

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

Praise the Lord Saints of the Most-High God! Praise the Lord everybody! I love the Lord today and I hope and pray that each of you do as well. I am so excited to be in the house of the Lord today. I love being in the house of the Lord. I love being with the people of God! I just love loving Jesus. I just love having a personal, intimate, eternal relationship with God!

## Let us pray....

I hope, and I believe, that what I have to say today will not only be exciting, but will also be life changing to those who hear, and understand the precepts that I will attempt to bring forth to you today. If we all could stand in honor of the reading of the word of the Lord at this time.

## Text #1:

**Isaiah 53:1** Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

**Deuteronomy 27:11-14** And Moses charged the people the same day, saying, These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to **ble**ss the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin: And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to **cur**se; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

## You may be seated.

## Introduction:

Moses went on at this point to describe the things that were to be a reason for being cursed, and then he gave the reasons for being blessed. These went far above and beyond the original “Ten Commandments”. These items were an exposition on the thoughts, and intents of the “Ten Commandments”. These were from *God’s* point of view. They were limited in their scope, and were mostly “Thou Shalt Nots” from the cursing point of view.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

The foundations that were laid that day seem to have slipped from our grasp in this day and age. We as Apostolic-Pentecostals have also seemed to have lost our way concerning grace and the law, as we attempt to serve God according to our perception of his desires for our lives.

My hope and my desire today, is to reveal to you the arm of the Lord in our deliverance from the law unto grace. Now I think you know me well enough by now to know that I stand firmly behind what we as a people of God, have decided is right in the sight of God for Holy living. What I have to say this night will not change your opinion of my stand on that subject. What may happen is that it will change your reasons for a stand on this subject.

It is not my intention this evening to teach this congregation about dress codes, or in particular, to define what the standard of dress for this congregation should be. While that is my job as the Pastor of this church. That's something which will be scheduled for a bible study night, not a Sunday morning service.

What I do intend to do this morning, time permitting, is to show you the difference in attitudes that exist between those who are under the law; and those who have seen the revelation of Jesus Christ, as the expressed image of God Almighty as he has revealed to us those attitudes which we should maintain toward all things.

- ◆ **Too many times** over the course of my walk with God in this marvellous light. I've seen members of a congregation turn away from God because they couldn't keep the supposed burden of some imaginary law they were under. They've felt held back from some sort of hypothetical freedom. When in reality, it was only this humble request for holiness that has kept them back from bondage to the world.
- ◆ **Too many times** I've heard that we're under grace now and the law is no longer in effect to hold us down from our freedom in Christ. When in reality Grace is stricter in its interpretation of sin than the law ever was.
- ◆ **Too many times** I've seen those same individuals compromise this wonderful revelation of holiness we have from God. These same individuals soon become former members of this esteemed truth. They go off to seek their freedom in the world and then wonder where God went. Soon they make no

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

further pretense to serve Christ at all. They're lost in bondage to their envisioned freedoms.

- ◆ **Too many times** churches have gone the way of the less holy, thinking they are more holy, more righteous, more loving. All the time denying the true love that is only too apparent to them that serve *God* with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Denying in their hearts that the constraints placed upon them are for their protection, and instead are there only to hinder their freedom.

The scriptures teach us to beware when people call **Right** "wrong" and **Wrong** "right". We can't grow in Grace if we hold it in contempt. God has brought us out of the world, and the sins and the iniquities that abound therein. Let's not revile God by saying he's bound us, when in reality it's the protective arm of God that's truly set us free. And whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

- ◆ **Too many times** people have turned away from one thing of God, only to turn away from another, then another, then another, and another. Until finally they don't believe in anything at all!
- ◆ **Too many times** people have walked away from this marvelous light only to stumble in the darkness until they fall in the ditch. That ditch which soon leads to the pit of hell!
- ◆ **Too many times** God has moved in their lives in order to draw them back to him. But because they've esteemed his holiness as less than desirable. They've grown cold in their hearts toward God himself. They no longer hear God when he speaks to them.

