

Ten Commandments

“Shalt have no other gods”

1st Commandment



EXODUS 20:3

TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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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](#)

[\(Exodus 20:3\)](#) **Introduction:** God is; God exists. There is a Creator of the universe: the one true and living God. He is the LORD GOD Himself (**Jehovah, Yahweh**). He created all that is, including man. Therefore, God cares for man: He cares about man's welfare, what happens to man as he walks throughout life day by day. But God cares about something else as well: God cares about what man thinks of Him. What people think about God determines their eternal fate. God wants, even longs, for us all to live with Him eternally. This is the reason God gave us this first commandment:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)).

But the great tragedy is this: not all of us will live with God eternally. Why? Because many do not live with God now.

1. There are some who deny God: they just do not believe that God is, that God exists.
 - a. Some persons are secularists, people who believe that this physical world is all that exist.
 - b. Still others are evolutionists, people who believe that man has evolved to be the ultimate being of this earth, evolved to be the god of this earth.
 - c. Other persons are humanists, people who believe that man—his knowledge, his science, his technology—determines the destiny of man and of all else in this world.

Now if a person denies God, he naturally does not live with God, not now nor will he in the future. He has cut himself off from God. **This commandment is directed to the atheists, secularists, humanists, and evolutionists.**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—not this secular world and universe and certainly not man himself who is ever so frail, so frail that his life is as a vapor that appears for just a brief time and then vanishes ever so quickly.

2. There are some people who question God's existence: God may exist, but He may not exist. There may be a God behind the universe, but there may not be. They just do not know, not for sure. How could they ever know? They are skeptical toward God. They are agnostics.

Now, if a person questions God's existence, he naturally does not live with God, not now nor will he in the future. **This commandment is directed to the agnostic:**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—not man's questioning and reasoning ability, not his science, technology, nor exploratory abilities.

3. There are other people who believe in many gods, believe that the destiny of man and his world are in the hands of many powers and authorities throughout the universe (polytheism). This commandment is directed to all who believe in many gods. There is only one true and living God.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)).

4. There are many people—many, many people—who believe in one god and only in one god. But that god is not the true and living God, not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people, especially within industrialized nations, say that the god worshipped by the Moslems, Buddhists, Christians, and others is the same god, that we all just call god by different names. But this is not true, not according to Scripture, not according to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ claims to be the only living and true God. He declares that this is the very reason He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world: to reveal Himself—to reveal the truth to us—that there is only one true and living God. And this is the key belief: the god most people believe in is not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He and He alone is the true and living God. He and He alone is the One who sent Jesus Christ to reveal the truth of Himself and the world to us.

This commandment is directed to those who believe in only one god, but who believe that he is the god of all people and religions of the earth.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)).

As stated above, God loves all people and longs for all to live with Him eternally. But so many of us are mistaken about God; so many of us deny, question, and have wrong images of God; so many of us tragically reject the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And all who reject the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ reject the only living and true God. And if we reject Him, we doom ourselves to be separated forever from God. This is the reason God gives us the first great commandment: to warn us, to warn us that there is only one true and living God.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)).

This is the first of the Ten Commandments: *Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods*, [Exodus 20:3](#).

1. **Who is to obey the commandment (v.3)?**
2. **How long was the commandment to be in force (v.3)?**
3. **What is forbidden by the commandment (v.3)?**
4. **What is the decision required by this commandment (v.3)?**

1. [\(Exodus 20:3\) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: Who is to obey this commandment?](#)

"You." Note the word "you." The first commandment is personal. The commandment is addressed to each person, each individual. Keep in mind that God is the Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe, the only living and true God. His commandments are, therefore, bound to be addressed to every person throughout the universe. No person—believer or unbeliever—would ever be exempt from the commandments given by the Sovereign Lord and God of the universe. **Every person is required to obey God's commandments.**

You yourself are personally responsible; *you yourself* are held accountable to obey this commandment.

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" ([Exodus 19:5-6](#)).

"This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul" ([Deut. 26:16](#)).

