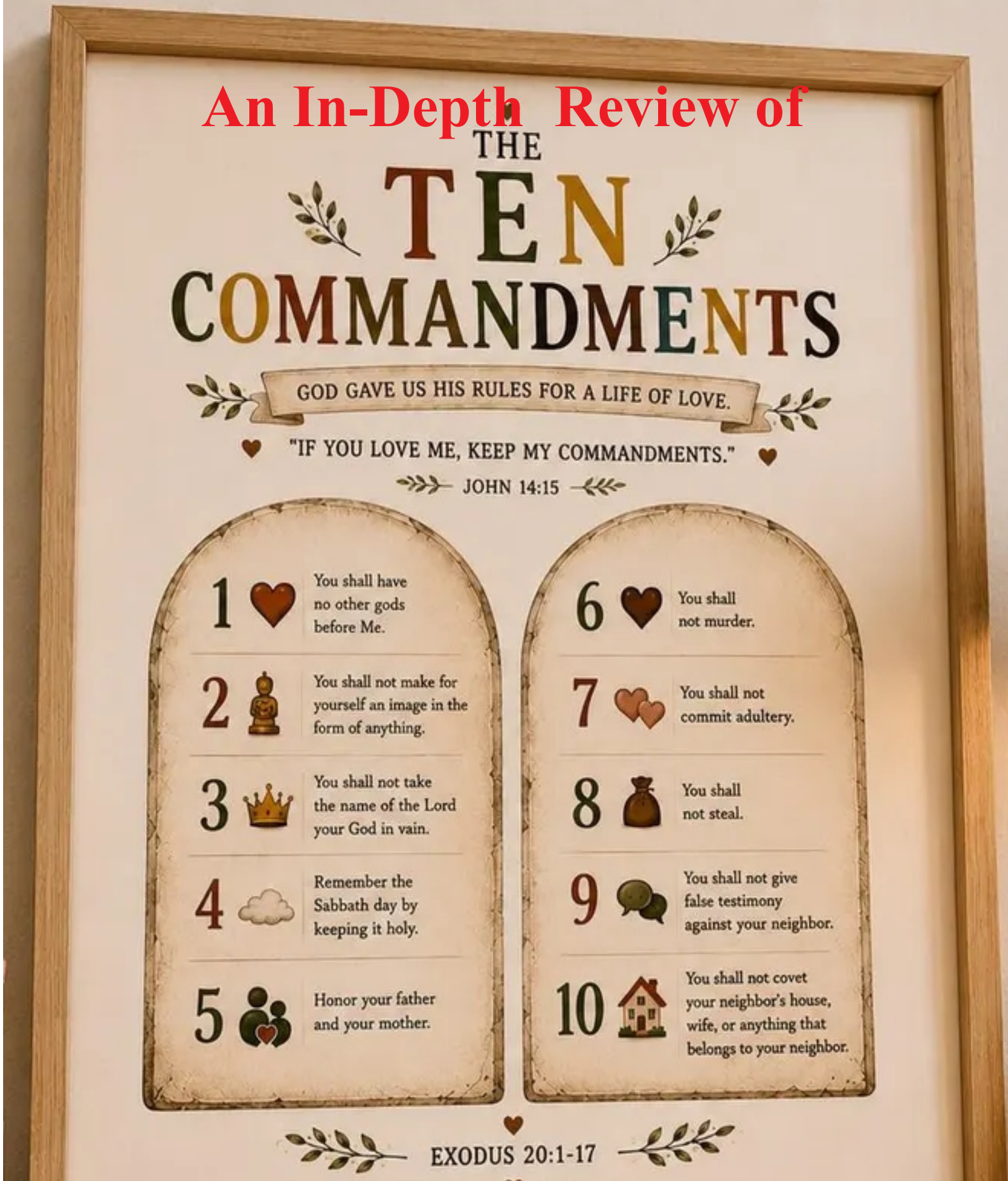
An In-Depth Review of



Charles E. Daenell

An In-Depth Review of The Ten Commandments



Charles E. Darnell

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In memory of my loving editor and wife, Teresa Spurling, 1946-2025, PhD, NBCT.
Please forgive all editing errors in this work. I tried to use Teri's editing examples, but I edited this work myself.

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An In-Depth View of
The Ten Commandments

It may seem that a study of the Ten Commandments is rather straight foreword. Doesn't each of the commands start with the "Thy Shall Not" statement? Really, What does Exodus 20 say? Let's up date which version of the Bible we are using. We will be using the English Standard Version (ESV) for this study. The Commandment number does not match with the verse number, therefore each Commandment number will also be shown in brackets behind the verse number.

Exodus,
20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying,
2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
3 [1] "You shall have no other gods before me."
4 [2] "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
7 [3] "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."
8 [4] "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
12 [5] "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."
13 [6] "You shall not murder."
14 [7] "You shall not commit adultery."
15 [8] "You shall not steal."
16 [9] "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."
17 [10] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Commandment number one. 3 **"You shall have no other gods before me."** Many people will accept this as meaning that they are not to worship an idol, however if you have an object that you cherish that is also a god to you then you have violated this first commandment. Consider that you worship and cherish your car, or possibly a sport's team, or a vacation location (beach) that is dear to you. All of these examples have been placed in your mind as something you find as desirable and you worship that demigod and placed it before God, your Creator. This could also be your concept

toward your religious denomination. When you accept the doctrine of men over the doctrine and direction that God leads you in you have allowed that thought and instruction to become your false god. Every person created by the Most High God must guard their mind and their heart from the influence of Satan. If your denomination has a supplemental book that you must review and understand you need to run as fast as you can to get away from this false teaching. Just for the sake of discussion consider the leadership of the Universal Church that teaches that the mother of Yeshua is on a plain equal to her Son in the practices of religion and worship. Consider the statement of the commandment itself and what has been said by the leadership of this denomination.

Now let's consider what Yeshua taught. As the ***Founder of Christianity*** He said that you shall live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4). He went further in this thought and said that you must walk according to the commandments of Almighty God if you would enter into eternal life (Matthew 19:17). View the commands! What commands? God commands, "You shall have no other gods before me." Is your time, your interest, your service, mostly taken up by something other than the true God? What idol have you placed between yourself and the true God? Recall Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." In today's world the greatest deception of all is not communism or atheism, but the false, pagan doctrine of evolution preached by the false god of science. Evolution is an attempt to explain the creation without the Creator. It denies the true God and His very nature and office, and is the very basis of most of this world's "education"! But the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (1 Corinthians 1:20).

Most people who just go to church once a week and take their religion for granted do not actually know what real worship is. They think "worship" is something you do once a week in church, not realizing that it should affect every thought, word, and action every day of your life! Most professing Christians think of their religion as just occupying a corner of their lives. But in all fairness it must be said that the day is quickly approaching that they will realize that this type of worship is false religion and false worship. Yeshua was asked what the most important commandment was and He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). We should know and observe the statement made by James, the brother of Yeshua. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17) Consider that our life is a gift from God and we should do everything we can to mimic the example given by Yeshua when He was called upon to give His very life, ". . . not My will, but Yours, be done"(Luke 22:42). This is what true worship really means! This is how to keep the first commandment, the ***great*** commandment!

Commandment number two. [4] **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."** [5] You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Here is the creation of that idol that many people believe was shown in Commandment

number one. Once again I question the doctrine of the Universal Church. Why has this denomination set it before their believers that the statue of Mary and Joseph are to be worshiped. Aren't those statues a carved image of a likeness on the earth beneath? Take that thought one step further. Look at any rosary and doesn't it have a carved image at the end of it? Yes, it may be a depiction of Yeshua but here is another question: Why is the image illustrated in such a manner that everyone who sees the rosary automatically knows that the image is that of Yeshua as being dead on the cross. If you are a Christian you know that Yeshua is alive and the Bible tells you so. Yeshua is not dead.

