

Exodus 20:4-6
Colossians 2:6-23
The Christian Ethic
TC1502

September 6, 2015 am
The Ten Commandments

“Worshipping In Truth”

INTRODUCTION: God has three lovely children: two boys and a girl.

1. The first son is divine: The “spittin image” of His Father. He’s the Father’s Favorite.
2. The middle son is the obscure one of the three. A typical “middle child”. He’s noble, strong, holy, righteous and resolutely loyal to His Father.
 - a. He has but one aim in life: to do whatever His Father wants and to honor his older Brother.
 - b. To many, He appears rigid, inflexible, cold and even judgmentally harsh.
 - c. In truth, He’s a very loving Son, but few really know Him.
 - d. Almost everyone dislikes him...at least at first meeting.
 - e. His name is **law**; among the family *Brother Law*.
3. His younger sister is his polar opposite. Her name is **Grace**.
 - a. She is lovely, kind, easy to get along with, merciful and always ready to forgive and reconcile.
 - b. Grace sees everyone as a potential friend.
 - c. Her singular passion in life is for everyone to love her Father and become part of her family.
 - d. Everybody – and I mean *everybody* – loves grace, though many (the vast majority) really don’t understand her.
 - e. *Sister Grace* loves her older brother and looks up to Him.
4. People who meet them usually have the same experience. In fact, after a few encounters they usually get angry at Brother Law and say to him: *“I hate you! You’re so inflexible, so judgmental, so condemning. All you care about is getting your own way! Whenever I’m around you, I always feel inferior, guilty, even ashamed! You really don’t know anything about love or friendship or getting along with people. No one likes you. Not even God!”*
5. To this tirade, Brother Law lifts his sad eyes and quietly says, *“Perhaps you should go see my little sister, Grace.”*
6. Some do so. And in her presence they begin to talk, reason together, think things through. When they tell her how much Brother Law “hurt their feelings,” “wounded their pride” and “damaged their ‘self-esteem’”, Gracie smiles and says, *“Perhaps you’d like to meet my other brother, Jesus. He can help you.*
7. And then, something surprising happens: *They change their mind about Brother Law, and they begin to aspire to be like him.*
8. Soon they return to him, tears in their eyes, and they say, *“Brother Law, I’m so sorry I hated you as I did. I’m truly ashamed of how I opposed you, slandered you, despised you. I just didn’t understand...”*

9. To which Brother Law smiles and says, “*It’s ok. Everyone treats me that way, but I can take it. I really and always wanted only one thing for you – to be like my Father and have His joy! And now that you have this, I’m very happy for you!*”
10. That is how *Law and Grace* work in our lives: They are...
- a. ...both reflections of the Father’s character,
 - b. ...both desirous of leading us to Christ,
 - c. ...both happy to teach us how to live in God’s blessed way and find joy.
 - d. They are both *marvelous friends* to have for your own.
11. We are all prone to misunderstand, misjudge and mistreat *Brother Law*. But God loves His Son, the...Law...

*The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:7-11)*

12. And Brother Law loves us and wants only what is best for us...

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!
You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.*

*I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.
I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!* (Psalm 119:1-8)

13. *Law, rules, statutes, precepts, commandments*, we hate these words. We hate *Brother Law* in our American society.

14. Why? *Because we see Him without the aid of Sister Grace and without the love of Christ the Lord.* But Jesus honors Brother Law –

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-19)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (John 14:15, 21)

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (John 14:23-24)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:9-11)

15. There is a **grave misunderstanding** in evangelical theology today that pits Brother Law against Sister Grace and only and always takes Gracie's side!