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" ([Joshua 1:8](#)).

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" ([Matthew 7:21](#)).

2. [\(Exodus 20:3\) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: How long was this commandment to be in force?](#)

Was it given by God to Israel alone, or was it given through Israel to the whole world? **At least three facts** show us that this commandment is to be obeyed by all people of all generations, to be obeyed as long as the universe stands.

First, God is the LORD (**Jehovah, Yahweh**), the Sovereign Majesty of the universe, the only living and true God (cp. [Exodus 20:2](#)). There is no other God, not a living God,

not a true God. You can search throughout the whole world—travel throughout the entire universe—and you will never find another true and living God. There is only one Creator and Sustainer of the universe: the LORD God Himself (**cp. [Exodus 20:1-2](#)**). He is; He exists. The LORD God always has existed, is now existing, and always will exist. Therefore, as long as God exists and as long as the universe stands—as long as there are generations of people—God will command and demand: **"You shall have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#))**.

Second, Jesus Christ Himself told us that the Ten Commandments are meant for all generations of people.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" ([Matthew 5:17](#)).

Jesus Christ declared that He *fulfilled* the law: He completed and perfected the law. He never failed to keep the law, not even in one minute point. Therefore, He fulfilled the demands of the law perfectly. **The point is this:** by fulfilling the law, Jesus Christ embraces the law. He embodies, encompasses, integrates, and contains the law within His very being. The law of God is part of the very being of Jesus Christ, of God Himself.

Third, when a person looks at Jesus Christ, he sees the law of God in all its perfection. True, he sees more, much more. The person sees within Jesus Christ the very embodiment and perfection of love, mercy, compassion, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, control, power, and justice. The person sees all that God Himself is. But in addition to all this, when the person sees Jesus Christ, he sees the law of God embodied within the very being of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when a person gives his life to follow Jesus Christ, that person follows the law of God and all else that Christ is.

Now, how long was this commandment to be in force? How many generations are to obey this commandment? As long as God loves the world and as long as Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, people are to obey this commandment. All generations of people are to follow Christ and obey Him. They are to obey all that Christ is, which includes the Ten Commandments—the Ten Commandments plus so much more.

"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" ([Deut. 5:29](#)).

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" ([Deut. 6:4-7](#)).

"Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left" ([Joshua 23:6](#)).

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" ([Matthew 5:18](#)).

"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" ([Luke 21:33](#)).

3. ([Exodus 20:3](#)) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: What is forbidden by this first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#))?

How is this commandment broken, violated? This commandment concerns God's being. God is declaring that He alone is the *Supreme Being*, the absolute authority of the universe. There is no other *supreme being*, no other god who created and who rules and reigns over the universe. He alone is the LORD, the only living and true God, the only living and true Creator.

Note that God makes three stringent demands, three clear requirements in this commandment.

1. Man is to have no other gods, none whatsoever ([Exodus 20:3](#)).
 - a. Man is not to set himself up as a god. Man is not to believe that he himself nor any other being or energy in the universe is the ultimate source of the universe.
 1. Man is not to deny God, declaring there is no God (**atheism**).
 2. Man is not to question God, saying God may exist but He also may not exist (**agnosticism**).
 3. Man is not to declare that man himself is the supreme being, the ultimate authority of his world (**humanism**).
 4. Man is not to look to science and technology as the ultimate power in life (**secularism**).
 5. Man is not to hold that his own knowledge and reasoning ability are the ultimate control of the universe.
 6. Man is not to believe that the spirit of man (the combined spirit of all men) is the ultimate energy of the universe.
 7. Man is not to proclaim some impersonal mass, energy, or gas in the universe as *the force* behind all things.

b. Man is not to believe that other beings, animals, or material things are God.

Man is not to look in the sky above nor in the earth below nor in the sea and its depths and declare that something therein is God.