The natural physical mind cries out for something to help in the worship of God. Physical human beings want some physical object, some "aid" to worship. Something to "remind" them of the invisible God. Yet that is exactly what is forbidden in this commandment! Yeshua said, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him" (John 4:23). Notice that it is only the "true" worshipers who are able to worship the Father in spirit and truth. Many others attempt some form of worship, but, because they limit their worship by a false concept of God, it is largely in vain. Yeshua questioned if you are falsely worshiping according to the "traditions of men," which Yeshua said would cause you to worship God in vain (Mark 7:7)? These are issues that every person must consider in their own heart and mind! God was continually reminding the Hebrew people that they were not to worship any type of idol or image used in worship. However, lest some misunderstand, let up pause at this point to note that God does not condemn art or sculpture, but rather the setting up of any picture or image or representation "to bow down to it." The real basis of all idolatry is that self-willed, rebellious mankind refuses to surrender himself to worship the true God in the way that He commands!

Consider this: there are thousands of professing Christians who employ a representation or picture of a so-called Christ in their worship, and even display such a picture in their home. What does your Bible say about such practices? First of all, the second commandment itself obviously prohibits the use of anything that represents God, we must all remember that Christ was and is God, and such a display could easily become an object of worship. This commandment would therefore directly prohibit the use of any such object. In addition, for those who might wish to reason or argue about this point, these so-called pictures of Christ have no similarity whatever to the way Christ really looked! At the time of Christ's first appearance on Earth He was presented as a Jew. The features in most of His supposed pictures are obviously not Jewish! Paul was inspired to write, "Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?" (1 Corinthians 11:14). Yet these pictures invariably show a man with long hair, feminine features, and a sentimental, sanctimonious look in His eyes. This is not the Christ of your Bible. There will be many who claim they do not worship these pictures or images. Perhaps that is so. But this false picture and false concept of Christ comes into their minds and becomes a block between them and the true Christ! These images separate the worshiper from Christ. If you use such images or pictures you are breaking the second commandment and greatly limiting your concept of a living Christ.

One of the most common forms of modern idolatry is making an idol out of one's church or social group. For many people this world's modern day social group's dictates, customs and traditions become a god. The social group I am referring to is the PRIDE group of the LGBTQ+ community. Many people are afraid of doing anything that might be regarded as offensive to this particular group. People feel that they must conform to this group's thoughts and ways. But God commands, "And do

not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). This instruction found in Romans may seem to be hard to obey for people who get to thinking that other people must be right in what they think, say, and practice. The Bible shows that many people in Christ's day failed in their worship, for "they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). I will address this particular social group more when we get to the seventh commandment.

Commandment number three. [7] **"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."** Turn on your television, go to a movie and the modesty of yesteryear is gone. The words of God D— and F— you are all over the place. Those who set in newscaster positions of today are not the same as those from fifty years ago. Fifty years ago a journalist sought to identify the basis for the questions of: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How! A movie or documentary had a theme and a story to tell. The language was tasteful and there was no cussing in these presentations. We have learned in the first two commandments that we are to worship Him directly. We are to walk with Him, to talk with Him, to really know and worship Hin in spirit and truth, and to avoid using any image, picture or physical object as an 'aid' to worship or to 'remind' us of the great Creator.

The third commandment deals with God's name, His office, and His position as the great sovereign Ruler of the entire universe. Every name or title of God revels some attribute of the divine character. In studying God's Word we learn new facts about God's nature and character with each new name which He reveals Himself. In other words, God names Himself what He is! If men use the name of God in a way that denies the true meaning and character of God, they are breaking the third commandment.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). In this very first verse of the Bible, God reveals Himself by the Hebrew name ***Elohim***. There is one God, but more than one member in the Godhead, or God Family! This same word *Elohim* is used in Genesis 1:26: "Then God (*Elohim*) said, 'Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness . . . '" Here it is clearly seen, in context with the passage itself, that more than one person shares the name of God, *Elohim*. In the New Testament, this is made clear by the revelation that God the Father created all things by and through Christ, who was with God and was God from the beginning (John 1:1-3). In this passage it is revealed that God is more than one person, God the Father and the 'Word' or spokesman, who later became Christ when born in human flesh. This Father-Son relationship shows that God is a Family. And the word *Elohim* is used in these early passages in Genesis and elsewhere certainly indicates that God is the creating Kingdom or Family! Interestingly, *Elohim* is plural in form but is used in the singular or plural, depending on the context. God, by virtue of being Creator, is also the Ruler over His creation.

In our everyday speech, many of us are damning the very name of our Creator and our God! We are using our breath to curse and damn the name of the very One who gives us our life and the very breath with which we curse His name! An expression used with terrible frequency is asking God to 'damn' someone. Poor men and wealthy men alike give ready tongue to this vile oath, and often think they are proving their 'manhood' or getting away with something by doing it! Using this expression is trifling with the name of out God, asking Him to do something that He has never intended to do.

Men today are accustomed not only to profane swearing and invoking God's name to back up their oaths, but also to many legal ceremonies that invoke the name of God in a form of swearing or an oath. Christ said, "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool: nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King" (Matthew 5:34-35). While we are speaking on using certain expressions as religious titles, Christ said, "Do not call anyone on earth your ***father***, for One is your Father, He who is in Heaven" (Matthew 23:9). However, we need to understand that we should call our human parent "father," as God Himself does in the fifth commandment.

Allow me to show you the simple truth of the most common sin of all. Turn to Matthew 6 in your Bible and read The Lord's Prayer in verses 9-14:

> [9] Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [14] For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, [15] but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Consider this, we hallow God's name by submitting to His Kingdom and government, by doing His will, and by obeying His laws. These are simply a part of fulfillment of the third commandment. Christ asked, "But why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Prayer without obedience is a subtle form of blasphemy! The supposedly religious people who talk about religion and God but refuse to obey His Word are guilty of a greater sin than those who admittedly go the way of the flesh and at least refuse to pretend otherwise. The hypocrisy of religious denominations and religious people is infinitely worse than the profanity of the street. Praise offered to God that is countered by rebellion is against His ways and His laws is certainly blasphemy and it is taking the name of God in vain! Christ also stated the following, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:6-7).

Commandment number four. [8] "**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**" [9] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. [11] For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. **Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.** Here we are at the last of the first four commandments and we need to understand something. The first four commandments are worship instructions toward God, our Heavenly Father. These four commandments pertain to God the Father and how He desires for His creation to honor, obey, and worship Him. Of these four this commandment is probably the one that is argued over the most. There are many who believe that the Sabbath has somehow been changed to a different day and is no longer representing the seventh day as the day that God rested after He finished creation. I'm inserting a passage of scripture that I used in the study of Commandment three above, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**" (Mark 7:6-7). I use this scripture for the portion of text that is bold and underlined. Here is the truth

concerning the commandments of men as they apply to the fourth commandment. The following is taken from The Sabbath Sentinel, magazine of the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) and written by Kelly McDonald, Jr. President of BSA.

March 7, 321 AD – Constantine's Sunday Law

On March 7 321 AD, Constantine approved the "day of the sun" as a day of rest for the Western Roman Empire. It was a law enacted to honor the sun god by requiring rest for those who lived in the city. Those in the country were exempt from it. Below I have provided an English translation of this law:

"All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it frequently happens that no other days are better adapted for planting the grain in the furrows or the vines in trenches. So that the advantage given by heavenly providence may not for the occasion of a short time perish." (Codex Justinian 3.12.2 [some list as 3.12.3]; English: Ayers, pp 284-285; Latin: Krueger, p 127)

As we look at this first law, there are no references to the God of the Bible or Jesus. It did not force anyone to worship anything. Moreover, it contains no references to the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible. At that time, the Roman Church emphasized the use of the phrase "Lord's Day" to refer to Sunday; it is missing from the law because the Roman Church did not emphasize Sunday rest yet!

Notice in Constantine's decree that farmers were not allowed this day off of work. It applied to those in the cities, not the country. The Biblical Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) was a day of freedom for all people, regardless of their occupation. This extends even to farmers in their busiest seasons. "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest" (Exodus. 34:21).