- a. It's called *Sonship Theology* or *The Contemporary Grace Movement*.
- b. It is unbiblical, dishonoring to God, and disloyal to Christ.
- c. When Paul pits law against Gospel, he is making reference to the Old Testament ceremonial law...
- d. Manifested in *circumcision, dietary laws* and *Old Testament holy days*.
- e. A misunderstanding that *righteousness with God could be achieved by keeping religious rituals and ceremonial rules (laws)*. **This is legalism.**
- f. But the New Testament never pits Brother Law or Sister Grace against each other or opposite to Christ. **This is lawlessness or Antinomianism = “against the law”**

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (1 Tim. 1:8-11)

Since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (Romans 3:30-31)

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1-2)

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being. (Rom. 7:7, 14, 16, 22)

16. So when Christians profess that *The Ten Commandments*, they are saying that God's love, given to them in the Gospel, is developed, shaped and guided by the Moral Law.

17. **James I. Packer:** *The Ten Commandments*; p. 12.

God's love gave us the law, just as his love gave us the gospel, and as there is no spiritual life for us save through the gospel, which points us to Jesus Christ the Savior, so there is no spiritual health for us save as we seek in Christ's strength to keep the law, and practice the love of God and neighbor for which it calls.

18. **Please hear me:** If we could come to see that *law-keeping* is neither *legalism* nor inferior to *lawlessness*, but is how we experience the *practical love of God* and show that love to *neighbors*, our faith and our lives would be much richer than we ever imagined.

19. Because the Law of God is a reflection of His character, each of the Ten Commandments sets forth *four things* about God.

- a. The Character of God in Each Law
- b. The Fulfillment of Each Law in Christ
- c. The Purpose of Each Law for Mankind
- d. The Dictates of God in Each Law for Us

20. In the **Second Law** of the Ten Commandments, God says this:

- a. *You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6)*
- b. The second longest of the Ten Commandments (91 words)
- c. *Q. 50. What does the second commandment require?*
 - A. *The second commandment requires us to receive, respectfully perform, and preserve completely and purely all the regulations for religion and worship that God has established in His word. (WSC #50)*
- d. *Q. 51. What does the second commandment forbid?*

A. *The second commandment forbids our worshipping God with images or in any other way not established in His word. (WSC #51)*

21. This commandment is primarily about **worship**. How we think about God, how we approach Him in worship, how we love God in our souls...
- a. What does it really mean for us?
 - b. Let's look at *Colossians 2:6-23* for the answers.
 - c. Four paragraphs; four aspects of the Second Commandment.

I. JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE REVELATION OF THIS COMMANDMENT (Colossians 2:6-7)

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

1. Every single human being wants to see God with his (her) own eyes. Jesus Christ is the Invisible God Incarnate.
2. I can't tell you how many times people have said to me, "*Pastor, if I could just see God, talk to Him, spend 5 minutes with Him face to face, everything would be OK!*"
3. I understand. I've thought the same thing myself, on several occasions – if I could just see God...for 15 seconds!
4. Moses actually asked for this:
 - a. He'd been on Mount Sinai for forty days.
 - b. The people got scared; they feared that God had killed Moses.
 - c. They wanted assurance that God was still with them and would lead them to Canaan.
 - d. *When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:1-4)*
 - e. Gist: Make us a god we can see!
 - f. God punished them for this *idolatry*.
 - g. **Not** that they'd made *other gods* but that they portrayed the *Invisible God* in a false manner.
 - h. **A false form of worship**

5. After God had punished some and forgiven the penitent, Moses had this conversation with God...

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. (Exodus 33:12-22)

6. Moses said, "Lord, can I see your face?" and God said, "No! If you see My face, you die. But I will let you see my backside, and I will send My Presence (*Shekinah Glory*) ahead of you and always be with you. You can't see Me, Moses, for I cannot be seen – I am the Invisible God!