1. Man is not to look at the sky and declare the heavenly bodies and beings to be the supreme force of the universe: not the sun, moon, stars, angels, principalities, powers nor any other creature of any world or any dimension of being.
2. Man is not to look at the earth nor at some material substance of the earth and declare it to be God.
3. Man is not to look upon animals as some god, no matter what the animal is.
4. Man is not to consider the physical mass nor energy nor gases that comprise the basic substance of things as a god: not the atoms, protons, neutrons, nor whatever the most minute building-block of existence may be.

c. Man is not to believe in many gods (polytheism). There is only one living and true God, only one true Creator, only one LORD and Majesty of the universe (monotheism). Therefore, man is to have no other gods whatsoever.

All other so-called gods are nothing more than.....

1. things created by the imaginations and thoughts of people
2. things called gods by people
3. things that are lifeless and powerless
4. things that are only images made out of metal, wood, stone, chemicals, or dirt

2. God also makes a second demand of man: "**You shall have no other gods before me**" ([Exodus 20:3](#)). The words "**before me**" (*alpamaya*) means literally *before my face, against my face, in hostility toward me, in my presence, in my sight*.

It means that man.....

- a. is to set no god *before* the LORD God.
- b. is to set no god *beside* the LORD God.
- c. is to set no god *in the presence* of the LORD God.
- d. is to set no god *in the face* of the LORD God.

The great nineteenth century commentator George Bush makes several excellent statements that tell us exactly what the first commandment means:

- a. "[**Creating idols**] may be done mentally as well as manually. There may be idolatry without idols.
- b. "[**This commandment**] forbids the making of any other objects [as gods] whether persons or things, real or imaginary."
- c. "[**Our**] supreme regard, reverence, esteem, affection, and obedience [**is due**] God alone.

- d. "God is the fountain of happiness, and no intelligent being can be happy but through him...[consequently] whoever seeks for supreme happiness in the creature instead of the Creator is guilty of a violation of this command."

If we set up anything that is a rival interest in our hearts and minds, anything that absorbs the love and service which belong only to the true God, then that thing becomes another god. Whatever the heart clings to, that becomes our god.

Consequently.....

- a. the proud man who idolizes himself makes himself a god.
- b. the ambitious man who pays homage to popular applause makes his ambition and the praise of men his god.
- c. the covetous person who craves money and things makes a god out of money and things.
- d. the greedy person who hoards possessions makes possessions his god.
- e. the immoral person who craves sex makes sex his god.
- f. the glutton who craves food makes eating his god.
- g. the dotting lover—whether husband, wife, mother or father—who sets his supreme affection on the person loved instead of upon God makes that person his god.

3. God also makes a third demand of us: man is to know and acknowledge the only true and living God. There is one true and living God—the LORD God Himself.

- a. God declares that people who think there is no God are wrong (**atheists**). **I AM** the LORD God, the true and living God. *Atheists* may deny God, and *agnostics* may question if God really exists, but God is forceful in His declaration.

"I AM—I AM the LORD Your God" ([Exodus 20:2](#)).

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" ([Psalm 14:1](#)).

- b. No other object and no other being are ever to be set up as a so-called 'god.'

Taking ideas or objects and beings and calling them God is forbidden, absolutely forbidden.

- 1. The LORD Himself (**Jehovah, Yahweh**) emphatically declares:

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" ([Isaiah 42:8](#)).

2. The great apostle Paul declared:

"For though there be [many] that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things" ([1 Cor. 8:5-6](#)).

We make a god out of anything that we esteem or love, fear or serve more than God. Again, whatever the heart clings to, that is a person's god. It may be oneself. Frankly, many people focus upon pleasing and satisfying themselves. They live by their own values and are concerned primarily with their own feelings, comfort, desires, and pleasures. They simply live like they want and do their own thing. They have exalted themselves to be their own god.

Other people make gods out of.....

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a. heavenly bodies | k. images |
| b. science | l. property |
| c. force, energy | m. position |
| d. animals | n. the latest style of clothing |
| e. family | o. cars, trucks |
| f. sex | p. sports |
| g. food | q. recreation |
| h. pleasure | r. career |
| i. recognition | s. power |
| j. fame | |

A god can be anything or any person. Man's first allegiance, first loyalty, first devotion is to be to the LORD God. The LORD God is to be first in a man's life; He is to be enthroned in the heart of man. Man is to know and acknowledge that there is one God and one God alone. The first commandment of the LORD is to be obeyed:

"You shall have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#))

Thought 1. Note several points.