In Latin, the phrase translated as "venerable day of the sun" is venerabili die solis. Constantine's law was based upon honoring and esteeming the celestial body we call the sun. The Mithras cult was a favorite for Roman Emperors, especially Constantine. He minted coins as late as the 320s AD honoring Sol Invictus, the invincible sun god (Encyclopedia Britannica "Mithras", Cath. Encycl. "Constantine the Great"). On some of these coins, he was crowned by Sol (see Sear, pp 363-491). We have an explanation of a coin below:

On one side of the coin, you see Constantine's face. The inscription reads IMP (short for Imperator) Constatantius PF (short for Pius and Felix, or Pious and Happy) AVG or Augustus. On the other side is the sun deity, Sol Invictus, with the inscription: SOL INVICTO COMITI, which means "Sol Invictus, my companion." There is also a cross symbol beside the sun deity. This coin was minted in 316, which was several years before his famous Sunday law. He struck coins with Jupiter's likeness on them as late as the mid-320s.

While Constantine's decree did not change the Sabbath, it created a civil day of rest beside it. His first Sunday law also did not force any sort of worship on his subjects, though the law itself was dedicated to the sun.

The Catholic Encyclopedia states: "…many of the emperors yielded to the delusion that they could unite all their subjects in the adoration of the one sun-god who combined in himself the Father-God of the Christians and the much-worshiped Mithras; thus the empire could be founded

anew on unity of religion. Even Constantine, as will be shown farther on, for a time cherished this mistaken belief…. Many other actions of his also have the appearance of half-measures, as if he-himself had wavered and had always held in reality to some form of syncretistic religion…" (Article: Constantine the Great).

We continue following the truth of what Emperor Constantine did with the following article from The Sabbath Sentinel as written by Kelly McDonald, Jr. President of BSA.

Breakthrough Discovery on Constantine and the Sabbath

In the various articles and books written about Sabbath history, the Roman Emperor Constantine is among the most mentioned individual. Some claim that he tried to change the Sabbath to Sunday or even persecute Sabbath keepers. As we have pointed out in other articles, neither claim is true. Not a single early Church writing or piece of legislation from his reign ever hints at a direct attack upon the Biblical Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset).

More recent research into writings about Constantine's life combined with a study of Roman law have produced a breakthrough discovery in understanding the relationship between his reign and the Biblical Sabbath. You will need to read this article in its entirety to understand this new finding.

A very important writing on this subject comes from Eusebius. He was a pro-Roman Church writer in the 300s AD. He wrote a work called The Life of Constantine. It is one of the primary sources about the ruler's life.

The traditional translation of The Life of Constantine, book 4, chapter 18, section 2: "…his earnest desire being gradually to lead all mankind to the worship of God. Accordingly he enjoined on all the subjects of the Roman empire to observe the Lord's day, as a day of rest, and also to honor the day which precedes the Sabbath; in memory, I suppose, of what the Savior of mankind is recorded to have achieved on that day."

Eusebius refers to the first day of the week as "The Lord's Day" and notes that Constantine enjoined subjects of the Empire to rest on that day. In 321 AD, Constantine issued two Sunday rest laws. Both were civil and had no Christian meaning attached to them. Constantine never called them the Lord's day, but instead used 'dies solis' (which makes more sense considering his sun-worshiping tendencies). Neither law impacted the true Sabbath, but they did introduce an imitation day of rest beside the one established by God.

Eusebius also mentions that Constantine caused people to rest on the day which proceeds the Sabbath, which is Friday. This statement is strange; not a single Roman law of any time period agrees with it.

One thing to keep in mind is that many English translations of early church works were written in the 1700s or 1800s. Most of them have NOT been critically reviewed to make sure the translation and original manuscripts are in agreement with each other.

In the late 1990s, the first and (to my knowledge) only critical edition of the Life of Constantine was translated by Averil Cameron and Stuart G. Hall (who were at King's College in London). Several other Universities and scholars contributed to this monumental work.

Among their findings is that the first translations of The Life of Constantine bk 4, ch 18, sec 2 included an added word which changed the meaning of the sentence. I have researched their statements about this subject myself and found that the assertion is true! I will show you their

translation and then I will show you the explanation from the original documents (which I looked up myself). I will also show you corroborating evidence from before and after Constantine's time to reaffirm the correct manuscript translation.

Here is the translation provided by Stuart and Hall of The Life of Constantine, bk 4, ch 18, section 2. "The Blessed One urged all men also to do the same, as if by encouraging this he might gently bring all men to piety. He therefore decreed that all those under Roman government should rest on the days named after the Savior, and similarly that they should honor the days of the Sabbath, in memory, I suppose, of the things recorded as done by the universal Savior on those days." (Stuart and Hall, p 159).

The accurate translation of this section conveys that Constantine provided protection for Sabbath observance. This refers to the seventh day of the week (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset).

As stated before, I have done my own independent research on this subject and agree with the translation. I will now provide for you the evidence from the original manuscripts to show you how this error occurred in the 1800s.

First, a little history: In the 1800s, J.P. Migne, a priest in the Catholic Church, made copies of existing manuscripts of the early Church writings. These early manuscripts were written in either Greek or Latin. The works composed in Greek had a Latin translation placed beside them on a page so that the Roman priests could read them in the language of the Roman Church (Latin).

The works of Eusebius were written in Greek. In the Patrologiae Cursus Completus. Series Graeca, Vol 20, published in 1857, we find Eusebius' work Life of Constantine copied from the original manuscripts in Greek. We also find a Latin translation beside it.

On Page 1165, we find the copy of the original Greek for chapter 18 from this work. Below is a statement for this page which has the sentence in question.

From the first comma, the Greek transliteration reads: ,OMOIOS DE KAI TAS TOU SABBATOU TIMAN (55). A rough English translation would be: ,and similarly honor they the days of the Sabbath, Notice in the statement I posted above that there is a (55) after this excerpt from the Greek text. This is a footnote made by the copyist. The footnote, which is on page 1166, is in the statement below:

The footnote starts out with the Greek phrase: "DE KAI TAS TOU SABBATOU TIMAN" which was apart of the original text. The copyist then adds a note in Latin which says: "Scribendum est procul dubio" which is roughly translated as "It would be far from doubtful to write" then he gives an edited version of the original Greek phrase. It now says, "TEN PRO TOU SABBATOU"

The scribe has confessed to adding in the Greek word PRO, which means before (in time, position, rank, etc). This one additional word would change the meaning of the sentence to say that Constantine enjoined Roman subjects to close on FRIDAY (before the Sabbath), which is NOT CORRECT!

The copy of the original Greek manuscript on Page 1165 , does NOT have PRO! What's also interesting is that the copyist added the word "pridie" in the Latin translation, which makes the Latin now say "est pridie sabbati…" or in English "the day before the Sabbath."

Thus, the correct translation is that Constantine protected Sabbath observance in the Roman Empire. Does this corroborate with other primary sources? YES.

The first group of primary sources are eye-witness accounts that say two things about the 200s, 300s and 400s AD: 1) that the Sabbath was still observed and that 2) most Christians still honored

it.

Primary sources which affirm this include Augustine, John Cassian, Epiphanius, Socrates, and Sozomen. The second group of sources which confirm this finding would be Roman Law. In the Codex Theodosianus, we find three laws which protect Sabbath observance for Jewish people (CT: 2.8.26, 8.8.8, and 16.8.20). The dates for these laws are 409 and 412 AD. They are repeated in the Codex Justinius (CJ: 1.9.13), which means Justinian extended the same protections.

Of these laws, CT: 16.8.20 referenced rulings of earlier Roman Emperors that protected Sabbath observance. The law, which was issued by Honorius and Theodosius, reads:

"1. Moreover, since indeed ancient custom and practice have preserved for the aforesaid Jewish people the consecrated day of the Sabbath, We also decree that it shall be forbidden that any man of the aforesaid faith should be constrained by any summons on that day, under the pre-text of public or private business, since all the remaining time appears sufficient to satisfy the public laws, and since it is most worthy of the moderation of Our time that the privileges granted should not be violated although sufficient provision appears to have been made with reference to the aforesaid matter by general constitutions of earlier Emperors" (Pharr's translation, p 469).