Beware saint of God when you no longer feel Him moving in your heart. He always moves, but we don't always hear him. Sometimes we fail to listen; sometimes we fail to hear him because we haven't prepared our hearts to hear him. We need to prepare our hearts to seek him daily, or soon we will wonder, "**Where did the wonder go**".

- ◆ **Soon** we will wonder if all this is necessary to serve God.
- ◆ **Soon** we will be on the outside looking in.
- ◆ **Soon** we will no longer care.
- ◆ **Soon**, so very soon thereafter, we are lost.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

## Pause

As for those who would say that we are under grace and not the law, I implore you to consider this:

**Matthew 5:27-28** Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Those of old time, were those under the law. They said, “Thou shalt not commit adultery”. But what did Jesus say? **“But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”** Just the wrong look at a woman, is now the sin of adultery. That being established I want to move on into the topic at hand today, **the deliverance from the law unto Grace.**

Under the law, we had Moses giving the word of God as it was transcribed upon the two tablets of stone. Nevermore to change since we have an unchangeable God. Thus, here is where we get the term “Written in stone”, because it means something that will never change.

God in his infinite wisdom knew that somehow we as human beings would find a way to destroy those precious things. So Jesus was foreordained to come and to redeem us from our sins, but he also came to show us a better way. He didn't just repeat the law because the law couldn't save us. We're not strong enough to obey it, so He gave us grace.

Now, some individuals use grace as an acronym meaning; **God's Riches At Christ's Expense.** They use this as an excuse to keep living their old ways before God. While this may very well be a portion of it's meaning; I dare to believe that grace is much more than that. Grace did pay a dept we could not pay, but grace also requires an even greater commitment to God; than the law which we could not keep.

The law required our obedience to God through the fulfillment of statutes, while grace requires everything we possess. It requires our obedience, our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. It requires our love, and our total undying commitment to Jesus Christ as our savior.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

We're not only to be obedient to the precepts of the law as was Christ, who fulfilled **all that** which we were too weak in the flesh to obey. But we are to be obedient to the principles and the concepts revealed to us by Christ, which were established during his fulfillment of the law. The thoughts and intents of God's law were graphically lived and recorded for the whole world to see.

Let's take for example the woman taken in adultery. The law specified that she should be stoned until dead. However, Jesus showed us that we should have mercy along with our judgement. He spoke only these words, "**He** that is without sin among you, let **him** first cast a stone at her." These words were all that needed to be spoken to prove their lack of mercy.

How would you feel if Jesus had no mercy on you in respect to your sins past or present? How would you *feel* if you were judged according to your own judgement? Thank God we are not judged by our own standards; but by those of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible.

I dare say that none of us are perfect! If we were perfect, Christ wouldn't have had to die for us. But many times it seems that we have no mercy. It's been said that the Christian army is the only one that shoots it's wounded. Too often we fail help those who have fallen, but instead we condemn them as unworthy.

**Now**, when we think of the "Ten Commandments", we think of things of that we're not allowed to do. Jesus was given to showing us what to do much more than what not to do. Oh, he did tell us what not to do. But he showed us even more so what to do. With that in mind, I want you to consider the following passage of scripture as I relate to you the "Ten Commandments"; as now changed from mostly "Thou Shalt Nots" to completely "Thou Shalt's".

**Hebrews 1:1-3** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

The passage I just read shows us without a doubt that Jesus Christ was, and is the express image of God almighty. If He has set examples for us to follow in

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

the bible, and He has, we would be fools not to follow those examples. Let's look at the examples He's set for us concerning the Ten Commandments.

## 1. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

This now becomes:

- ◆ Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- ◆ Thou shalt keep your mind stayed on him and unspotted from the world.
- ◆ Thou shalt study his word on a daily basis.
- ◆ Thou shalt seek him in prayer on a daily basis.
- ◆ Thou shalt teach your children about the goodness of the Lord.
- ◆ Thou shalt live a holy life before God and man as a witness for the Lord.
- ◆ Thou shalt sacrifice your will to the Lord God almighty.

