

**“O How Love I Thy Law!”**  
**The Second Commandment**  
**“In Spirit & In Truth”**  
**Exodus 20:4-6**

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Go Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
  - To The Second Commandment:
    - Found In Exodus 20:4-6:
      - Where The Lord Is Teaching Us About:
        - The Right Way To Worship Him!
2. For The Last Two Messages:
  - In Our Sunday Night Series:
    - On The Law Of God:
      - We Looked At 5 Truths About God And His Nature:
        - That We Can Glean From The Second Commandment!
    - How That God Is:
      - A Spiritual & A Sovereign God!
      - As Well As:
        - The Superior God Who Is:
          - Both Severe In His Judgment & Satisfying In His Mercy!
  - Well - Tonight:
    - We Are Going To Use These Same Truths:
      - To See What Our Worship:
        - Of This God:
          - Should Be Like!
3. So - Looking Again At:
  - Exodus 20:4-6 - We Read:
    - “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth! / “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; / And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments!”
  - From This Commandment About Genuine Worship:
    - We See - First Of All:

**1. The Condition Of Our Worship!**

- According To 20:4 - No “Graven Image” Is To Be Made:
  - In Order To Worship God!
    - And This Is Because - No “Image” Of *Any* Kind:
      - Can Capture The Likeness Or The Essence Of The One True God!
      - Because - God Is A Spirit!
  - And - Since God Is A Spiritual God:
    - The Condition Required In Worship:
      - For All Of God's People - Both Then & Now:
        - Is Spiritual Worship!
  - And This Condition For Worship:
    - Is Stated Expressly By Jesus:
      - In The Gospel Of John - Chapter 4:
        - When He Was Speaking With A Samaritan Woman! (Turn There)
  - In The Course Of Their Conversation:
    - In Which Jesus Confronted Her With Her Life Of Sin - She Tried To Change The Subject To That Of Worship!
  - And So - In John 4:20-24 - We Read These Words - She Said - “Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. / Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. / Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. / But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the

- Father seeketh such to worship him. / God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth!”
- With These Words:
    - Jesus Reveals To Us:
      - The Condition Of Genuine Worship!
    - Our Worship Is To Be:
      - A Spiritual Worship!
    - This Means That:
  - Genuine Spiritual Worship Is **Single** Worship:
    - Of The One True God!
      - In 4:22 - Jesus Said - “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship!”
        - The God Who Revealed Himself Both To & Through The Jews - Is The God We Are To Worship - The God Of The Bible!
          - The One Who Revealed Himself As Both Creator And Father!
      - As We Are Told In Deuteronomy 4:39 - “Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else!”
        - Single Worship Of **This** God:
          - Is Spiritual Worship:
            - And Conforms To His Law!
            - But Also:
    - Genuine Spiritual Worship Is Simple Worship!
      - In 4:21 - Jesus Said - “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father!”
        - In The Old Testament - It Was:
          - The **House** Of Worship:
            - That Seemed To Be Most Important!
        - And - Even Though:
          - The Place & Procedures Of Worship:
            - Were Important & Were Significant:
              - It Was Always:
          - The **Heart** Of Worship:
            - That God Was After!
          - The **Heart** Of Worship:
            - Was Most Important To God!
        - And When God Finally:
          - Used The Romans To Destroy:
            - Both The City & The Temple:
              - At Jerusalem - In AD 70:
                - His Point Was Finally Proven!
      - Genuine Worship:
        - Does Not Depend On:
          - The **House**:
            - In Which It Performed!
        - Or On:
          - The **Hands**:
            - With Which It Is Offered!
        - But On The Condition Of:
          - The **Heart**!
      - In Isaiah 29:13 - “The Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men!”
    - Genuine Worship Is To Be Spiritual Worship!
      - This Is To Be The Condition:
        - Of Your Worship As Well!
          - Hebrews 10:22 - “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith!”
    - But - Is This How We Worship The Lord Today?
      - One Of The Reasons God Has Given Us This Commandment Is To:
        - “Reprove Us” - And To Convict Us:

- Of Any **False** Worship We Have Offered To God!
- Has Your Worship Been:
  - Single & Simple & Spiritual:
    - To The Lord?
- **IE:** There's Been An Observation:
  - About The Coronavirus Pandemic That I've Seen A Few Times Online - And I Think It Should Cause Even Christians To Think About:
    - Who Or What They've Been Really Worshiping!
- It Goes Like This:
  - "In three short months, just like He did with the plagues of Egypt, God has taken away everything we worship. God said, "you want to worship athletes, I will shut down the stadiums. You want to worship musicians, I will shut down Civic Centers. You want to worship actors, I will shut down theaters. You want to worship money, I will shut down the economy and collapse the stock market!"
- It Ought To Break Our Hearts:
  - To Think That We Have Not Worshiped The Lord:
    - The Way He Deserves!
      - **In & With Our Spirit!**
- But - Even When Your Heart Is Broken - You Can **Take Heart:**
  - Because - The Jesus Himself:
    - Came To Fulfill The Kind Of Worship:
      - That You Have Failed:
        - To Render To The Lord!
  - In Psalm 24:3-4 - We Find What Spiritual Worship Is:
    - "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully!"
      - There Is Only One Who Has Ever Had Both "Clean Hands" & A "Pure Heart!"
        - And That Is Jesus! And So:
          - "No one ever worshiped like Christ did! He read, preached, prayed, and sung God's word with a pure heart!"
  - And Now - He Is The Only One:
    - Who Can Bring The "Correction" We Need:
      - For Our Worship!
- And When You Turn To & Trust In Christ:
  - For The Completion & The Perfection:
    - Of Your Own Worship:
      - You Can Then Worship Him In The Right Way!
        - With **Spiritual** Worship!
  - But - There Is Another Important Aspect:
    - About Genuine Worship That Is Addressed In Both The Second Commandment & In Jesus' Words Here In John 4! And That Is:

## 2. **The Content Of Our Worship!**

- Once Again - In John 4:24 - Jesus Said:
  - "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth!"
    - Not Only Is God A Spirit:
      - And Must Be Worshiped:
        - In A Spiritual Way!
    - God Is Also **Truth!**
      - And Must Be Worshiped:
        - In A **Truthful** Way!
  - Genuine Worship:
    - Is Not Just Based On:
      - A Personal, Subjective:
        - "Feeling" About God & Your Relationship To Him!
  - Genuine Worship:
    - Must Be Based On:
      - Objective Facts & Truths About God!

- It Must Be Based On:
- The Truth Of God's Word!
  - Back In Exodus 20 - We Looked At Several:
    - Doctrinal Truths About The Nature Of God!
      - Without Those Truths:
        - We Would **Not** Know **Who** God Is, **What** God Is Like, And **What** God Desires & Requires!
  - **IE:** Later In The Book Of Leviticus:
    - After God Had Explicitly Told Aaron And His Sons How They Were To Enter The Tabernacle To Serve Him - Two Of Aaron's Sons:
      - **Ignored** God's Words - As We Are Told In Leviticus 10:1 - "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not!"
  - Genuine Worship Is To Be Centered On The Word Of God!
    - Because - It Is In & Through His Word:
      - That God Has Revealed Himself & How He Ought To Be Worshiped!
    - As Jesus Said:
      - "They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth!"
    - Genuine Worship Must Also Be Based On:
- The Truth Of Our Will!
  - Genuine Worship:
    - Cannot Be Forced!
      - It Must Be Done:
        - Willingly & Sincerely:
          - From Your Heart!
- Is This How You Worship The Lord?
  - Instead Of Longing For & Looking Forward To:
    - The Fellowship Of God's People:
      - And The Public Worship Of The Lord:
        - You See It More As A Duty:
          - Instead Of The Delight That It Was Intended To Be?
  - Remember - One Of The Reasons God Gave Us The Second Commandment Is To:
    - "Reprove Us" - And To Convict Us:
      - Of False & Heartless Worship!
  - Has Your Worship Been:
    - Based On:
      - The Truth Of God's Word:
        - As Well As:
          - The Truth Of Your Will?
  - The Puritan Preacher, Thomas Watson Once Wrote:
    - "The Lord Hates That Which Is Forced; Which Is Paying A Tax Rather Than An Offering!"
      - And He Added - That Even "Cain Served God Grudgingly; He Brought His Sacrifice, Not His Heart!"
    - **IE:** Sometimes - Your Worship May Feel To You:
      - A Bit Like "Paying A Tax!"
        - That Its Something You **Have** To Do Instead Of Something You **Want** To Do!
    - It's Become More Of A **Duty**:
      - Than A **Delight!**
  - May The Lord Touch Our Hearts Tonight:
    - When We Think That We Have Not Worshiped Him:
      - The Way He Deserves!
        - **In & With The Truth!**
- So That - When You Realize:
  - That You Have Failed To Worship Him:
    - Truthfully - You Can Remember That:
      - Jesus Himself Came:
        - To Perform & Fulfill The Right Kind Of Worship:
          - For Us!

- Turn Over With Me To Luke 4:
    - Where We Find How Jesus Himself:
      - Worshiped - On Any Given Saturday!
        - In 4:14-16:
 

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. / And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. / And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, *as his custom was*, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read!”