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

7. **God allows Himself to be seen ONLY in His Son, Jesus Christ!**

8. God does not want **images** made of Him because they would distort His one true image, by which He chooses to show Himself to mankind – *Jesus Christ, His Son!*

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. (Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:1, 14, 18)

9. **In Jesus Christ, we can see God!**

10. This is truly, absolutely and miraculously an astounding truth!

11. With this in mind, Paul reminds us Christians...

- a. *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)*

- b. To receive Christ is to have God.
 - c. To believe in Christ is to see God – with eyes of faith.
 - d. *Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? (John 14:9)*
12. **Key point:** *Christianity is the only religion whereby mankind can know God, see God, and possess God and still live!*
13. **Therefore:** *In our worship of this Invisible God, it is of paramount importance that we keep our worship Christ-centered.*
14. *Christ-centered: Seeing, knowing, and loving God through Jesus alone!*

II. JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE FULFILLMENT (Colossians 2:8-15)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:8-15)

1. All we want, need and seek from God, we will find in Jesus Christ! Amazing!
2. **First:** We need not seek for a “deeper relationship” with God through three false channels.
 - a. *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)*
 - b. *According to human tradition:* the philosophical, secular, humanistic efforts to find God in ourselves and by ourselves.
 - c. *According to other religions (stoicheia):* elementary principles of spirits, religious works, self-righteousness and superstitions.
 - d. *Not according to Christ:* any religion where Mary, the saints, pastoral figures and other heroes replace Jesus as God-for-us in all things.
3. **Second:** In Jesus Christ, the *fullness of deity* lives in the bodily form of Jesus the Nazarene.
 - a. *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (Colossians 2:9-10)*
 - b. *Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And*

being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

- c. **God-in-total incarnate (enfleshed) in one man: Jesus!**
 - d. In other words: All we would ever need in a Deity, a God, we find in Jesus Christ.
 - e. Christ alone is God enough and God-in-full.
4. **Third:** All we need God to do for us, Jesus has already done.
- a. *In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:11-15)*
 - b. In Jesus, the Old Testament saints were *circumcised*: united to God in the covenant of grace.
 - c. In Jesus, the New Testament saints are *baptized*: united to God in the covenant of grace.
 - d. In Jesus, we died to our sins, our guilt, our own death due to sin.
 - e. In Jesus, we rise to a new humanity, a new life, and a new eternal future.
 - f. In Jesus, all the record against us has been expunged.
 - g. In Jesus, the legal sentence “Condemned” has been nailed to the cross: Romans 8:1
 - h. In Jesus, all the demonic rulers and authorities who once had dominion over us have been defeated, disarmed and dishonored.
- He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)*

5. What Jesus says about *Himself* is astounding –

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (John 6:35, 51)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:12, 35, 36)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:7-9)

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch

and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:5-7)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

6. Tell me-really! Why would anyone go anywhere else, to anyone else, for anything else other than Jesus Christ?
7. **And yet:** Increasingly Christianity in America is becoming a Christ-less Christianity!
 - a. Dominated by big names, personality pastors, celebrity Christians...
 - b. Concerts, pop-music, a proliferation of self-started ministries...
 - c. Increasingly more psychology, more sociology, more philosophy and less theology about Christ
 - d. **Illustration:** *When the Gospel gets hold of you, grace will change your life!*
 - e. **Wrong!** When *Jesus Christ* gets hold of you, then the *Holy Spirit* will change your life.
 - f. The Gospel is just the story of Jesus, and grace is the life of the Spirit in the soul of a person.
 - g. Let's **not** be ashamed to speak openly of Jesus and the Spirit.
 - i. Gospel can be another philosophy for living without Christ
 - ii. Grace can be the latest technique if devoid of the Spirit
 - h. *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11)*
8. Jesus Christ is the *perfect image (icon)* of God because Jesus is the fulfillment of this second commandment.

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. (Colossians 2:9 NASB)

III. JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMANDMENT (Colossians 2:16-19)

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. (Colossians 2:16-19)

1. God wants our religion to be both liberating and edifying –
 - a. To free us from falsehood so we can truly know, experience and enjoy God