Wow, that last one is hard! Sacrifice your will to God? It's tough, but if you'll do that *one* the rest of those will be easy to do. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane was praying that God would take away the task that He had for Him. That task was to die for our sins, yet Jesus said, "Not my will but thine be done", and He was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Living for God is a sacrifice at times. But if you work on a job you're sacrificing too. You sacrifice several hours of each day for a reward. That reward being a paycheck. If we'll sacrifice our will to God we'll receive a reward as well, with that reward being eternal life in Heaven.

Some people try to live this life easy, and it's very hard for them to do so. They think:

- Poor pitiful me. I have to give up so much for God. It's just so hard. **But they forget the sacrifice God made on their behalf.**
- God's really mistreating me. Why can't I live it like the "Frozen Chosen" crowd? They don't have any rules. **But they don't feel the Holy Ghost like we do either.**
- Why can't I live it like the "Blab it and Grab it" crowd? They actually get something they claim once in a lifetime or so. **They also have no credibility either. They claim all this stuff and never get it.** Oh, once in a great while

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

someone will get something. But I guarantee you they don't even get a small fraction of what they blab for!

For every compromised movement of any denomination you have what seems to be some perceived minor advantage over what God has actually commanded us to live. But they lose an equal amount of God's anointing in return. We're commanded to have no other gods before him. When we turn away from the precepts God has set before us for any reason whatsoever, we're turning away from the living God, and proclaiming that we are the god of our own lives.

Jesus himself, as the expressed image of God, denied himself, even at the cost of tremendous suffering, and in the end, his own life. What other example can we find that shows such intense love for God? No greater love hath any man than this? But that a man would lay down his life for his friends.

If we'll spend all our time loving God for who he is and what he's done. We won't have time to worry about what we're missing, or what someone else "thinks" they're getting away with. Let me repeat that last part. What they "**think**" they're getting away with.

## 2. Thou shalt not worship any graven image

**This now becomes:**

- ◆ Thou shalt seek Jesus for he is your intercessor between God and man.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday that he becomes more real in your life.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because dead idols made of wood and stone can't answer your prayers.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because he alone can forgive your sins.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because he is God manifest in the flesh, and when you pray to him you are praying to God himself.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because the disciples are dead and can no longer intercede for you.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because Mary is dead and can no longer intercede for you.
- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because the scriptures teach us to "Seek out our own salvation with fear and trembling".

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

- ◆ Thou shalt pray to him everyday because you want to be more like him, and that will only come through fellowshipping his spirit.

Don't let anything in this world interfere with your relationship with Jesus Christ. Don't let art, entertainment, video, computers, ball games, or even church things interfere with your relationship with him.

I don't see anything wrong with the proper usage of any of the things I just mentioned. Art has its place. Entertainment has its place. Video has its proper usage as well; watching Apostolic-Pentecostal doctrinal teaching videos are acceptable in my view.

Computers have their place, but keep them in their place. I use a computer at work for work. I use one at home for sermon preparation, and bible study preparation, things of that nature. If it's taking time away from your family that should be spent with *them*, get rid of it. Your family is a priceless thing. Take it from a man who at this stage of his life can only dream of having a family.

Don't get so involved with the extra-curricular activities of the church that your family life suffers. Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Thursday night don't count as extra-curricular activities, but everything else does!

We're going to have lots of wonderful things to do in this church. It will take people to run these things and to participate in these things. But if your family or especially your relationship with God is suffering because of your participation in the extra-curricular activities of the church. Stop immediately! No one is irreplaceable! Someone will rise up and fill your spot, and things will go on just like they did when you were running the show.

## **3. Thou shalt not take God's name in vain**

### **This now becomes:**

- ◆ Thou shalt bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall continually be in your mouth.
- ◆ Thou shalt witness for him in Jerusalem, and Judea, and to all the nations of the world. Including America! Including Oildale!
- ◆ Thou shalt live your life before God and man in such a way that it brings glory to his name and not shame.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

- ◆ Thou shalt teach home bible studies to others in need of basic bible knowledge. With the Pastors permission first of course
- ◆ Thou shalt speak with a clean tongue at all times because you love the Lord your God.