Notice that the law mentioned the constitutions of earlier emperors (plural). The earliest mention of protections for Sabbath observance go back to the time of Julius Caesar and Octavian Augustus. Octavian gave the Jewish people freedom to keep the Sabbath from Friday at 3 pm until the Sabbath ended (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, 16.6.2). Claudius apparently had the same ruling (ibid, 19.5.3).

The 409 and 412 laws do not mention that the Sabbath law was re-instituted, but simply a continuation of previous imperial policy. With the correct translation of The Life of Constantine, we can now add Constantine to the list of Emperors that protected Sabbath observance. Eusebius' adds an interesting statement to the end of 4.18.2: "…in memory, I suppose, of what the Savior of mankind is recorded to have achieved on that day." Eusebus added a Christian meaning to the protection granted for Sabbath rest. This is in agreement with other Christian writers of the time.

Conclusion: As we survey all the primary sources presented in this article, we can see that Constantine protected Sabbath observance. He continued the protections started by earlier rulers such as Augustus and those protections continued to be protected by later Emperors such as Theodosius II and Justinian. These protections had to be extended in some form or fashion to Christians who observed the Sabbath; as noted the majority of Christians at this time still observed it.

So my question is this: If the various Emperors stated in these early documents protected the observance of the Sabbath who changed it to mean The Lord's Day as observed on Sunday? For part of the answer I return to writings from The Sabbath Sentinel and the writings of Kelly McDonald, Jr. President of BSA.

Did Constantine Change the Sabbath?

Among the commonly held beliefs in the Sabbath community is that the Roman Emperor Constantine changed the Sabbath or prohibited its observance. Those who hold this view typically claim that it occurred at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD or laws enacted in 321.

Before we delve into this subject, it is important to understand how historical research is done.

When we undertake a scholarly review of a subject, it is best to start with the primary source material available to us. A primary source is a person or object that records historical facts about the time period being examined. If someone writes a book or article and claims "Constantine changed the Sabbath" then that claim is only valid if it is supported by primary source evidence.

From primary sources, we are able to draw a degree of certainty about events that happened in a specific time period. In general, the more primary sources we have, the greater degree of certainty that can be reached (but new evidence can always update our perspective). When it comes to Constantine and the Sabbath, the primary sources are broken down into three categories: 1) the laws of the time period, 2) preserved writings about the council of Nicaea, and 3) contemporary writers who recorded Constantine's reign.

Laws issued during the reign of Constantine are chiefly contained in two codes of Roman Law. The first is called the Codex Theodosianus, and it was issued by Theodosius II in 438. The second is the Codex Justinianus, which was issued by Justinian in the 530s. These are compilations of Roman laws categorized by subject matter. English versions of them are available I have access to both). Among the laws issued by Constantine, none prohibit the Sabbath *[observance. My change (CED)]*

The Council of Nicaea is the second primary source usually cited in regards to this subject. To view the proceedings of this council in Latin (with some notes in Greek), one would view volume 2 of Sacrorum conciliorum nova et amplissima collection edited by Joannes Dominicus Mansi (1759). It is listed under the title "Sanctum Concilium Nicaenum Primum Generale" starting on page 635. To review details from this council in English, read A history of the Christian Councils from the Original Documents by Charles Joseph Hefele (translated into English by William R Clark, second edition from 1883). The historical background starts on page 231, but the canons or church rulings (with commentary) are found on pages 375-435. Not a single canon from Nicaea referenced the Sabbath.

A third source for Constantine's reign are the historians who lived in his time period. Eusebius wrote a brief history about Constantine's life and reign called "The Life of Constantine." Another man named Lactantius, who was the personal tutor for Constantine's son Crispus, also recorded some events. Neither primary sources alludes to Constantine banning or curbing Sabbath observance. New evidence from Eusebius' writings now show that Constantine protected Sabbath observance.

Setting the Record Straight

Let's set the record straight. Firstly, no one can change the Sabbath. Think about that assertion for a moment. The Sabbath has been and ALWAYS will be Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. No one can change that eternal truth. Secondly, primary sources from the time period indicate that Constantine did not attempt to ban or forbid Sabbath observance. New evidence shows that he protected it! How did confusion arise concerning this subject? There's misunderstanding about it because Constantine took actions that indirectly affected the Sabbath. Let's explore this further.

On March 7 321 AD, he approved the "day of the sun" as a rest day for the empire. Translated into English, the first part of this law reads: "All judges, city dwellers, skill workers, and the offices of all should honor the venerable day of the sun and rest. However, those placed in the country freely serve the fields of culture…" (CJ.3.12.2: Imperator Constantinus; English translation by Ayer).

In the Latin manuscript, the phrase translated as "venerable day of the sun" is venerabilis dies solis. Constantine's decree was based upon his admiration for the celestial body we call the sun. This law appears to only apply to those in urban areas. People in the country were not bound by it. Notice that no worship is mentioned in the law. The decree did not mention God or Jesus Christ. In fact, the day after this Sun-day law, he enacted a law which allowed soothsayers to enter buildings where lightning had struck (CT: 16.10.1). This decree upheld an ancient Roman custom to pacify the 'gods'.

On July 3 of the same year, he issued a second law which freed slaves from labor on Sunday and suspended certain legal proceedings. The language is reminiscent of protections granted to other ancient pagan celebrations. Sometime after these Sun-day laws, he ruled that the marketplaces were to be open when the special Roman market days (called nundinae) occurred on Sundays (Dessau, no. 704).

These two Sun-day laws mirror the ancient title Pontifex Maximus, which Constantine held at that time.

What about the Council of Nicaea? He attended the gathering, but about a month into its proceedings. During it, he had a letter composed that Christians should not keep Passover like the Jewish people. Instead, he conveyed that people should follow the custom of the Roman Church, who celebrated Passover on Sunday after the 14th of Nissan (Eusebius, Life of Constantine, 3.17-18; Theodoret, Church History, 1.9). The Roman Church used this yearly gathering on Sunday as the reasoning to push Sunday gatherings every week.

This letter from Constantine had no force of law behind it. There's no law from his reign that mentions this subject. Despite this decree, significant numbers of Christians still honored Passover with the Jewish people (see John Chrysostom's work Eight Homilies Against the Jews).

Lastly, the historian Eusebius wrote that Constantine required all his troops to pray on Sunday (which he called the 'Lord's Day' – Life of Const., 4.18-19). We have no corroborating evidence to verify this claim by the writer. Constantine continued to honor others gods decades into his reign and he was not baptized until just before his death. Moreover, Eusebius was an ardent opponent of the Sabbath (see Odom, Sabbath and Sunday in Early Christianity, 292).

Constantine's Sun-day laws created a government-mandated imitation day of rest beside the true Sabbath, which was still being observed. An entire generation of Christians (in urban areas) grew up honoring the seventh-day Sabbath because of the Bible but also resting on Sunday because it was civil law. In other words, people were socialized to rest on Sunday.

Another important development during his reign was the interweaving of the Roman Empire with the Roman Catholic Church. These events opened the door for more stringent Sunday laws with supposed Christian significance starting with the reign of Theodosius I from 379 to 395. Despite these influences, most Christians continued to honor the Sabbath into the 400s AD

We can safely conclude that Constantine did not change the Sabbath or attempt to ban or curb its observance. Some of his decrees and political activity indirectly impacted the Sabbath over a long period of time. He laid the foundation for later Emperors to enact Sunday laws supported by the Roman Church. **As the Roman Church became more influential in the political realm in the Dark Ages and Middle Ages, they pressured temporal authorities to enforce Sunday rest.** Thus, Constantine influenced the Sabbath indirectly in ways that developed

over centuries and in some ways has lasted down to our modern times.

So, the answer to my question pertaining to, "Who changed the day of worshiping God from the Sabbath to The Lord's Day?" It appears to be none other than the Roman Catholic Church. They also are the source of changing Passover to the pagan festival of Easter. If you do not think that Easter is a pagan festival please explain how baby chicks and baby rabbits are a part of one of God's ordained feast days (Passover)?