- b. To build us up in Christ and in the Spirit so that we become like God and truly love God
2. There are many *contenders* for our hearts, minds and souls:
 3. Paul lists them in these four verses (2:16-19)
 - a. Religious ruler, rituals and rubrics which make our worship of God tedious and burdensome
Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. (Col. 2:16)
 - b. Harsh, fundamentalist asceticism – robbing us of the common grace and common joy of life and creation
 - c. Worship of angels (saints, spirits, heroes) who draw our love away into creatures who will only let us down
 - d. Visions, dreams, superstitious events which make us feel “spiritual” but pull us away from truth into lies
 - e. Puffed up reason and sensuous minds – basing your relationship on what you know and how you feel; in the end this becomes the worship of self! *The worst idol of all!*
 4. *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.* (Colossians 2:17)
 5. **Don’t forget those five words:** “*the substance belongs to Christ*”
 - a. Religions offer but two diets:
 - b. One...the cotton candy of puffy, sweet, worthless stuff
 - c. Two...the substance of Christ: *His body & blood to nourish us*
 6. Once Jesus Christ steps into our lives, our churches and our worship, our spiritual appetites change.
 7. It’s simple: *Either we feed ourselves the five main food groups of the soul of Jesus Christ, or we die from spiritual malnutrition.*
 - a. *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* (Acts 2:42)
 - b. Word, prayer, fellowship, sacraments and worship
 - c. All the ways Jesus gives Himself to us...substance!
 8. What you take into your soul will determine what you become. The purpose of this second commandment is for us to *feed only on Jesus Christ* as He sets the spiritual diet before us.

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE PROHIBITION OF THIS COMMANDMENT (Colossians 2:20-23)

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish

as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Colossians 2:20-23)

1. There **are** “do’s and don’ts” to every commandment: Moses put the law before us this way, and Jesus paid, “This is so!”

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (Deuteronomy 30:15, 19-20)

He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” (Luke 10:26-28)

2. This second commandment says “**Don’t**” to certain things

- a. Do not go back to pagan rules about worldly things.

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? (Colossians 2:20-22)

- b. Do not mess around with self-help ideas that cannot keep you from sin.

These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Col. 2:23)

3. You have **Jesus Christ** who is in you (by the Spirit) through things –

- a. The life of God in you to redeem you
- b. The power of God in you to keep you from sin
- c. The promise of God in you of your future glory

The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:26-27)

4. “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Anything else is a sham! A worthless, weak and worldly sham!

CONCLUSION: Before us this morning is the **Lord’s Table** and the **Lord’s Supper**.

1. Jesus Christ offering Himself to you if you will embrace this second commandment.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6)

2. This commandment we receive when we do the following –
 - a. We repent of our idolatry and substandard religions
 - b. We receive Jesus Christ as God, our Savior, our Lord (Master)
 - c. We are baptized in His Name and join His Church
 - d. We are faithful members taking in His spiritual diet
 - e. We are in good standing in His Church and at peace with His people – because we’ve not turned again to our old ways!
3. Would you like to have these four **gifts from God** this very morning?
 - a. A true and accurate *Revelation* of God: The God you can see?
 - b. A complete redemption and renewal offered by God?
 - c. Protection from all the false religious ideas in the world today?
 - d. Power to resist evil, falsehood and your own sin – and that power living in you?

4. You can have all this (and more) in **Jesus Christ**

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority. (Colossians 2:6, 7, 9-10 NASB)

5. Today it is time to trust in Christ for salvation, to turn to Christ to find God, to join yourself to Christ so that God’s life and way of life might become **Your Gospel Religion**.
6. If you have done this, we welcome you to **the Lord’s Supper**.
7. If you have not, why not do so now, so that you can take in **Jesus Christ** with us, the next time we celebrate Holy Communion?
8. This Lord's Supper reminds us, in bodily form, of what the second commandment is all about...
9. **James I. Packer:** *The Ten Commandments*; p. 37.

God the Father is altogether Jesus-like!—it is the most breathtaking news that anyone can ever hear. In Jesus, as in all God’s self-disclosure throughout the Bible, there is a combination of pity with purity, passion with power, and slowness to anger with severity of judgment, that should humble us to the roots of our being and move us every day to cry for mercy. But are we realists enough to see this? Or has our imagination betrayed us once again?