



Lecture # 4 Part 1

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty to God (Part 1):

Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, Exodus 20:3

4. (Exodus 20:3) Obedience; Commandments, The Ten: What is the decision required by this commandment?

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³ You shall have no other gods before Me.

I have **two very specific points** to make under this question.

1. The decision can be stated positively:

- a. We must acknowledge that there is only one living and true God and serve Him with our whole heart.
- b. We must turn to the **LORD** and be saved, for He alone is God.
- c. We must love the **LORD** our God (**Jehovah, Yahweh**) with all our hearts.
- d. We must seek to walk before God and be blameless.
- e. We must sanctify the **LORD** in our hearts, set Him apart as holy and fear Him.
- f. We must realize that we cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 6:24 (NASB)

²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

2. The decision can be stated negatively: we must have no other gods whatsoever; we must never believe in false gods, none whatsoever.

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³ You shall have no other gods before Me.

Deuteronomy 11:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them.

1 John 5:21 (NASB)

²¹ Little children, guard yourselves from idols.



Lecture # 4 Part 1

Thought 1. The decision demanded by God is clear: we are not to have any other gods, none whatsoever. There is only one true and living God. We are to believe *in Him and in Him alone*.

Genesis 15:6 (NASB)

⁶ Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

2 Chronicles 20:20 (NASB)

²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 6:28-29 (NASB)

²⁸ Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

1 John 3:23 (NASB)

²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

DEEPER STUDY # 1

THE BIBLICAL CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING OTHER GODS, OF BELIEVING IN OTHER GODS

(Exodus 20:3) Commandments, The Ten—Obedience—Judgment: What are the consequences of breaking this commandment? This passage does not cover the consequences. The reason is seen in the first two verses (**Exodus 20:1-2**).

Exodus 20:1-2 (NASB)

¹ Then 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.

The motivation for keeping the Ten Commandments is not to be fear of the judgment of God. The reason for keeping the commandments is to be the love of God, the glorious salvation and deliverance He has provided.

Note what God says:



Lecture # 4 Part 1

Exodus 20:2 (NASB)

² **I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

The Israelites were to keep the Ten Commandments because God had delivered them out of Egypt, out of slavery and bondage. Remember, Egypt is a picture of the world, and Israel's slavery to Egypt is a picture of man's enslavement to the world, to its bondages of sin and death.

But God loves us; therefore, He has provided salvation for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is this—the love of God—that is to compel us to keep His commandments.

But having said this, there are other reasons for obeying the commandments. And, as mentioned, these are covered in other Scriptures. Our purpose in discussing the Ten Commandments is to give an overall discussion. For this reason, we are including the consequences for breaking the commandments in a **Deeper Study** for each of the commandments.

1. There are the consequences upon God.

- a. The person who does not follow God cuts the heart of God: causes pain and hurt for Him.
- b. The person who does not follow God causes the name of God to be blasphemed.
- c. The person who does not follow God lives a life that is detestable to God.

1. There are the consequences upon God.

- a. The person who does not follow God cuts the heart of God: causes pain and hurt for Him.

1 Samuel 8:7 (NASB)

⁷ **The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected Me** from being king over them.**

Psalms 81:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **But My people did not listen to My voice, And Israel did not obey Me.**

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

- b. The person who does not follow God causes the name of God to be blasphemed.

Romans 2:23-24 (NASB)

²³ **You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?**



Lecture # 4 Part 1

²⁴ For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

c. The person who does not follow God lives a life that is detestable to God.

Titus 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

2. There are the consequences upon oneself, ones day to day life.

- a. The person who does not follow God follows after dumb, lifeless idols, man-made gods that can never help him.
- b. The person who does not follow God exchanges a life of glory for a life that does not profit, a life that is worthless.
- c. The person who does not follow God experiences a life of emptiness and trouble, missing out on the spiritual rest and peace of God.
- d. The person who does not follow God lives a life of hopelessness.
- e. The person who does not follow God lives a life that is enslaved to sin.
- f. The person who does not follow God lives a hypocritical life, a life that denies the truth.
- g. The person who does not follow God defiles his mind and conscience.
- h. The person who does not follow God experiences the most illogical life that can be lived: the life of a fool.
- i. The person who does not follow God will have no root and will fall away when temptation comes.
- j. The person who does not follow God places his faith only in signs and wonders.
- k. The person who does not follow God is blinded in his mind, unable to see the saving light of the gospel of Christ.
- l. The person who does not follow God lives a life of ungodly lusts, a life that mocks God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. There are the consequences upon oneself, ones day to day life.

a. The person who does not follow God follows after dumb, lifeless idols, man-made gods that can never help him.

Jeremiah 16:20 (NASB)

²⁰ Can man make gods for himself? Yet they are not gods!

1 Corinthians 12:2 (NASB)

² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.



Lecture # 4 Part 1

b. The person who does not follow God exchanges a life of glory for a life that does not profit, a life that is worthless.

Jeremiah 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit.**

c. The person who does not follow God experiences a life of emptiness and trouble, missing out on the spiritual rest and peace of God.

Hebrews 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.**

Psalms 78:32-33 (NASB)

³² **In spite of all this they still sinned And did not believe in His wonderful works.**

³³ **So He brought their days to an end in futility And their years in sudden terror.**