We've looked at the influence Emperor Constantine had upon the established day for rest and worship of Almighty God. What can we learn from the wording of the Word of God (The Holy Bible)? Recall that the first word in Exodus 20:8 is the word "Remember". Doesn't that word mean to bring something already established back into your memory? Therefore, there must be a previous point that this statement was made. Turn to John 1:1-3, [1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. Wasn't creation the beginning and doesn't this verse stated here say that the second person of the Godhead, here called the Word, would later be called Christ (Yeshua)? Next turn to Mark 2:27-28, [27]And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. [28]So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." We are placed in a world that contains all that is necessary for our physical being, but to obtain it we must work! It is part of the original intention of God, for mankind was placed in the Garden of Eden "to tend and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

Do you realize what all of this amounts to? One way of looking at it, God is giving us a paid vacation every seventh day! But this vacation is not only for the purpose of physical rest, it is also a time for worship, for spiritual rededication, for the contemplation and exercise of the spiritual purposes and laws of life that God has set. In the observance of the seventh day, which God has made holy, and which alone points to creation, man is brought into close communion with his Maker and his God. For God's very presence and His divine blessing are especially evident in this day that He has set apart and sanctified.

Christ, the inspired example of how every true Christian ought to live, taught by His own life and actions that the Sabbath is a holy convocation, a commanded assembly, for God's people, as is taught in Leviticus 23:3, [3]"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places. Christ's example and customary practice is recorded in Luke 4:16, [16]And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read.

There is one more passage that needs to be shown and understood, as it pertains to this commandment. This passage is overlooked by most Christians who desire to worship God on "The Lord's Day ". Turn with me to Exodus 31:12-18, [12]And the LORD said to Moses, [13]"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, '**Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.** [14]You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. [15]Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. [16]Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant

forever.[17]It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.' " [18]And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God. Our forefathers, when putting together our Constitution, built the framework for the Constitution on Judeo-Christian values as stated in the Holy Bible. If you do not believe this turn over to Genesis to see who are called by the name of Israel. First look at Genesis 35:10-11, **[10]And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name."** So he called his name Israel. [11]And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. **A nation** (United States) and **a company of nations** (England) shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. Follow this passage with Genesis 48:16, [16]the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and **in them let my name be carried on**,(Israel) and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." Follow this verse with Genesis 48:19, [19]But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. **He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great.** (United States) Nevertheless, **his younger brother shall be greater than he**, and **his offspring shall become a multitude of nations**. (English Commonwealth)"

Finally, let's use one more verse and wrap up the fourth commandment. Look at Luke 4:8, [8]And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " **'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'** "

Commandment number five. [12] **"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."** We are at the shift point in the commandments of God. The first four pertained to our relationship with God and how we were to be obedient and honor our Creator. The remaining six commandments reflect not only God's moral code but also reflect the moral laws of most states and the countries around the world. This is the first of those six moral commandments and the only commandment that contains a promise. God promises a long life to those who honor their mother and father. That really should be a simple task for such a large promise. Think about that, if you would honor your mother and father and obey this commandment God will provide to you a long life.

If only every parent on earth might come to realize the tremendous influence upon a child's later life that automatically comes as a direct result of obedience or disobedience to this God given command! This commandment is one of the ten great points of God's eternal, spiritual law! Under the Old Testament dispensation, the penalty for directly and flagrantly violating this law was death! (Exodus 21:15, 17), "And he who strikes his father or his mother shall be surely be put to death . . . And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." That is how important this command is in God's eyes! The home and the family unit are the basis of all decent society. This relationship of children to parents is an exact type of the spiritual relationship between true Christians and God. The lessons of character learned in that relationship may last children the rest of their lives, and for eternity! In the eyes of a small child, a parent stands in the place of God Himself, for the loving and affectionate parent is the child's provider, protector, teacher and lawgiver. A child's early training and response to this relationship will, in large measure, determine his later response to the larger relationships with society, and ultimately it is certain to affect his\her relationship with their

spiritual Father in Heaven.

The original command to honor father and mother applies to all of us throughout our lives. But in this place children specifically are told to obey their parents instantly and without question. Explanations and reasons for this may and should be given to the child from time to time or upon an opportunity to give the reason why! Therefore, it is important that a child be taught the habit of unquestioning obedience to their parents. For until the young child develops, their parents stand to them in the place of God. And God holds them responsible for teaching and directing the child properly.

The obedience toward the fifth commandment automatically results in the building of habits and character that leads to long life. A young person so trained will avoid the recklessness, the violence, the wrong companionship, and the rebellion against authority that so often results in untimely death. Therefore, in its ultimate meaning, those who learn to respect and obey their parents, and later, because of this training , God Himself, will certainly "live long on the earth," for, as Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek (the humble and obedient), for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

There is a deeper meaning to this commandant. We have been speaking of the relationship of child to their parents. But, this does not end when the child becomes an adult. Within the adult relationship of parents there are two parties involved to create a child. One half of this may be a group of people who have been raised in an environment of parental love and understanding under the influence of God that has been shown and given to the one partner. But, on the other side because of personal love of one partner toward the other partner the second person in the relationship may have been brought up in a different environment where there was no spiritual relationship that was taught and if truly told, child molestation was practiced within that side of the mother/father parent relationship. Within such a relationship there is no over riding of God's Holy Love during the upbringing as a child. When that upbringing gets to the adult stage there may be harsh problems. One partner is frustrated, plagued with the thoughts that it is their fault that there is no common core training in their early years as a child. The other partner tries everything to find an answer to the situation, There's drugs, abuse, prison time, a home style of being poor, abused and within a clan mentality that everything within the household must be treated as mine and must be marked as mine as the possessor of all things in this household. As a child how would you feel in this environment? Can you imagine the stress, the frustration of such a background to this relationship? As you grew you found the truth and accepted God's Son Yeshua, as the answer and have done everything to make changes to the household situation. By God's holy grace the relationship moves forward with Christ leading the interaction between partners. God's fifth commandment is fulfilled all through our lives.

The time may come when it is no longer necessary or right that a person should strictly obey his parents. But the day should never come when he ceases to honor them. The word "Honor" has a much larger meaning than that of obedience. It indicates a high respect, as for worth, merit, or rank. It denotes a feeling of high esteem and reverence. A person who has properly obeyed his parents in childhood later expresses his honor for them in a deeper appreciation of the comforts and training they provided him as a child. This honor expresses itself in courtesy, thoughtfulness, and kind deeds. As we mature, it becomes increasingly evident that untold hours of work, anxious thought, and agonized prayer were bestowed for our welfare by faithful and loving parents. It should become the delight of every decent man and woman to return this love that our parents showered on us. In the evening of life, many parents long for this affection and fellowship with their children, more perhaps, than for

any other blessing. Let us think and act on this opportunity to return the love our parents so freely gave to us as their children.

To the everlasting shame of our professing Christian society, thousands of elderly parents are reduced to living on a mere pittance that comes to them through government agencies. In all too many cases, the children are able but simply unwilling to provide additional comforts for their parents. Christ gave one of the most forceful interpretations of the fifth commandment in its application to this very problem. Reproaching these hypocritical religionists, Christ said, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death'" (Mark 7:9-10). Christ continued with His condemnation of these hypocrites saying, "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban (meaning dedicated to the service of the altar)". . . then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition" (vv. 11-13). This example comes directly from Christ and becomes part of our obedience to the fifth commandment.

Commandment number 6. [13] **"You shall not murder."** We have entered an age of anger, rage, and violence. It is an intense competition, strife, and personal tensions. Individuals in all nations of the earth are conditioning their minds and consciences to the likelihood of wholesale murder through war and possibly world suicide. Naturally, this situation is devastating to the spiritual principles and ideals of our people. The effect of this is being felt now. We have seen the blessings that come through awe and respect for the one true God, through reverencing His name and office, through hallowing His Sabbath day and keeping it in the true knowledge of Him, and through honoring our fathers and mothers in their high office that directly reflects God's fatherhood and love for all creation. In all these commandments, we have seen love, wisdom, and blessings. And so it is with the sixth commandment. It is important to understand that only the letter of God's law was given to ancient Israel, whereas Christians are to live by the spirit and fullest intent of that law as magnified by Christ Himself. Under the original letter of the law, it was intentional killing or murder that was forbidden. Notice in Deuteronomy 7:1-2 that God directly commanded Israel to exterminate the heathen tribes in the land of Canaan. This was not humanly devised warfare, nor was it personal vengeance or malice. It was the expressed will of Almighty God who gives life, and who alone has the right to say when it shall be taken.