I would venture to say that you wouldn't want God to hear some of the things some of you say on the job. We're to be "Christ like" at all times! Jesus went through more than any of us will ever have to go through, and I can't find him cursing anywhere in the bible. Not one place!

I believe it's Brother T.F. Tenney who says, "When you say the name of Jesus, you are either praying or cursing". If you're truly in love with Jesus, you won't have any problem with the idea of stopping the usage of foul language. You'll do it gladly! Jesus told us that salt water and fresh water don't flow out of the same well. Neither should good and evil communication flow out of the same mouth.

If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we'll want to be conformed to his image. The image he's given us for an example is Jesus Christ.

- ◆ No one will have to tell us quit talking dirty, we'll want to!
- ◆ No one will have to tell us to witness, we'll want to!
- ◆ No one will have to tell us to stop taking the Lord's name in vain, because that name will be precious in our sight!
- ◆ We'll love the name of Jesus, that name we were buried in through baptism. The name by which we are saved according to **Acts 4:12**. That name which is above every name.

Those old "thou shalt not's" are meaningless to an on fire for God Christian, because we'll want to do what's right so badly that the "thou shalt not's" won't even matter any more. How's your mind today? Are the "thou shalt not's" bothering you? You need to check your relationship with Christ if they are.

## **4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**

This isn't a "thou shalt not". But I want to use it to show you the revelation of God's heart through Christ. Jesus was in the Temple every Sabbath day "**As was his custom**". This law was only concerned with keeping that day holy unto the

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

Lord. Not so much with attendance, or even faithfulness to God during the rest of the week. However, the Apostle Paul said in:

**Colossians 2:16-17** Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

- ◆ We are the body of Christ and we're to keep every day holy unto the Lord as was Christ's example to us in the life he lived before men. He was without spot or wrinkle. He had no blemishes or he wouldn't have been acceptable as our sacrifice for sins. God doesn't want us to be sanctified and holy to him only on the Sabbath. He wants us to be a living sacrifice to him every day of the week. We're to give God thanks for each and every day. The testimony of our lives as witnesses for Christ doesn't get put into a box on Monday. It has to be a light shining to the whole world Sunday through Saturday. *Also...*
- ◆ We're to be as faithful to church as Jesus was. That means we can't skip church just because we don't feel like it. Just because we're tired. Just because somebody hurt our feelings. It's time to grow up if you're missing church for those reasons. If you miss church, it needs to be for a very good reason, because God's the one who has to believe your excuse, certainly not me! Just remember, God isn't fooled a bit by fancy words or supposed loopholes in his word. Those don't exist. He said in:

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

God doesn't want you missing church. I'm sorry; but it doesn't get any plainer than that! He doesn't want you missing it for your sake, but he also doesn't want you missing it for your brother and sister's sake. You're to be here to encourage each other to stick it out until the end. Not just to stick it out, but to conquer and occupy the enemy's territory until Christ comes to take us home to be with him.

If you truly love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, **you won't want** to miss church. You won't be able to wait until the doors are open

## Whose Report Will You Believe?

again. Newborn babes in Christ always want more church than three services a week. They can't get enough church. They want more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and more, and you get my meaning. We need to return to our first love. Listen to what Jesus tell us in:

**Revelation 2:1-5** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

I think that this passage is very applicable to the modern day Apostolic-Pentecostal movement. We're sometimes a bit too holy for our own good. We have seemed to have lost our way concerning the lost. We teach truth, which we ought to do. We identify those which have turned away from truth, and we warn ourselves to stay away from them.

When what we need to do is witness to them, to treat them with love, and kindness, and respect. We don't have to agree with them on their doctrine, but we can't win them to the truth if we can't talk to them like they're human beings.

Jesus didn't rebuke the sinners who came to him to receive salvation, he accepted them gladly. He only rebuked those self-righteous, hypocritical, religious zealots; who came not to be saved but to nitpick those who did.