- 1) The so called gods of heaven and earth are nothing more than the creation of man's imagination and hands.

"Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them" ([Psalm 115:4-8](#)).

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? The workman melteth a graven image, and the

goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved" ([Isaiah 40:18-20](#)).

"Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save" ([Isaiah 45:20](#)).

"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" ([Jeremiah 10:2-5](#)).

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" ([Romans 1:22-23](#)).

"Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led" ([1 Cor. 12:2](#)).

2) There is only one true and living God, the LORD Himself (Jehovah, **Yahweh**).

"Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him" ([Deut. 4:35](#)).

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" ([Deut. 6:4-5](#)).

"Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears" ([2 Samuel 7:22](#)).

"O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears" ([1 Chron. 17:20](#)).

"That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth" ([Psalm 83:18](#)).

"For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone" ([Psalm 86:10](#)).

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour" ([Isaiah 43:10-11](#)).

"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" ([Isaiah 44:6](#)).

"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else" ([Isaiah 45:18](#)).

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" ([Isaiah 45:22](#)).

"And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he" ([Mark 12:32](#)).

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord" ([Mark 12:29](#)).

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" ([1 Cor. 8:4-6](#)).

"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" ([Ephes. 4:6](#)).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)).

3) There is only one sovereign Creator who meets the needs of man.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" ([Genesis 1:1](#)).

"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" ([Neh. 9:6](#)).

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" ([Job 26:7](#)).

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" ([Psalm 33:6](#)).

"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands" ([Psalm 102:25](#)).

"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all

life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" ([Acts 17:23-31](#)).

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" ([Hebrews 11:3](#)).

Thought 2. The very first commandment says, "You shall have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)). Note the words "before me."

This suggests at least two facts:

- 1) If we set some so-called god "*before God*," He knows it. We cannot hide the fact from Him.
- 2) If we set a god "*before Him*," His anger is aroused.

"If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart" ([Psalm 44:20-21](#)).

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" ([Isaiah 42:8](#)).

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" ([Romans 1:18](#)).

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

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.

"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD

searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever" ([1 Chron. 28:9](#)).

"Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice" ([Deut. 26:17](#)).

"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge" ([1 Cor. 8:5-7](#)).

b. We must turn to the LORD and be saved, for He alone is God.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" ([Isaiah 45:22](#)).

c. We must love the LORD our God (Jehovah, Yahweh) with all our hearts.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" ([Deut. 6:4-5](#)).

d. We must seek to walk before God and be blameless.

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" ([Genesis 17:1](#)).

"But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you" ([Jeremiah 7:23](#)).

e. We must sanctify the LORD in our hearts, set Him apart as holy and fear Him.

"Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread" ([Isaiah 8:13](#)).

f. We must realize that we cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve God and money.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" ([Matthew 6:24](#)).

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

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)).

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them" ([Deut. 11:16](#)).

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" ([1 John 5:21](#)).

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*.

"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness" ([Genesis 15:6](#)).

"And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" ([2 Chron. 20:20](#)).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" ([John 6:28-29](#)).

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" ([1 John 3:23](#)).

[DEEPER STUDY # 4 \(Exodus 20:3\) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience— Judgment](#) see below page # 39 for more discussion.

[DEEPER STUDY # 5 \(Exodus 20:3\) Commandments, The Ten— Benefits— Obedience](#) see below page # 47 for more discussion.

[DEEPER STUDY # 6 \(Exodus 20:3\) Jesus Christ and His Teaching Concerning False Gods](#) see below page # 52 for more discussion.

DEEPER STUDY # 4

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](#)). 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:

"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" ([Exodus 20:2](#)).

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.

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" ([1 Samuel 8:7](#)).

