

Exodus #51

The Moral Law

Lesson #3

“The First Commandment – No Other
Gods”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“⁴ Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Psalm 78:1-8

“¹ Listen, O my people, to my instruction; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³ Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

“⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children, ⁶ That the generation to come might know, {even} the children {yet} to be born, {that} they may arise and tell {them} to their children, ⁷ That they should put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments, ⁸ And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

“There is really no such person as an atheist. For such a man worships himself in a material world. There is no human being without a shrine in his heart because our God is the person, or pursuit, or thing that we think is the most precious. For whom we would make the greatest sacrifice? Who moves our hearts with the warmest tear? Our God is the person or the pursuit or the thing when if we lost him or her it would leave us desolate.”

1. “Before me,” that is, “in front of me”
2. “Beside me,” that is, “alongside me”
3. “Besides me,” that is, “in my place,”
or “instead of me”
4. “Over against me,” that is, “in hostile
confrontation with me,” “against
my face”

Calvin notes:

“God cannot bear any rival, and
He will not allow any rival.”

“There are four classes of idols, which beset men’s minds. To these for distinctions sake, I have assigned names - calling the first class a.) idols of the tribe; the second b.) idols of the cave; the third c.) idols of the marketplace; and the fourth d.) idols of the theatre.”

George Bernard Shaw said:

“There are two sources of unhappiness in life. One is not getting what you want, and the other is getting what you want.”

Philippians 3:18-19

“¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is {their} appetite, and {whose} glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”

Oscar Wilde, a controversial British hedonist wrote:

“To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance.” and “To love oneself is to be truly religious.”

Robert Schuller wrote in *Self-Esteem, the New Reformation*, p.8:

“To love oneself is to be truly religious.”

The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 104: What does the first commandment require?

A 104: The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God and to worship and glorify him as such by valuing, meditating on, remembering, highly regarding, honoring, adoring, preferring, loving, desiring, fearing, believing, trusting, hoping, delighting, and rejoicing in him. We must also be zealous for and call on him, giving him all praise and thanks, completely obeying and submitting to him in our whole person. Finally, we must walk humbly with him, being careful to please him in everything we say and do and being genuinely sorry when we offend him.

**The duty to know and
acknowledge God to
be the only true God.**

The duty to worship God.

The duty to glorify God.

The duty to think about God.

The duty to meditate on God.

The duty to remember God.

The duty to honor God.

The duty to esteem God highly.

The duty to believe God.

The duty to trust God.

The duty to delight in God.

The duty to rejoice in God.

**The duty to obey God and
submit to Him.**