



- According To The Law Of Love:
    - It Will Be As If:
      - There Is No Law At All!
5. You Need To Keep These Lessons In Mind:
- As We Go Through:
    - The Ten Commandments:
      - One By One!
    - But - As I Mentioned At The Beginning Of The Year:
      - We Are Going To Look At The Ten Commandments:
        - A Bit Differently!
    - We Are Going To Look:
      - At Each One:
        - Through The Lense:
          - Of A New Testament Principle:
            - That We Find In 2 Timothy 3:16!
    - So - To Begin Our Message Tonight:
      - Let's First Turn There!
        - 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!"
6. Now - In Many Of The Theological Discussions:
- About The Place Of God's Law:
    - In This World & In The Life Of God's People:
      - There Has Been A General Consensus:
        - That There Is A "Three-Fold Use" Of God's Law!
    - First - It Is Used:
      - As A Mirror - To Sinners!
        - To Reflect To Us Both God's Righteousness & Our Own Unrighteousness!
    - Second - It Is Used:
      - As A Restraint - To The World!
        - In Some Ways, It Still Can Help Secure Civil Order And Protect The Righteous!
    - And Third - It Is Used:
      - As A Guide - For Believers!
        - To Guide Us In The Good Works God Has Planned For Us!
          - Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them!"
7. I Don't Deny This "Three-Fold Use" Of God's Law!
- But - As Part Of The Third Use:
    - I Would Like To Add 4 Facets To This Use:
      - That We Find In 2 Timothy 3:16!
  - Of Course - The Principles Given In This Verse:
    - Apply To "All Scripture!"
      - But - I Think - They Especially Apply:
        - To God's Law!
  - As A Doctrine - Each Law:
    - Tells Us Something About God!
      - The Ten Commandments Are Essentially:
        - "Theological!"
          - Because They Reveal God To Us In All Of His Glory & In All Of His Goodness!
  - As A Reproof - Each Law:
    - Also Tells Us Something About Ourselves!
      - Something About You & Me!
        - The Ten Commandments Will Show Us Just How Spiritually Weak We Are!
    - Far From Making Men Righteous & Holy:
      - Before God - The Law:
        - Will Help Us See Ourselves:
          - As God Sees Us!
    - Martin Luther - "The Commands Exist To Show, Not Our Moral Ability, But Our Inability!"

- As A Correction - Each Law:
  - Further Tells Us Something About Christ!
    - Because - The Only Way For God's Law To Correct Us:
      - Is For It To Be **Kept!**
        - Not **By** Us - But **For** Us!
    - And This Is What Jesus Christ Came To Do!
      - In Matthew 5:17 - Jesus Said - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil!"
  - And So - The Only Way For The Law:
    - To Be "Profitable For [Our] Correction" Is:
      - For It To Point Us To The Only One Who Could:
        - Keep The Law For Us & Apply His Righteousness To Us!
    - And This Is Exactly What Paul Tells Us:
      - In Galatians 3:24 - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!"
- But Even More - As Instruction In Righteousness - Each Law:
  - Tells Us Something About Life!
    - And How To Live The Life Of Faith:
      - In Christ!
    - In Romans 8:4 - Paul Tells Us This:
      - "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: / That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!"
- There Is Still So Much Meaning & Use:
  - For God's Law In The Lives:
    - Of His People!

8. And So - The First Thing:
- We Are Going To Explore Together:
    - Is The Doctrine We Find:
      - In The First Commandment:
        - From Exodus 20:3 - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me!"
    - This Is An Important Commandment:
      - Because When The Children Of Israel Where In Egypt:
        - There Were Many False Gods!
          - New Gods! Strange Gods!
    - And So - God Revealed Some Truth:
      - About Himself:
        - That We Can Glean:
          - From This Commandment! Especially:

### 1. ***The Exclusive Nature Of God!***

- When God Commands Us:
  - To Have "No Other Gods" - It Is Because:
    - There Really **Are** No Other Gods!
- This Is - The Exclusive Proclamation:
  - Of God!
    - In Isaiah 45:5 - Among Other Places In The Bible - The Lord Says:
      - "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me!"
    - But - Also:
  - This Became - The Persuasion:
    - Of The Israelites:
      - When They Were Confronted With The Differences:
        - Between The Living God:
          - And A False God Called Baal!
    - In 1 Kings 18:
      - It Was The God Whose Name Is:
        - Jehovah / Yahweh - Who:

- Could Hear:
  - The Prayers Of His Prophet, Elijah! And:
- Could Answer:
  - By Sending Fire To “Consume The Burnt Sacrifice, And The Wood, And The Stones, And The Dust, And Licked Up The Water That Was In The Trench!”
- And - Finally - What Was:
  - The People’s Response?
    - 1 Kings 18:39 - “ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God!”
- You And I Are To Have “No Other Gods” - Because:
  - There **Are No** Other Gods!
    - No Other Gods:
      - Like Him!
    - No Other Gods:
      - Than Him! And:
    - No Other Gods:
      - But Him!
  - After All - God Says To Us In Isaiah 42:8:
    - “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images!”
  - So - To Obey This Commandment Means:
    - You Need To Acknowledge:
      - His Exclusive Nature As God!