"But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me" ([Psalm 81:11](#)).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

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

"Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written" ([Romans 2:23-24](#)).

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

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable [detestable], and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate [worthless, NASB]" ([Titus 1:16](#)).

2. There are the consequences upon oneself, one's 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.

"Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they *are* no gods?" ([Jeremiah 16:20](#)).

"Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led" ([1 Cor. 12:2](#)).

- 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.

"Hath a nation changed *their* gods, which *are* yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for *that which* doth not profit" ([Jeremiah 2:11](#)).

- 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.

"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" ([Hebrews 4:11](#)).

"For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works. Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble" ([Psalm 78:32-33](#)).

- d. The person who does not follow God lives a life of hopelessness.

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" ([Ephes. 2:12](#)).

- e. The person who does not follow God lives a life that is enslaved to sin.

"Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" ([Galatians 4:8-9](#)).

- f. The person who does not follow God lives a hypocritical life, a life that denies the truth.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" ([2 Tim. 3:5](#)).

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" ([Romans 1:18-23](#)).

- g. The person who does not follow God defiles his mind and conscience.

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" ([Titus 1:15](#)).

- h. The person who does not follow God experiences the most illogical life that can be lived: the life of a fool.

"The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good*" ([Psalm 14:1](#)).

- i. The person who does not follow God will have no root and will fall away when temptation comes.

"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away" ([Luke 8:12-13](#)).

- j. The person who does not follow God places his faith only in signs and wonders.

"Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe" ([John 4:48](#)).

- k. The person who does not follow God is blinded in his mind, unable to see the saving light of the gospel of Christ.

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)).

- 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.

"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" ([Jude 18](#)).

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water" ([2 Peter 3:3-5](#)).

"Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection" ([Acts 17:18](#)).

"And they [the ungodly] say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches" ([Psalm 73:11-12](#)).

3. There are the consequences of judgment.

- a. The person who does not follow God will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)).

- b. The person who does not follow God displeases God and arouses His anger and wrath.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" ([John 3:36](#)).

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins" ([John 8:24](#)).

"Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear" ([Romans 11:20](#)).

"That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" ([2 Thes. 2:12](#)).

"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" ([Jude 5](#)).

- c. The person who does not follow God is broken off, separated, cut loose, turned away from by God.

"Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear" ([Romans 11:20](#)).

"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols" ([Ezekiel 14:2-5](#)).

- d. The person who does not follow God experiences the judicial judgment of God: God gives him over to his sin, to reap what he sows.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate [depraved] mind, to do those things which are not convenient" ([Romans 1:28](#)).

- e. The person who does not follow God shall not enter heaven, no matter what he professes and has done in the name of God.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father

which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" ([Matthew 7:21-23](#)).

- f. The person who does not follow God shall face the fierce judgment of God and perish.

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" ([John 12:48](#)).

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" ([2 Peter 3:7](#)).

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" ([Jude 14-15](#)).

"How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" ([Jeremiah 5:7-9](#)).

"The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish" ([Psalm 1:4-6](#)).

- g. The person who does not follow God shall face the terrible experience of dying in his sins and going to hell.

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins" ([John 8:24](#)).

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" ([Rev. 21:8](#)).

h. The person who does not follow God is deluded and damned.

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 [Thes. 2:11-12](#)).

i. The person who does not follow God causes God to hide His face from him.

"And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith" ([Deut. 32:20](#)).

j. The person who does not follow God brings judgment upon his children.

"And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them" ([Jeremiah 9:13-16](#)).

"Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin: For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done" ([1 Kings 22:51-53](#)).

"He [Ahaziah] also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction" ([2 Chron. 22:3-4](#)).

"But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God. Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes,

neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness" ([Ezekiel 20:18-21](#)).

"Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked" ([Amos 2:4](#)).