Incidentally, it should be noted that the history of the time indicates that these nations occupying Canaan were absolutely wicked in the extreme, burning alive their own children in human sacrifice to their pagan gods. This was part of the intelligent reason why the Creator ordered their extermination at that time. Notice that in all these cases where God permitted human beings to take life, it was only as His agent and His expressed will. God's original purpose was that mankind should learn not to kill, although it was permitted in certain instances to the carnal, unconverted people of Israel. We shall see that God is now developing in His Spirit begotten children with the character to love, to serve, and to save life, not to destroy it.

The true Christian must learn that God is real, and that His protection and His vengeance are just as real! How then should you deal with your enemies? Christ says, To the contrary "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:20-21). It takes real

strength of character to help and serve your fellow human being when he has directly tried to harm you! It takes the spiritual wisdom to realize that he is a fellow human being, made in the image of God, and simply misguided for the time being in his thoughts and actions.

The essence of the matter of the sixth commandment is that Christ is against the spirit of murder in every form. He is against war and someday He will put an end to it forever! He is against all malice, envy and hate. Christ taught the dignity of mankind and the sacredness of human life as created in the image of God. Almighty God, the Creator, governs the universe from His throne in heaven and thunders at an age of violence and rebellion, "You shall not murder!"

Commandment number seven. [14] **"You shall not commit adultery."** Oh boy! How does a person open this vessel of trouble? First, God created only two genders: male and female! Second, a marriage consist of one man and one woman! Period!! I know I've already upset the pride crowd. Sorry, but I do everything I can to listen to the instructions given to me from my God. I write what the BIBLE (**B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth) says and do not attempt to write what mankind comes up with in their own minds. To do that is to allow Satan to take over my mind and turn truth into a lie. The pride community has already stolen God's covenant symbol between Himself and humanity and turned that symbol into a false image. God created a rainbow as that symbol between Him and humanity that He would never cause another flood to cover the earth and wipe out all life on this planet. Why, have you done this,? Other than to follow the spirit of Satan and do what you can to deny God as the Creator of all things.

If you truly understood chapter 3 of the book of Genesis you would know the truth of what was given as the punishment for the partaking of the fruit of the tree at the middle of the garden. Yes! Satan beguiled the female. But, here is the real question that Christians will not speak about. What did God place on the woman as a curse for the eating of the fruit and what did God do between the woman and Satan?

Let us turn to chapter 3 of Genesis to see what is said and what it might mean. Let's set this up on how the woman was deceived. We need to review verses 2-6, [2]And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3]but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " [4]But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5]For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6]So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and **she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.** So far we see that both the man and the woman were together and both partook of the tree that was in the middle of the garden. Now look at verses 9-19, [9]But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10]And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11]He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12]The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (Here is the initial "Pass the buck" blame that mankind has been using ever since the Garden.) [13]Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Verse 13 is recorded here from the ESV Bible. Here is the verse from the KJV Bible, And the woman said, The serpent **beguiled** me, and I did eat. Strong's Concordance for Hebrew Number 5377

reads: (morally) to seduce-beguile, deceive, X greatly, X utterly. In other words Satan seduced the woman.) [14]The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this (Done What? Seduced the woman.), cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (Satan's offspring) and her offspring; (woman's offspring)** he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." [16]To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. (If this viewpoint isn't true where did the term childbearing come into the eating of the fruit of the tree?) Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."(Desire should be for her husband and not toward Satan.) [17]And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18]thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants (The KJV uses the word herbs) of the field. [19]By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The woman is finally given a name in verse 20. Up to this point both the man and the woman were called Adam. [20]The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. [21]And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (These garments come into the situation when we have the offerings made by Cain and Abel. In chapter 4 we see Abel's offering being acceptable to God and Cain's offering wasn't. The answer had to do with the killing of an animal. The shedding of blood. God had to kill an animal to make the garments for Adam and Eve. Abel had to kill an animal to take the fat or even the firstborn of the flock. There is one other fact we must look at. Also, from chapter 4, verses 1-2 we have the entry: [1]Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." [2]And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. As I stated above there is the statement made pertaining to Satan's offspring and her offspring. It doesn't say Adam's offspring, yet here in verse 1 it says that Adam knew his wife and she conceived and bore Cain. Cain and Abel are twins but they are not paternal twins with Adam being the father. The fact of the matter is that we also have verse 25 of chapter 4 which reads, [25]And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, **"God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."** There are three individuals involved in these verses between chapters 3 through chapter 5:3. Those three individuals are Satan, the father of Cain; Eve, the mother of Cain, Abel and Seth, but her offspring in particular was Abel, and Adam was the father of Seth. We have a continuance of the story in chapter 6:1-7, [1]When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, [2]the sons of God (angels, and we must remember that Satan was an angel, but capable of producing offspring, just as we see here) saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. [3]Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." [4]The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. [5]The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6]And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. [7]So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face

of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

I fully realize that we are looking at the seventh commandment as it pertains to adultery. The command is directly toward adultery, however we have to consider all forms of sexual activity. There are several places in the Bible that we need to look at to fully understand God's seventh commandment. Our first place to view is Leviticus 20:10-23, [10]"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. [11]If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. [12]If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed perversion; their blood is upon them. **[13]If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.** [14]If a man takes a woman and her mother also, it is depravity; he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no depravity among you. [15]If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. [16]If a woman approaches any animal and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. [17]"If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, and he shall bear his iniquity. [18]If a man lies with a woman during her menstrual period and uncovers her nakedness, he has made naked her fountain, and she has uncovered the fountain of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from among their people. [19]You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for that is to make naked one's relative; they shall bear their iniquity. [20]If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless. [21]If a man takes his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless. [22]"You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. [23]And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. Over the course of my life I have heard time and again that this applies only to the men who are homosexual and not the lesbians. Okay, I grant to you, that situation is not stated here. But, what about the statement from the New Testament? Turn over to Romans 1:24-32, [24]Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25]because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. [26]For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. **For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; [27]and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.** [28]And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. [29]They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, [30]slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31]foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32]Though they know God's

righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

While we are in the New Testament let's see what 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:5 says, [9]Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, [10]nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11]And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. [12]"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. [13]"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. [14]And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. [15]Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! [16]Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." [17]But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. [18]Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19]Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20]for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. [1]Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." [2]But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. [3]The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. [4]For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. [5]Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

One more jump back to the Old Testament. This time turn to Deuteronomy 27:20-23, [20]" 'Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's nakedness.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' [21]" 'Cursed be anyone who lies with any kind of animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' [22]" 'Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' [23]" 'Cursed be anyone who lies with his mother-in-law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

That should give ample instructions pertaining to the seventh commandment. On to the next commandment.

Commandment number eight. [15] **"You shall not steal."** The simple statement for this commandment is: "Do not take anything that doesn't belong to you". There are many ways that modern day stealing occurs. Through our watered down system of morality in use today we can find many ways that theft occurs. Consider a business board room where after discussing some debased scheme by which to cheat a business competitor or customer, executives shrug their shoulders and say, "Well, that's just business." Another means could be false measurement, poor quality, or misleading advertising, stated by a businessman who says, "What's the difference? If I don't do it, someone else will."

When cheating the government or falsifying an income tax return, the common American phrase to ease one's conscience is, "Let Uncle Sam sweat this time. The government is taking too much money anyway So what?" Yes, so what? Is that "just business?" Well, it also happens to be God's business and He has set in motion a law stating, "You shall not steal." When you break God's law, the punishment is automatic and it is sure.

According to God's Word and His Law, there are only two correct ways by which you can come into possession of anything. The first is by free gift or an inheritance from another person, or from God Himself. The second is by honest labor, which earns something as a legitimate return. Any other way is theft, the taking from another that which belongs to him. As an American citizen consider what our forefather's placed into the Constitution of the United States. It is important to note that, in principle, the eighth commandment forbids all forms of communism that deny man's right to property. It also forbids international thievery, in which governments forcibly confiscate and steal the property and possessions of their own or other nations' citizens.

