....then you will love your neighbour as yourself. Then it will be easy to keep the Ten Commandments given to us all so many centuries ago.

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