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## “THEN THERE WAS LAW”

Exodus 20

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There are a whole lot of people that are interested in the Law, or the Ten Commandments of God, so they can try to keep them and hope God will save them if they are good enough. The Law (10 Commandments) is quite interesting and here to stay. It is the boundary that frames our freedom. It is the wall we bump into when we do that which is wrong. It forms the foundation of our society and our personal values. It is the tool that carves the word Sin in our vocabulary. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 7, “No, the law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin.” Ultimately, the Law is the vehicle that transports us to Grace. Let’s look at the 10 Commandments, as we know them.

1. *You shall have no other gods before me* - no person, object, or philosophy will be placed ahead of God.

2. *You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them* - love for God must be singular; it puts all other relationships in their proper priority.

3. *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name* - using God’s name irreverently, lightly, or flippantly is disrespectful to the One who must be respected above all.

4. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy* - the Sabbath is to set apart a day each week to rest, worship, and to be free from the burden of work to replenish our spirits and bodies.

5. *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you* - fathers and mothers are entrusted with a huge responsibility and are accountable to God as parents; they are to be accorded value and respect.

6. *You shall not murder* - murder is a premeditated and intentional act to destroy a person that God created, and carries stiff penalties.

7. *You shall not commit adultery* - unlawful sexual relationships with the spouse of another. It breaks the intimacy and sacredness of the marriage bond and leads to other sins.

8. *You shall not steal* - taking what belongs to someone else without permission is individual disrespect, violates the individual, and creates fear and mistrust.

9. *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor* - telling lies about another person destroys character, self-esteem, and negates that individual’s life, thoughts, and feelings.

10. *You shall not covet your neighbor’s house, wife, or possessions* - coveting is desire with evil intent. It breeds lust along with wrongful comparisons and judgments.

Have a thoughtful week. Remember the Law, but seek God’s Grace.