The industrialist or merchant who uses false weights and measures or a poor quality of material or workmanship to deceive the public is just as guilty of breaking the eighth commandment as a common thief! He is trying to get something more than a legitimate return for his product. Viewing the illegal profits he hopes to receive, he is trying to get that extra something for nothing. In principle, he is simply stealing! Yet, in how many thousands of cases this type of lawlessness and deception is practiced, God alone knows.

One of the commercial sins of our age is the common practice of false advertising. The consumer is led to expect that a certain "pill," for instance, will cause him to lose weight, gain weight, increase his potency, restore his thinning hair, or whatever the case may be. And, in most cases, this statement is a direct, willful lie without any doubt. Such a practice is, in effect, stealing from the people who pay money to achieve the promised result. In many cases, the victims of these gigantic frauds are not only robbed of money, they are robbed of health, happiness, and peace of mind. Many a "respectable" businessman and community leader has attained their position largely through this type of mass deception and theft!

Speaking to modern day Israel, God declares, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8). God here indicts our modern English speaking peoples for robbing our very Creator and His Work! No wonder there is so little true religion left on earth today! No wonder there is so much confusion and deceit going about in the name of Christianity! God continues, "'You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it'" (vv. 9-10).

Property and possessions are to be gained by honest work, not merely to satisfy personal desires and needs, but so that any excess may be freely given to the brother in need. In the real intent or spirit of God's law, a man not only steals by taking from another that which is his, but by refusal to work in order to share and give to others in need! The true Christian should be "distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

Commandment number nine. [16] **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

This is the age of the sophisticated lie, and the double standard of morality. This is the age of respectable appearing lawyers, industrial leaders, government officials, and college professors perjuring themselves on the witness stand and even before the United States Senate. This age also presents a peculiar spectacle of millions of people who believe in evolution attending churches that, nominally at least, believe in the Creator God of the Bible. The Christ of the Bible thoroughly condemned the hypocrites of His day. What would He say about our generation?

Thousands of sophisticated adults know that "Respectable" church and civic leaders are often ready and willing to support gambling, prostitution, and narcotics if it is to their financial advantage to do so. To the community at large, they appear as the pillars of virtue and respectability. To the procurers of prostitutes, narcotics, or big–time gambling czars, they are ready to make an "undercover deal." They are ready to use their civic influence or position to let organized vice and crime flourish in their community, so long as they get a financial cut. In plain language, they are living a lie! The revelation of how much our entire "Christian" society is based on this type of hypocrisy is absolutely astounding! But we are paying a stern penalty nevertheless for we are breaking the ninth commandment of God.

The far reaching spiritual applications of the ninth commandment are tremendous. There is a personal, living Almighty God of this universe whose ways and laws are intrinsically right. Therefore, an honest person, one who is willing to speak the truth and acknowledge the truth when it is revealed, must eventually be converted to the true God and His ways! But if one's word is no good, and one is in the habit of lying to others, and oneself, one's very character and mental processes are so twisted and perverted so as to prevent understanding the truth of God until one's lying mind is cleaned up! That is why it is so vitally important that, even though people may have honest differences of opinion on many matters, we all learn to live and speak truthfully. Yet we are living in a society that is increasingly permeated by various forms of untruth, hypocrisy, and self deception. If we are ever to build the character of God, and inherit eternal live, we must consider the ninth commandment in all of its ramifications and learn to obey it.

The ninth commandment protects every upright and decent person in that it helps guard reputations. Perhaps there is no more despicable sin than that of slander., the lie invented and spread with intent to harm another human being. A thief takes only material goods, which may usually be replaced. But a false witness who slanders may rob one of esteem and reputation in the eyes of others, and chances are slim that a lost reputation will ever be fully regained.

The very root principle of all sin is vanity. The real reason most men reject the true God is that they want to be "gods" in their own eyes and the eyes of their fellow men. It is vanity. Every sin that is committed by human beings has its ultimate roots in this one principle. And so it is with every form of lying.

People lie because they are more concerned with their own self-esteem and sense of importance than they are with the ultimate good of their neighbor. They speak and act falsely because they fear the opinions of men much more than that of Almighty God Himself! The daily actions and words of nearly all men bear eloquent testimony to the literal truth of this statement. The Apostle John said even of the religious leaders of his day that, "They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). We all had better quit worrying so much about what puny, mortal men think and become far more about what Almighty God thinks! Then we will learn to cease from all hypocrisy in business, in social life, in politics, and yes, in our religious and scientific endeavors. Since, through

vanity, men want to believe what is popular at the moment, they will kid themselves and their associates into believing even religious and scientific theories that have no basis whatsoever in actual fact! God warns against all such hypocrites: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). God is condemning those who knowingly suppress the truth of His existence and His purpose on this earth! God says the vain philosophers and scientists of this world are "without excuse" for denying that He literally created this universe and is now ruling it through His power (vs. 20). Most scientists and theologians who believe in the Satan inspired theory of evolution ought to know better. Some of them do know better! But they are going along with what pleases men and they are living a lie! God says they are "without excuse"!

In the same category are those ministers and Bible students who continue to teach and practice what they know are ancient heather and pagan beliefs and customs condemned in the word of God. For example there are four holidays that are pagan in nature that are celebrated in most of Christendom every year: They are Valentines Day, Easter, Halloween and Christmas. And, most certainly, we must include the pagan practices of homosexuality in all of its "pride" forms. In all too many cases, they know better! They are "without excuse".

The continued teaching of these basic scientific and spiritual lies is the very thing that is blinding most of this world from the real nature of God and from His true plan and purpose here below. This is the truly terrible result of bearing false witness, self deception, and lying. **As long as supposedly "educated" leaders keep deceiving themselves and others about the very existence, power, and plan of God, our civilization is doomed!**

Commandment number ten. [17] **"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."**

The simple way to state this commandment is: "Thy shall not envy what is your neighbor's". Americans also have the slogan: "Keeping up with the Joneses". In today's world high pressure advertisements constantly encourage this concept. It is made to seem backward or wrong not to strive and compete and lust after as many material possessions as your neighbor owns. The modern idea is to "get all you can while the getting is good." The incessant pressure to get ahead, which usually means to acquire more money and material property, has spawned more and more idolatry. It is blinding the minds and hearts of millions of people to the life of God.

We live in a society that in actual fact is based on lust and greed for more and more material things! The frenzied effort to compete with others and get ahead is not only the source of most financial problems, but the real cause of much physical and mental illness, broken homes, and frustrated lives. Most important of all, this form of idolatry leaves one with almost no time, strength, or desire to ever become acquainted with the true God, whose living laws and ways alone would bring real inner peace and joy.

Most people fail to realize that the Ten Commandments are living, moving, active laws. So it is with the final commandment of God's law. Even though it may be broken without the knowledge of any other human being, the penalty for its violation is absolutely certain! Of all the commandments, the tenth refers most specially to man's relation to fellow man. Look closely at the phasing of this commandment. There is a sevenfold guarding of the interests of another individual. It is not wrong

to lawfully desire a wife, a servant, an ox, or a donkey. But where the object admired is legitimately out of reach of the one admiring, admiration merging into desire to possess breaks the commandment. Although this commandment deals most obviously with human and physical relationships, the spiritual requirement of the command is in someways more rigid than any that has preceded it. This command regulates even the thoughts in the mind and heart of man. Most men look on sin as an outward or physical kind of thing. They do not realize that the holy, righteous character that God purposes in us necessitates that even our thoughts be completely purified and made like His. Action follows thought. What you think, you are. If you secretly reject God's standard and His ways, if in your heart you lust after something that you either cannot or will not come to lawfully possess with His blessing, the, sooner or later, this mental rebellion will prompt outward sin. The actions will then proceed to defy God, to break His law, because the thoughts have been doing this all along!