          - Jesus Went To His Church / His Synagogue Every Sabbath Day! It’s Something He Longed To Do & Looked Forward To! And What Was The Central Focus Of His Worship? 4:16 - The Word Of God! Even *He* “Stood Up For To Read!”
            - Jesus Worshiped In Spirit & According To The Truth Of God’s Word! Then - 4:17-22:
 

- “And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, / The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, / To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. / And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. / And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears! / And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph’s son?”

              - On This Sabbath Day - Jesus Sincerely Pointed To Himself As The Messiah - The One They Were To Believe In & Worship As Well!
  - Because - Jesus Is The Only One:
    - Who Can Bring the “Correction” We Need:
      - For Our Worship!
- So - When You Trust In Christ:
  - For The Completion & The Perfection:
    - Of Your Worship To The Lord:
      - *Then* - You Can Worship Him In The Right Way!
        - With *Truthful* Worship!
  - But - There Is Another Aspect:
    - About Genuine Worship:
      - That We Find In The Second Commandment - And That Is:

### 3. *The Commitment Of Our Worship!*

- In Exodus 20:6 - The Lord Reveals Himself As:
  - A Merciful God - Who Is “Shewing mercy unto thousands of them that *love* me, and keep my commandments!”
    - The Essence Of Genuine Worship:
      - Is & Always Has Been:
        - *Love!*
    - Do You Love The Lord?
      - You Will Never Be Able To Keep:
        - The Spirit Of This Commandment:
          - If You Do Not Love Him:
            - “With All Thine Heart, And With All Thy Soul, And With All Thy Might!” (Deuteronomy 6:5)
  - And Yet - If You Are Honest With Yourself:
    - You Will Admit - Along With Me:
      - That We Do *Not* Love The Lord:
        - The Way He Deserves!
          - Our Love For Him Is All-Too-Often Imperfect & Incomplete!
      - We *Know* He “First Loved Us!”
        - But There Is A Struggle In:
          - Our “Love [For] Him!”
    - And This Too Ought To Break Your Heart!
      - But - Even Now:
        - Your *Broken* Heart Can *Take* Heart:

- Because - Once Again - Jesus Came To Fulfill The Kind Of Worship That You & I Have Failed To Render To The Lord!
- Go With Me To Just One More Passage In The New Testament:
  - Matthew 4:8-11 - Where We Find The Third & Last:
    - Temptation Of Christ - And What Does The Devil Try To Get Jesus To Do?
      - To Worship Him Instead Of God!
    - “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; / And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. / Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. / Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him!”
  - Here - Jesus Remembered:
    - The Second Commandment:
      - And Fulfilled It Perfectly:
        - By **Not** Giving **His** Worship:
          - To Anyone Other Than His Father!
  - And - Jesus Did This:
    - Out Of A Love For His Father - That Was Pure & Perfect & Passionate!
      - In John 14:31 - Jesus Said - “But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence!”

### Conclusion:

1. And Now - It Is Jesus:
  - Who Can Correct & Complete:
    - Any Worship Of Yours:
      - That Is Insufficient Or Imperfect Or Incomplete!
2. And His Perfect Worship:
  - Of His Father - A Worship That:
    - Was Spiritual & Truthful & Loving:
      - Is Sufficient For All Who Turn To & Trust In Him:
        - As Their Savior & As Their Lord!
3. So Now - In Christ:
  - You Can Worship Him Rightly!
    - You Can Worship The Lord:
      - In Spirit!
    - You Can Worship The Lord:
      - In Truth!
    - And - You Can Worship The Lord:
      - In Love!
  - Because - As Thomas Watson Once Described It:
    - “What We Cannot Do Of Ourselves, We [Now] Do By Proxy! (That Is Through Someone Else!) Though We Fall Short In Everything – (Including Our Worship) – But God Looks Upon Us In Our Surety – (In Jesus)! And Christ Having Fulfilled All Righteousness, It Is As If We Had Fulfilled the Law In Our Own Persons!”
4. So - Now - As A Christian:
  - Christ’s Perfect Righteousness:
    - Is Your Righteousness!
      - And:
  - Christ’s Perfect Worship:
    - Is Your Worship!
      - And Even This Truth:
        - Should Cause Your Heart:
          - To Soar In Even **Greater** Worship!
  - In Praise & In Prayer:
    - To The **Only One**:
      - Who Has Fulfilled **All** That:
        - We Have Failed To Do!
          - **“To God Be The Glory!”**

- \* Do You See How You Have Failed To Worship God In The Right Way?
- \* Do You Long To Worship God In Spirit & In Truth & Out Of Love?
- \* Are You Trusting In Jesus To Perfect Even Your Imperfect Worship Of God?

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