

INTRODUCTION

God, who created all things, including us, including each of you, has made Himself known to us, has revealed Himself to us.

- in general revelation, God has made some things about Himself known to us; we understand some things about God, who is invisible, when we ponder the things that He has made

- this normally is done with our eyes open, when we look at our own bodies, and at the things around us; seeing the wonders of creation, we understand that there must be a Creator, and we understand some things about Him

- but as Rene Descartes demonstrated, it also can be done with our eyes closed, when we simply think. From the fact that we can think, we can prove that God is there, and we can know some things about Him

- by this general revelation, whether with our eyes open or closed, we can know He is God, and we can know He has eternal power; but there is much about God that we cannot know by such general revelation

- so, in special revelation, God has made many more things about Himself known to us by His word

- over the course of about 2,400 years, God spoke to the people of long ago through prophets; then, about 2,000 years ago, God spoke to us by His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His apostles

- of all this prophecy, what God would have the whole world know, His Holy Spirit caused to be written down and collected into what we call The Bible, The Book. These holy scriptures are God's word, God's special revelation of Himself to us.

So, in these two ways, God has revealed Himself to us. Not that we can by this revelation comprehend all there is to know about God. Only God Himself can comprehend Himself. But by His revelation of Himself to us, we know the truth about Him. Even though we cannot know Him fully, we can know Him as He really is.

Having received this revelation of Himself from God, we now are obligated to worship Him as He has revealed Himself to be. That is the aspect of the First Commandment that I would speak to you about today.

You must worship God not as you might imagine Him to be, but as He truly is, as He has revealed Himself to be.

TEXT

Exodus 20:1-3 And God spake all these words, saying, (2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

BODY

You must worship God not as you might imagine Him to be, but as He truly is, as He has revealed Himself to be.

I. His Being

A. He is one God, and the only God

- 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that **there is no other God but one**. (5) For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), (6) yet for us **there is one God**, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

B. He is one God in three persons

- 1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
- Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C. He is a most pure spirit, without body, parts, or passions

D. You must not ignore this, or reject this, or wish that it were not like this

E. I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

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II. His Perfections

A. Immutable

B. Omnipotent

C. Omniscient

D. I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

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III. His Word

A. You must not despise or ignore His word, the Bible; instead, you must receive it eagerly, aspire to know it, hear it and keep it

B. You must not wish that the Bible said more than it says, or less than it says, or something different from what it says

- you must not delight in a preacher or teacher saying things that are not in the Bible, or that are different from what the Bible says
- you must not think that the way Jesus said something wasn't the best way to say it

C. Instead, you must acknowledge that the Bible is the Word of God, and is perfect just as God gave it

D. I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

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IV. His Providence

- A. The Bible teaches us that God governs everyone and everything according to His own will.
 1. That is what we mean by God's providence.
 2. So that everything that happens, without exception, happens by God's providence.
 - a) the sweetest blessings of family bliss are by God's providence
 - b) the most horrendous sufferings of war and plauge are equally by God's providence
- B. You must not resent what He has done, or what He does, and wish it were something else; instead, you must accept that the God of heaven and earth is good, and always does what is best
- C. We may not, on the one hand, try to escape this by saying that God is not really in control of everything
- D. We may not, on the other hand, admit that God is in control of everything, but say that something God has done should have been different
- E. I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

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V. His Salvation

- A. When we men had made ourselves rebels against God, by disobeying His commandments
 - 1. when we had failed to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength
 - 2. when we had worshipped other things besides God
 - 3. when we had imagined how we want God to be rather than accepting His revelation of Himself to us
- B. When there was no one among us who would or could save us from God's wrath that we deserved for our sins
- C. God sent forth His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save us
- D. Jesus Christ always loved God perfectly, and still always does
 - 1. He came here to earth just as human as we are, yet not counted sinful in Adam, and committing no sin Himself
 - 2. He never disobeyed the first commandment, or any of the commandments, and still never disobeys the word of God in any way at all
- E. God poured out His wrath, which we sinners deserved for our sins, upon His own Son, who had committed no sin
 - 1. Jesus Christ willingly became sin for us, took the curse against sin upon Himself
 - 2. He, having no sin, died a violent, bloody, torturous death for our sins
- F. He died on the cross, crucified; He was buried; but on the third day, the first day of the week, He rose again to live forever
- G. This is God's salvation, the salvation that is for poor lost sinners through Jesus Christ crucified.
- H. To be saved with this, the only salvation, the sinner
 - 1. believes; he trusts himself to God through Jesus Christ; and so he is justified in God's sight; he is counted just or righteous not by any good works of his own, but through faith in Jesus Christ the righteous
 - 2. repents; he turns from his sins to obey God's commands, to follow in the steps of Jesus; in repenting, the sinner is forgiven his sins; his sins are blotted out; his sins are thrown into the depths of the sea; even all his sins against God in not obeying the first commandment---they all are forgiven
- I. You must believe that salvation from God is by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, through faith in Him; you must not wish for something else or imagine there is something else
- J. I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

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VI. His Judgment

- A. It is good for us to delight in hearing of God's grace and mercy, by which He saves sinners through faith in Jesus Christ
 - 1. Zaccheus the tax collector apparently had been cheating his fellow Israelites out of their money for years; but, by the grace and mercy of God, Jesus Christ saved Zaccheus, and we love to hear about it
 - 2. Saul of Tarsus was going about destroying the church, dragging off both men and women to put them in prison, trying to make them blaspheme God by denying Christ; but, by the grace and mercy of God, Jesus Christ saved Saul, and made him the apostle to us gentiles, to open our eyes as Jesus had opened his; we love to hear about that
- B. But we must not abhor or resent God's justice in condemning sinners to eternal punishment, who are not in Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

You must worship God not as you might imagine Him to be, but as He truly is, as He has revealed Himself to be.

You must conceive of God not as man imagines Him to be, but as He has revealed Himself to be

You must be satisfied with God not as man wishes Him to be, but as He really is.

I am the LORD thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Titus 3:3-7

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:57-64

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Audrey - Prelude "In Thy Wrath and Hot Displeasure"

Haven - Trinity 402 "Amazing Grace" - Alex lead

Cecily - Trinity 506 "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 724 "Only Trust Him"