Let's get them saved first and worry about everything else **after** they fall in love with Christ! Once someone falls in love with Christ, they'll have a teachable spirit, a spirit that's willing to hear sound doctrine. I think we have a wonderful church here, and I think we follow those principles. So keep it up folks! Please keep it up!

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

## 5. Honor your Father and your Mother

- ◆ This is another commandment that is not a “thou shalt not”. But none the less it is important that we get the meaning of what Jesus lived before us as an example of God’s opinion on the subject.

Jesus was in obedience to his parents at all times. He did what he was told or he wouldn’t have been perfect. **Young people** need to learn to love being in obedience to yourr parents. You heard me, learn to love being in obedience to your parents. Learn to pray for your parents' everyday. As you learn to really love them, you'll quickly cease to be disobedient to them. You still won’t agree with them on everything, but it won’t be as hard to do what they tell you to do. Trust me, as you get older, you’ll be amazed at just how smart your parents are getting.

If you live long enough, and God blesses you enough, you'll have children of your own and you can be as dumb as you currently think your parents are. Notice I said “think” your parents are. As you grow up, if you’re truly honest. You’ll know that it was you who got a lot smarter, not your parents.

That’s one reason why Jesus wants you to be obedient to your parents. Not only to be obedient, but to honor them. You really ought to hug their necks today and tell them how much you love them. Tell them how much you respect what they are trying to do to help you grow up and be a responsible adult.

Remember, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Break that generational curse of disrespect for your parents. Disrespect will tear your family to shreds, both now and in the future. How can you expect your family or your future children to respect you, or even God, if you don’t plant those seeds of respect in your family right now!

If you truly love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; you'll find serving God through serving your parents will be a great blessing in your life. God won’t have to tell you to do it. You’ll do it gladly because you love God so much. Jesus loved his parents. We don’t know what happened to his father because he’s never mentioned again after Jesus first trip to Jerusalem. But we do know that one of the last things Jesus did before his death on the cross was to insure that his mother was well taken care of. Take good care of your parents and your own children will take good care of you.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

## 6. Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not kill is no longer a thou shalt not. **Say what!** I said “Thou shalt not kill is no longer "a thou shalt not". Remember, we’re talking about what God has revealed to us of himself through the life that Jesus lived before us on this earth. The word “kill” here is from the Hebrew word “Ratsach”, meaning: to dash in pieces, to kill, especially to murder. In light of this:

- ◆ Thou shalt not kill is now thou shalt love thy brother as thyself.
- ◆ Thou shalt treat him with honor and respect even when he doesn’t deserve it
- ◆ Thou shalt leave all thoughts of vengeance unto the Lord thy God. “For vengeance is mine; I will repay, sayeth the Lord”.
- ◆ Thou shalt be faithful to witness to him.
- ◆ Thou shalt remember “But by the grace of God, there go I”.
- ◆ Thou shalt love thy neighbor as the Lord thy God hath loved you, and gave himself for you on the cross at Calvary.

How can you say you love God and hate your brother? If you truly love God you'll look for every opportunity to do good to your neighbor. You'll be friendly and show the mercy and grace of God when dealing with them. You'll rejoice in the opportunity to witness the love of God by helping them in their times of trouble. You'll happily forgive them of their trespasses against you. You'll know that by so doing you have represented Christ well in front of them.

We have no right to hate anyone or especially to kill them. My personal stand is that you only kill to save your life, that of your family, or in defense of your country. But pray that you never have to live with someone else’s death. There’s no thou shalt not here folks, not if you truly love Jesus.

