

## NO OTHER GODS

TEXT: Ex. 20:1-3 And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The 10 commandments contain words that have thundered across the centuries.
- B. In many ways they are ageless and up to date.
- C. With the exception of the Sabbath, there will never be a time or nation in which it will be right to violate the Ten Commandments.
- D. The ten Commandments are well known and much understood.
- E. Let's notice today the 1st Commandment.

BODY: THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME!

### I. NOTICE THE WORDS:

#### A. I AM (A Name For God).

1. Ex. 3:13-14 **Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'**

2. I am- From the verb to Be, Self-existing one, Denotes continuous existence.

3. This explains why the Jews were so upset with Jesus- Jn. 8:48-59. 56-59 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

#### B. The Lord Thy God.

- 1. God never attempts to prove His existence.
- 2. He gives the reason they should serve Him.

3. Not because: He is the creator of all, The sustainer of the earth, All powerful, All knowing, etc.
4. But because He brought them out of bondage, He sent the Ten plagues, parted the Red Sea, Fed them manna and quail, Gave them water from a rock.
  5. He had a right to be their God.
  6. Yet after all this they left Him- Jer. 35:15. **"I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, `Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.**

C. THOU (You).

1. 2nd person singular.
2. To everyone of them.
3. The importance of the first commandment can not be overestimated.
4. If men do not obey this one, obeying the rest will not matter one whit.

D. Shall have no other gods BEFORE ME.

1. Some think, "I don't have any before God, they are all after Him."
2. More literal translation would be; "before my face" "beside or in addition to me" in opposition to me"
  3. Other Translations.
    - a. T.E.V. "Worship no god but me."
    - b. NASV, ASV, NIV "You shall have no other gods beside me."

II. WHAT IT FORBIDS AND COMMANDS.

A. Forbids.

1. Idolatry-worship of a false God.
2. Polytheism-many gods.

3. Humanism-making self god.
4. Materialism-worship money, things, etc.

B. Advocates.

1. Monotheism-worship of one God.
2. Shows: Reality of God. Authority of God. Place of God- 1st place.
3. Scriptures.
  - a. Each day the Jew were to repeat the Shema- Deut. 6:4. **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!**
  - b. Isa. 45:5. **I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,**
  - c. Isa. 46:9. **Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,**

C. Yet the Jews quickly forgot.

1. Judges 2:10. **When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.**
2. Judges 21:25. **In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

III. LETS VIEW THE FIRST COMMANDMENT FROM A NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE.

A. Scriptures.

1. Matt. 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, `You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "
2. 1 Cor. 8:5-6 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.
3. Paul's sermon at Athens- Acts 17:22-31 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very

religious; "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

4. Eph. 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

B. Warning about idols (More next time).

1. 1 Cor. 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

2. 1 Jn. 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

3. Col. 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

4. Anything that comes between God and man is an idol.

IV. SOMETHINGS MEN PUT BEFORE GOD.

A. Some worship nature.

1. Many would rather be in the woods or on the lake.

2. "I feel closer to God."

3. They are worshipping the creation more than the creator.

4. Rom. 1:22-25 Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than

the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

5. If they don't repent they will be lost- Rom. 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

B. Some worship Health.

1. Millions spend all their time, energy and money to stay healthy.
2. They totally neglect their soul.
3. Many forsake the assembly because of health but then work 5-6 days a week, doing anything else.

4. Paul said 1 Tim. 4:7-8 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

a. We should take care of ourselves physically.

b. Much more spiritually- Matt. 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

C. Some Worship Sports.

1. Their favorite players have become gods.
2. The stadiums and coliseums have become temples.
3. They turn their back on God and drive a hundred miles to worship their heroes.
4. They will sit and stand and cheer for two or three hours in the rain or snow, heat or cold.
5. Some can't stay awake for 30-40 min. to hear about God.
6. Spend money and not give to church.

D. Many Worship Knowledge.

1. Knowledge is God.

2. 1 Cor. 1:18-20 8 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

#### E. Many Worship Pleasure.

1. This is a god that has been worshipped since the dawn of time.

a.2 Tim. 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

b. 1 Tim. 5:6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

3. Pleasure last only a little while- Heb. 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

#### F. Many Worship Wealth.

1. Matt. 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

2. Mk. 4:19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

3. 1 Tim. 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

#### G. Many Worship Man as God.

1. Peter told Cornelius not to- Acts 10:25-26 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

2. Herod wanted thin- Acts 12:21-23 So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

3. God is not like man- Isa. 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

CONCLUSION:

- A. God say, "No other Gods, just me."
- B. God has a right to demand this.
- C. C/N worship anything but God.
- D. Must worship in His way.
- E. Same is true with salvation.