\* Another Truth Is:

**2. The Exalted Nature Of God!**

- This Command Is Closely Tied:
  - To The Verse Before It - Where:
    - The Lord Identifies Himself In This Way:
      - “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage!” (Exodus 20:2)
  - Once Again - The Word Translated:
    - “LORD” - With All The Letters Capitalized:
      - Refers To The Personal Name:
        - Of This God!
          - Jehovah / Yahweh!
  - So - When God Commands Us:
    - To Have “No Other Gods” - It Is Because:
      - You Are To Have **Him**:
        - As Your God!
  - Because - He Is:
    - The God - Above All!
- He Is Above The Creation:
  - Because He Is The Creator!
    - He Made Everything!
      - Colossians 1:16 - “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him!”
  - But - Also:
- He Is Above Our Comprehension!
  - Isaiah 55:9 - “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts!”
    - Not Only Does This Apply:
      - To God’s Ways & Thoughts:
        - It Also Applies To God’s Nature!
  - In The Bible:
    - It Is Revealed To Us That:
      - There Are **Three**:

- Who Are Called Or Referred To As This Jehovah God!
- Of Course:
  - The Father Is Called:
    - Jehovah!
    - There Are Many Verses & Passages That Refer To God As Father!
  - As - Proverbs 3:12 - “For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth!”
- But Also:
  - Jesus Christ - The Son - Is Referred To:
    - As Jehovah!
  - In Isaiah 40:3 - A Prophecy Is Given That Refers To The Forerunner Of Jehovah - As “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God!”
    - In The New Testament - This Same Prophecy Is Used to Describe John The Baptist As The Forerunner To Jesus - Who Is This Jehovah!
- And Further:
  - The Holy Spirit - Is Also Referred To:
    - As Jehovah!
  - In Isaiah 11:2 - He Is Called:
    - The “Spirit Of The LORD / Jehovah!”
  - And - In Isaiah 61:1 - He Is Called:
    - The “Spirit Of The Lord GOD / Jehovah!”
- There Is Even A Passage:
  - In The Old Testament Where:
    - All Three Persons Of The Trinity:
      - Are Named!
  - In Isaiah 48 - The Speaker In Verses 9-16:
    - Is Clearly Identified As God!
      - But - In Verse 16 - The Divine Speaker Says These Words - “And now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me!”
- So - The God You Are To Obey:
  - In The First Commandment:
    - Is The God Revealed To Us:
      - In The Bible!
      - The Triune God!
  - The One God:
    - Who Exists In Three Persons:
      - And Who Remains:
        - Above Our Comprehension!
- This God Is The Only God!

\*Another Truth We Can Glean Is:

### 3. ***The Expressive Nature Of God!***

- The God Who Gives This:
  - As The First Command:
    - Is A God Who Cares!
  - All Other Laws:
    - Start With Man’s Relationship:
      - With Other Men!
  - God’s Law:
    - Begins With Man’s Relationship:
      - With Himself!
  - Because - This Is The Most Important:
    - Relationship Of Them All!
  - He Expresses Himself:
- Through His Word!
  - God Knows That - “In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death!” (Proverbs 12:28)

- And So - He Reveals:
  - Himself & His Righteousness:
    - In This Command!
- He Also Expresses Himself:
  - Through His Works!
    - His Work Of Creation:
      - His Work Of Redemption:
        - And His Work Of Providence:
          - In This World!
    - And Since You:
      - Are Part Of His Creation:
        - He Directs This First Command:
          - To You!
    - He Says:
      - “**Thou** Shalt Have No Other Gods!”
        - As One Writer Puts It:
          - “This Thou Reacheth Every Man!”
  - So - This Command:
    - Is Directed To All Of Us!
      - And - To Keep This Command Means:
        - You Respond To The Ways He Has Expressed Himself To You!
    - You Need To Respond To:
      - His Work Of Creation:
        - By Submitting To Him!
    - You Need To Respond To:
      - His Work Of Redemption:
        - By Believing In The Gospel!
    - You Need To Respond To:
      - His Work Of Providence:
        - By Trusting In Him!
    - Do **You** Have Any “Other Gods” Before Him?

\* A Final Truth We Can Glean Is:

#### 4. ***The Eternal Nature Of God!***

- Because - God Says To Us:
  - “Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods ***Before Me!***”
    - This Can Also Be Translated:
      - “Before My Face” Or “Presence!”
  - Although The Meaning Is:
    - We Are Not To Have Any Other Gods:
      - That Are Against & Opposed To God:
        - There Are Some Other Important Elements In This Command As Well!
  - The Presence Of God Is Often Described:
    - As Being:
- In Heaven!
  - So - If God Is In Heaven:
    - Noone Under Heaven:
      - Is To Worship Any Other Gods!
  - But - Where Is Heaven?
    - I Once Heard A Very Profound Answer:
      - To This Question:
        - “Heaven Is Up!”
  - Such A Simple Answer - But Its True!
    - No Matter Where You Are:
      - In This World Or Universe:
        - Heaven Is Above You!
  - And So - Like The Sun:
    - “Nothing Is Hid From The Heat” Of God’s Gaze!

- 2 Chronicles 16:9 Says - “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth!”
- So - The Face Of God:
  - Is Ever Present!
  - Because God Himself Is Omnipresent!
  - He Sees All!
- But - God’s Gaze:
  - Can Go Deeper Still! It Goes Even:
- Into The Heart!
  - Not Only Is God Omnipresent:
    - He Is Also - Omniscient!
  - Not Only Does He *See*:
    - Everything - But - He *Knows*:
      - Everything!
  - Everything & Everyone:
    - Is *Before* Him!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - What Are We To Do:
  - With What We Learn About God:
    - From This First Commandment?
  - I Like This Summary:
    - From John Gill - “For There Is But One Only Living And True God, The Former And Maker Of All Things, Who Only Is To Be Had, Owned, Acknowledged, Served, And Worshiped As Such!”
2. So - Tonight:
  - Do You Have:
    - Any Other God:
      - Before The One True God:
        - In Your Heart & In Your Life?
  - If So - You Need To:
    - Turn From *Your* God:
      - And - Turn To *The* God:
        - Who Is The God Of Creation, Redemption, And Providence!
        - The God Who Exists In Three Persons!
        - The God Who Came Into This World To Save You!

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