## 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery

- ◆ This now becomes thou shalt love thy wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.
- ◆ Thou shalt tell your self everyday that you love her until you honestly do.
- ◆ Thou shalt tell her everyday that you love her.
- ◆ Thou shalt do all within thy power to show her that you mean it.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

- ◆ Thou shalt spend time in conversation with thy wife everyday, and let her talk all she wants. I said all **she** wants. Remember Christ died for you, it won't kill you to listen to her, and it will most certainly be of great benefit to her.
- ◆ Thou shalt not be selfish, but thou shalt give of yourself willingly to do things with her that maybe you don't enjoy so much. If you truly love your wife, you will enjoy being with her even in those situations.
- ◆ Thou shalt remember that your relationship with her is more important than anything in this world but your relationship with Christ.
- ◆ Thou shalt tell the whole world everyday that you love your wife and wouldn't trade her for anything or especially *anyone* else.

How could you cheat on someone that you truly love? I have no doubt that if you would convince yourself on a daily basis that your spouse is the best thing that ever happened to you. You wouldn't have a problem being faithful. If you would keep your mind on how much you love her, you will always love her. If you would spend your daydreaming time in dreaming up ways to show her that you love her, you will always love her, and she will probably always love you because of it.

You may notice that I'm saying this in respect to a man's relationship to his wife. That's because I'm a man. I'm supposed to act like a man. I'm supposed to walk like a man. I'm supposed to talk like a man. If I ever get a wife, I'm supposed to love my wife like she's a woman, not like she's a man.

God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. I'm not just saying that because homosexuality's wrong, and it is. I'm saying it because women don't think like men. They don't act like men. They don't want to be treated like men. They want to be loved like they're a woman.

Women are the most special of all God's creation. If you don't think so, you've been married too long and you've let your relationship with your spouse grow stagnant.

I've been single all of my life. I would love to have an "On fire for God Apostolic woman" for a wife. I know what it's like to live alone. I know what it's like to hurt because you have no one to share those special times in your life with. Without someone to share them with, they just aren't all that special in the end.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

Men, treat your wife like she's a lady at all times. Make sure your kids see you treat her with love and respect at all times. What your children will learn about how to treat their spouses when they grow up, will be learned from watching how you treat yours.

You can break generational curses in one generation. If violence and quick tempers run in your family, break that curse now! The longer you put it off the longer your children will have to deal with it. Most bad tempers are caught from their parents. You are the best teacher your child will ever have. What they learn from you will be more **caught than taught**.

Love your spouse with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, loving only God more. If you don't love your spouse that way right now. Start convincing yourself that you love her right now!!! Don't wait for tomorrow, tomorrow never comes. Love her today, whatever it takes. How much you love your spouse reflects on how much you love your savior! Praise God!

## 8. Thou shalt not steal

**Malachi 3:8-12** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Now it's:

- ◆ Thou shalt love the Lord with thy offerings.
- ◆ Thou shalt love the Lord with thy tithes.
- ◆ Thou shalt love thy neighbor too much to take what's his or hers.
- ◆ Thou shalt bless thy neighbor when they are in need.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

Too many times we take God for granted. We take the blessings of God for granted. This passage isn't talking about the sneak thief that breaks into your home while you're out. It's talking about the children of God. Oh the sneak thief will go to hell for his sins alright. But how much worse will it be for someone that has enjoyed the benefits of serving God, but was too cowardly to trust God to meet their needs. That was too cowardly to pay their tithes! I've got news for you folks; the cowards are going to hell too!

I also want you to notice something else in this passage. It says in tithes **and offerings**. You give the tithe because you're commanded to do it. You give offerings because you love God! Actually you're commanded to give offerings as well as your tithes. If you truly love the Lord you'll give both, and you'll do it willingly.

Don't think you can steal from God and get away with it! You might fool the rest of us but God's got your number! Learn to love God and trust him enough to meet your needs. If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we won't steal from God, or our brother. If you truly love God like you say you do. How could you dare do anything that would bring reproach to his name?

Love means to sacrifice. I don't know how many of you know that. We've already discussed that in relation to spouses. But when you love someone you give of yourself. You don't always seek your own, but you seek the benefit of others.

God in the Ten Commandments said to not steal. Jesus, God manifest in the flesh, taught us that it's better to give than to receive. We're to follow his example. Whenever you want clarification of what the word says on a subject. Look at what Jesus said and did before you ask for a second opinion.

