



The Good News

January 10th, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 2

The Ten Commandments

By Michael McCleary

In our discussions with others, sometimes we encounter those who ask some difficult questions, either because they are truly seeking answers or because they are deliberately trying to stump us. Regardless of the motivation behind the question, we can never underestimate the power of a carefully worded and thorough answer to the questions that are posed to us. If we can provide an answer for the hope that is in us, including answers to any questions regarding a particular aspect of that hope, we may have an opportunity to teach others what God's Word says. Some questions that you may be faced with may include some aspect of the Ten Commandments. Most questions in this category generally revolve around whether the Ten Commandments are still in existence and whether we are supposed to follow them. If such questions were posed to us, how would we answer and what Scriptures might we use to support our answers? This morning, in this article and our sermon, we want to investigate this matter so that we can be better prepared to field any questions regarding the Ten Commandments.

What are the Ten Commandments? In **Exodus 20:1-17** we read how that God gave Moses the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments, on Mt. Sinai. We find recorded here the specific commands that are given.

Are the Ten Commandments found in the New Testament? The substance of most of the commands is indeed found in the New Testament. Consider the following commands and their reinforcement in the New Testament:

1. Do not place any other gods before Jehovah – **Acts 17:24-29**
2. Do not worship idols – **I Cor. 8:4-6**
3. Do not take Jehovah's name in vain – **Matt. 6:9**
4. Remember the Sabbath Day – ???
5. Honor father and mother – **Eph. 6:1-3**
6. Do not kill – **I Jn. 3:15**
7. Do not commit adultery – **I Cor. 6:9**
8. Do not steal – **I Pet. 4:15**
9. Do not bear false witness – **Rev. 21:8**
10. Do not covet – **Heb. 13:5**

Notice that the only commandment that is missing a corresponding Scripture in the New Testament is the commandment about remembering the Sabbath Day and keeping it holy. Why is this? It is because in **Heb. 7:12**, the writer explains that a new law has been put into effect. The New Law places importance on the first day of the week, or "Lord's Day" (**Rev. 1:10**), not the Sabbath Day (see **Acts 20:7**, **I Cor. 16:1-2**).

So are the Ten Commandments still binding today? This is not the proper question to ask. A more accurate question is "Does the New Law incorporate the substance of the Ten Commandments?" The answer is that yes, for the most part, the New Law does contain the substance of the Ten Commandments, except for the Sabbath Day. The next time a question is asked of us concerning the Ten Commandments, let's make sure to show by Scripture why we are not bound to the Ten Commandments, but rather to the substance of most of the commands as they are conveyed in the New Law.