This command pierces through all "surface Christianity" and shows whether a person has really surrendered his will to his Maker! It is a searching and fearful principle. But it is a command you must learn to obey if you are ever to receive eternal life and glory in the Kingdom of God. Through God's Spirit in us, we must fight the fight of faith, put down the lustful human nature within us, and ultimately succeed in "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). This is the ultimate goal of true Christianity, to be fully attained in the resurrection. At this point the last commandment joins hands with the first, for whatever you seek contrary to God's will, you covet. If in your mind and heart you covet something more than to obey the Creator and receive His blessings, that thing becomes an idol to you, for "covetousness ... is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5).

In learning to lovingly, sincerely, and intelligently serve your fellow man, and to serve and worship the true God, you will find the only real sense of fulfillment and joy in this life. And in tomorrow's world, you will be given eternal life and glory in a divine government based on the Ten Commandments, the true way of love, of giving and serving your fellow man, and of worshiping and exalting the living God who gave these commandments for our eternal good.

The new commandment of Christ (I use His Hebrew name) Yeshua (John 13:34-35), "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In the previous portion of this booklet, we have explored the positive application of the Ten Commandments to every aspect of our personal lives as living, active laws. But today, many professing ministers and Bible teachers are wrongly proclaiming that the Ten Commandments are "done away", as they say, or that they have been replaced by the "new" commandments of Yeshua.

In spite of what many think, there is only one place in all the Bible where Yeshua said He was giving a "new" commandment (recorded above). Yeshua gave this "new" commandment during the last night of His physical life on earth. He had, by teaching and example, already shown the disciples that keeping God's commandments was simply an expression of love.

Many religious people think that Yeshua had a sentimental type of "love" in His heart, but that He did not really obey God's commandments literally. The truth of this matter is that Yeshua kept and obeyed every one of the Ten Commandments in the letter and in the Spirit, just as His followers today should do. As we have already seen, He declared that He had obeyed the Father's commandments as shown in John 15:1-17(ESV). Specifically John 15:10

[1]"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2]Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3]Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4]Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5]I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6]If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7]If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8]By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9]As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10]If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11]These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

[12]"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13]Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14]You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15]No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. [16]You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17]These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Along with the Ten Commandments that God (Yahweh) gave to mankind there are certain covenants that God also established between Himself and mankind as a whole. I will now attempt to give all the covenants that exist between God and mankind.

The first covenant is between God and Noah and we find this is Genesis 6:17-19 (ESV), [17]For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. [18]But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. [19]And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

Genesis 9:9-17(ESV) [9]"Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, [0]and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. [11]I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." [12]And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13]I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. [14]When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, [15]I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. [16]When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." [17]God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." Why is it that the PRIDE community has stolen God's sign and made it their sign. They hate God!

There will be many people who disagree with the next covenant as given in Genesis 15:18(ESV). This covenant is between God and Abraham and concerns the land that God gave to the descendants of Abraham. [18]On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt (that would be the Nile) to the great river, the river Euphrates, (That would result in a land territory that is maybe four times larger then the current land territory of the nation of Israel.)

The next covenant is actually between God and Abraham and is the covenant of circumcision, Genesis 17:2–21(ESV) [2]that I may make My covenant between Me and you, and may multiply you greatly." [3]Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, [4]"Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. [5]No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. [6]I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. [7]And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. [8]And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." [9]And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. [10]This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. [11]You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. [12]He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, [13]both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall My covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. [14]Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant." [15]And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. [16]I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." [17]Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" [18]And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" [19]God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. [20]As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. [21]But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

Exodus 2:24-25(ESV), This next covenant is a refresher between God and the people of Israel. [24]And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. [25]God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Exodus 6:4-8(ESV), This continues with the covenant that God established with the people of Israel. [4]I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. [5]Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom

the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered My covenant. [6]Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. [7]I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. [8]I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.' "

Exodus 19:5-6(ESV), This remains as a part of God's covenant to the Israelites in bringing them out of bondage in Egypt. [5]Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine; [6]and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' ...

Exodus 31:15-17(ESV), Once again God stresses the importance of observing the Sabbath as He did in the fourth Commandment. [15]Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. [16]Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. [17] It is a sign forever between Me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

Deuteronomy 4:13(ESV), In this passage God stresses the obedience to the Ten Commandments. [13]And He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Deuteronomy 4:23(ESV), Additional statement concerning the Ten Commandments. [23] Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you.

Deuteronomy 4:31(ESV), One more statement pertaining to the covenant made between God and the forefathers of Israel. [31] For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them. [9] Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations, ... [12] "And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that He swore to your fathers.

Ezra 10:2-5(ESV), We jump from Deuteronomy to Ezra to find another statement pertaining to the covenant between Israel and God. [2]And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. [3]Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. [4]Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it." [5]Then Ezra arose and made

the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.

Nehemiah 1:5-7(ESV), We find another laps of Israel keeping their covenant with God in Nehemiah. [5]And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, [6]let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night for the people of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against You. Even I and my father's house have sinned. [7]We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that You commanded Your servant Moses.[5]And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, [6]let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night for the people of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against You. Even I and my father's house have sinned. [7]We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that You commanded Your servant Moses.

Psalm 25:10 & 14(ESV), A Psalm of King David. [10]All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. ... [14] The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant.

Psalm 50:5 & 16(ESV), A Psalm of Asaph. [5]"Gather to Me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!" ... [16]But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite My statutes or take My covenant on your lips?

Psalm 78:10 & 37(ESV), Another Psalm of Asaph. [10]They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to His law. ... [37]Their heart was not steadfast toward Him; they were not faithful to His covenant.

Psalm 89:3, 28, 34 & 39(ESV), A Psalm of Ethan. [3]You have said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn to David My servant: ... [28]My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and My covenant will stand firm for him. ... [34]I will not violate My covenant or alter the word that went forth from My lips. ... [39]You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust.

Psalm 103:18(ESV), A Psalm of David. [18]to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

Psalm 105:8-10(ESV), A Psalm of David. [8]He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, [9]the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac, [10]which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

Psalm 106:45(ESV). A Psalm of David. [45]For their sake He remembered His covenant, and

relented according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

Psalm 111:5 & 9(ESV), A Psalm of David. [5]He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever. [9]He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

Isaiah 24:5(ESV), [5]The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.

Isaiah 54:10(ESV), [10]For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 55:3(ESV), [3]Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David.

Isaiah 59:21(ESV), [21]"And as for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore."

Isaiah 61:8(ESV), [8]For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Jeremiah 11:8(ESV), [8]For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Jeremiah 11:10(ESV), [10]They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear My words. They have gone after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant that I made with their fathers.

Jeremiah 22:9(ESV), , [9]And they will answer, "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and worshiped other gods and served them." ' "

Jeremiah 31:31- 33(ESV), [31]"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, [32]not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. [33]For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 32:40(ESV), [40]I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me.

Jeremiah 33:20-21 & 25(ESV), [20]"Thus says the LORD: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, [21]then also My covenant with David My servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and My covenant with the Levitical priests My ministers. ... [25]Thus says the LORD: If I have not established My covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth,

Jeremiah 34:8;10;13; 15; & 18(ESV), [8]The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them, ... [10]And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his slave, male or female, so that they would not be enslaved again. They obeyed and set them free. ... [13]"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I Myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying, ... [15]You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before Me in the house that is called by My name, ... [18]And the men who transgressed My covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before Me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts.

Acts 3:25(ESV), [25]You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

Hebrews 8:6 - 9:28(ESV), [6]But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. [7]For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. [8]For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, [9]not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. [10]For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [11]And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. [12]For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." [13]In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

[1]Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. [2]For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. [3]Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, [4]having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. [5]Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

[6]These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, [7]but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year,

and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. [8]By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing [9](which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, [10]but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

[11]But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) [12]he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. [13]For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, [14]how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

[15]Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. [16]For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. [17]For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. [18]Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. [19]For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, [20]saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." [21]And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. [22]Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

[23]Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. [24]For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. [25]Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, [26]for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. [27]And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, [28]so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

I went through and counted the number of times the word "covenant"is recorded in the ESV Bible. There are 271 times this one word is used (if I counted correctly).

Please enjoy all that has been written for the purpose of understanding God's Ten Commandments. May God bless you for your reading.

If you have violated any of these Ten Commandments you need to seek God's mercy, to REPENT and accept Yeshua (Jesus Christ) as your Lord and Savior.