Wouldn't it be great if the sneak thieves of the world would leave you money and things instead of taking them? Imagine how great it would feel to come home and find a thousand dollars piled up on your kitchen table.

Next time you feel the urge to steal, leave them a blessing instead. Next time you decide to steal from God, remember, it's your own blessing that you're stealing. Also remember this; along with the loss of that blessing you gain a curse! You'll inherit a curse and stand a good chance of losing everything you've worked for. You'll also gain a lake side seat at the lake of fire. The only problem is; the seats' are on the wrong side of the shore line.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

## 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness

This is now:

- Thou shalt speak the truth in love.
- Thou shalt tell the **whole** truth and not just the part of it you like.
- Thou shalt keep your mouth closed when you would speak evil of another.
- Thy words shalt be sweet as honey, for tomorrow you may have to eat them.
- Thou shalt witness to others about Christ.

Some people seem to think that “Thou shalt not bear false witness is only for the Old Testament and has no basis in the New Testament. Wrong! God thought it important enough to include in the New Testament as well.

**Revelation 21:8** 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.

Let's just move up a few verses from our text here in Revelation.

**Revelation 21:5-7** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. **I am Alpha and Omega**, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and **I will be his God**, and he shall be my son.

I am Alpha and Omega? I will be his God? This is Jesus speaking folks. Jesus doesn't lie! The scriptures teach us in **Hebrews 6:18** that it is impossible for God to lie! God doesn't lie and he doesn't want you to lie either. How can anybody trust you if you lie? How could anybody trust a God that lied to them? It's been said that you're the best example of a Christian that some people will ever see.

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

- ◆ How are you going to represent your God???
- ◆ Who will people see when they look at your life?
- ◆ Will your life reflect God?
- ◆ Or will your life just reflect you?

We need to be above reproach saints of God!!! We need to be a bright light in this dark and perverse world we live in. Were supposed to be bastions of truth and to lie would totally destroy our witness.

- ◆ What kind of witness are you living?
- ◆ What kind of testimony to others is your life?
- ◆ Would God recognize himself in your life? *And finally*

## 10. Thou shalt not covet

**This now becomes:**

- Thou shalt rejoice in thy neighbor's blessing.
- Thou shalt be glad you don't have to wash, wax, polish, or pay for what your neighbor has!
- Thou shalt be content with what you have.
- Thou shalt lay up treasures for your self in heaven

When we desire to have what other people have. Let me clarify things: Not the same things they have, but the very thing they have. When we covet our neighbor's goods, or spouse, or house, we're showing our selfishness, greed, and lack of love for our neighbor. What a horrible witness that becomes!

How can we say that we love our neighbor and we want to take his wife from him? How can we say we love God when we're telling Him that he was wrong to give those items to someone besides ourselves?

What this really tells us is that we're still in love with ourselves, and not in love with God. We need to fall in love with God above all else!!!! We can keep from coveting and still not be in love with God. But under grace, God demands our all, not just our obedience.

**If the musicians will come at this time**

# Whose Report Will You Believe?

I would like to ask the congregation a few questions at this time:

1. Are you being obedient to God in the area of the Ten Commandments?
2. Are you fulfilling the "Grace" requirement of each of these Ten Commandments?
3. Are you doing it based on fear of hell?
4. Or are you doing it out of true love for your Lord and Savior?
5. Do you need a little help in loving God a little more?
6. Do you need a little help in denying the flesh?

You see, there's a reason why God listed covetousness last. That's because it's the prime cause for the need of the other nine commandments. If we learn to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, which is the first commandment, we won't have a problem following any of God's other precepts or commandments.

It's when we covet control of our lives, and ownership of everything that our neighbors have, that we struggle against God's ordinances. We have to give everything to God and be satisfied with what He's given us in return to be truly happy.

I would like for everyone to come down to the altar at this time; we either need prayer to serve God better, or we need to be praying for someone to serve God better. "Come and dine the master calleth, come and dine". There's no better place to get what we need from God than here at this altar.