DEEPER STUDY # 5

THE BIBLICAL BENEFITS OF KEEPING THIS COMMANDMENT: NEVER HAVE OTHER GODS, NEVER BELIEVE IN FALSE GODS

(Exodus 20:3) Commandments, The Ten— Benefits— Obedience:
What are the benefits of keeping this commandment? The LORD (**Jehovah, Yahweh**) is the only living and true God. Consequently, He is bound to pour out the richest blessings imaginable upon the person who keeps this commandment, upon the person who truly believes and follows Him.

1. The person who believes God—genuinely believes God—will be saved, never condemned, through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:16-18](#)).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" ([Romans 6:23](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" ([Ephes. 2:8-10](#)).

2. The person who believes God will be redeemed, never condemned.

"The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate [condemned]" ([Psalm 34:22](#)).

3. The person who believes God will escape the wrath of God and live forever, live eternally with God and with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" ([John 3:36](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" ([John 5:24](#)).

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" ([John 11:25](#)).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" ([John 14:1-2](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" ([Romans 10:9](#)).

"They that trust in the LORD *shall be* as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, *but* abideth for ever" ([Psalm 125:1](#)).

4. The person who believes God will be justified: God will count his faith for righteousness.

"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise [of eternal life] might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" ([Romans 4:16-17](#)).

"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" ([Romans 4:23-25](#)).

5. The person who believes God—genuinely believes—will be a member of God's family, His treasured possession, and receive unbelievable reward.

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine" ([Exodus 19:5](#)).

"This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice: And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken" ([Deut. 26:16-19](#)).

6. The person who believes God will come to know God personally, in an intimate way.

"That I may know him [Jesus Christ], and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" ([Phil. 3:10](#)).

"Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him" ([Deut. 4:35](#)).

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" ([Isaiah 43:10](#)).

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself" ([John 7:16-17](#)).

7. The person who believes God will live in perfect peace, assurance, and confidence as he walks throughout life, as he trusts God and keeps his mind upon Him.

"Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee" ([Isaiah 26:3](#)).

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([Romans 5:1](#)).

8. The person who believes God will be given the strength of God day by day, even the everlasting strength of God Himself.

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength" ([Isaiah 26:4](#)).

9. The person who believes God will be secure through the trials and temptations of life, safe from all the enemies.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" ([Proverbs 29:25](#)).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come.... Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" ([Romans 8:35, 37-39](#)).

10. The person who believes God will be looked after and taken care of by God.

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass" ([Psalm 37:5](#)).

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" ([1 Peter 5:7](#)).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

11. The person who believes God will be guided and directed by God.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

12. The person who believes God will experience the love and power of God: all things will work out for good.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" ([Romans 8:28](#)).

13. The person who believes God overcomes the world.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" ([1 John 5:4-5](#)).

14. The person who believes God overcomes the temptations of the devil.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" ([Ephes. 6:16](#)).

15. The person who believes God is given the righteousness and justification of God.

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 3:21-24](#)).

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" ([Phil. 3:9](#); cp. [2 Cor. 5:21](#)).

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD" ([Jeremiah 9:24](#)).

16. The person who believes God receives what he asks in prayer.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" ([Matthew 21:22](#)).

17. The person who believes God will be greatly rewarded by God.

"But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

18. The person who believes God will experience the glorious goodness and blessings of God.

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" (Psalm 31:19).

DEEPER STUDY # 6

(Exodus 20:3) Jesus Christ and His Teaching Concerning False Gods:

JESUS CHRIST AND HIS TEACHING CONCERNING FALSE GODS

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

1. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that there is *only one true and living God, One Sovereign LORD and Majesty* of the universe, and that we are to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds.

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:35-40)

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

- 1) We are to know and acknowledge the only true and living God, Him and Him alone.
- 2) We must not believe nor follow any false gods, none whatsoever.
- 3) We are.....
 - a. to set no false god *before* the LORD God
 - b. to set no false god *beside* the LORD God
 - c. to set no false god "in the presence" of the LORD God
 - d. to set no false god in the face of the LORD God

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6).

"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it*? ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any*" ([Isaiah 44:8](#)).

"*I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me" ([Isaiah 45:5](#)).

"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: *I am* the LORD; and *there is* none else" ([Isaiah 45:18](#)).

"Remember the former things of old: for *I am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me" ([Isaiah 46:9](#)).

"One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all" ([Ephes. 4:6](#)).

"For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)).

2. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by proclaiming that He is the Son of God Himself.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:18](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" ([John 5:25](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

We must believe in the Son of God in order to be saved.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" ([John 20:31](#)).

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" ([Matthew 3:17](#)).

3. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by proclaiming that He was One with the Father.

"I and *my* Father are one" ([John 10:30](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

- 1) The only way to have a relationship with the Father is to believe in the Son of God.
- 2) We must trust in Christ and believe His Word: He and the Father are One.

"If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him" ([John 10:37-38](#)).

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" ([John 14:10](#)).

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*" ([John 17:11](#)).

"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" ([John 17:22](#)).

4. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by proclaiming His own pre-existence with the Father.

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" ([John 8:58](#)).

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" ([John 17:5](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

- 1) Because Jesus Christ is God, the believer must...
 - a. worship Christ as he would worship God
 - b. obey Christ as he would obey God
 - c. serve Christ as he would serve God
 - d. honor Christ as he would honor God
 - e. believe Christ as he would believe God

- 2) Because Jesus Christ is God, we have a God who is our...
 - a. Lord
 - b. Savior
 - c. Master
 - d. Creator
 - e. Provider
 - f. Intercessor
 - g. Great High Priest
 - h. Sacrificial Lamb of God
 - i. Coming King and Lord of lords

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" ([John 1:1-3](#)).

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" ([Rev. 22:13](#)).

5. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by proclaiming the love of God.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

The most glorious truth is that God gave His one and only Son, His only begotten Son. This is the most remarkable proof of God's love. It magnifies and shows how great His love really is.

"Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God" ([Matthew 14:33](#)).

"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" ([Matthew 17:5](#)).

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" ([Mark 1:1](#)).

"And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God" ([John 1:34](#)).

"Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou Blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?" ([John 10:36](#)).

"She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" ([John 11:27](#)).

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God" ([1 John 4:15](#)).

6. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by proclaiming that a person can live eternally with God.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him [God] that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall

not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"
([John 5:24](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

God was willing to give the thing most dear to His heart in order to save the world.

Note this: God even planned to give His Son throughout eternity.

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" ([Acts 2:23-24](#)).

"And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son" ([Matthew 2:15](#)).

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" ([Luke 1:35](#)).

7. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared that God exists by teaching that the person who rejects the Son of God will bear the terrible judgment and wrath of God.

"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" ([Matthew 10:33](#)).

"But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God" ([Luke 12:9](#)).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" ([John 3:36](#)).

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:18](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

1) Man's eternal fate hinges on believing that God exists.

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:15-16](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" ([Romans 10:9](#)).

2) We must believe on the Son in order to guarantee everlasting life.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" ([John 5:24](#)).

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" ([John 11:25](#)).

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" ([John 20:31](#)).

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" ([2 Tim. 3:15](#)).

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" ([1 John 5:1](#)).

3) We are never to be ashamed of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Christ has done far too much for us to deny Him, to ever be ashamed of Him.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" ([Romans 1:16](#)).

"As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" ([Romans 9:33](#)).

"According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death" ([Phil. 1:20](#)).

"Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" ([1 Peter 4:16](#)).

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" ([1 John 2:28](#)).

8. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ declared the existence of God when He prayed to His Father, the LORD God Himself (**Jehovah, Yahweh**).

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" ([John 17:1](#)).

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" ([John 17:5](#)).

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*" ([John 17:11](#)).

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me" ([John 17:24-25](#)).

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

- 1) We must focus and direct our prayers to the only living and true God, to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, to Him and Him alone.
- 2) We must never pray nor seek help from false gods, gods that are nothing more than the imaginations of men.

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" ([Matthew 11:25](#)).

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" ([Luke 23:34](#)).

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me" ([John 11:41](#)).

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" ([John 15:16](#)).

"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" ([John 16:23-24](#)).