Needed: An Awakening

Is America at War with God’s Law?

Chapter 1

Every Generation Needs a New Revolution

Psalms 74:2 “Remember the people (NATION) you purchased of old, the tribe of your inheritance, whom you redeemed — Mount Zion, where you dwelt.”

In every society or culture we have what we call "opinion makers." These are people who use words to make a living. We see how God used George Whitfield who came in with a message from the Lord; he brought in the right opinion and led us into the *great awakening* and the American experiment.

 Same thing took place in Europe over 500 years ago when Martin Luther stood up with a message from God and we have the Western civilization we have today.

However, in the Western world we are in the process of losing this connection with the Lord. Consequently, we are in need of more George Whitfield's and Martin Luther's.

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

There are three words that we are hearing quite often: reformation, revival and transformation. Reformation is the ministry of John the Baptist preparing the way for the Lord; revival as Martin Lloyd Jones put it is God passing by, and transformation is the result.

This past July 4th we celebrated our 239th year of when we (USA) declared our independence. God has been reminding me that before we had our independence that the Lord sent a powerful preacher to our shores called George Whitfield. He had a powerful influence upon our country and there was a spiritual awakening. One could say that before our independence we had a reformation - a calling back to God and to the things of God.

A war of independence was fought and through the revolution we gained our independence. We were set free and through that freedom a new experiment was undertaken that never had been done before in the history of mankind; that man could govern himself.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE says “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The references to God in the Declaration of Independence provide a foundation for a moral argument within civil society that brought the transformation.

One can ‘Google’ and read the rest of the declaration, but what the Lord was showing me was the pattern that was laid down for reformation, revival and transformation. In the case with the birth of the United States we had George Whitfield (reformation) calling us back to the truths of the Word of God and to our responsibilities. Thomas Jefferson to Richard Price, in 1789 said: “Reformation in government follows reformation in opinion.” George Whitfield in his powerful preaching was bringing in the opinion of God. This was the forerunner of what was to come. It was said about Whitfield in his biography: “More than any other preacher of his day, he made the Great Awakening a vital, far-reaching force, religiously, socially, and politically, in America.” In America he preached a series of revivals that came to be known as the Great Awakening of 1740.

Revival, but in this case revolution, where we were set free with the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE – the law of the land – is what brought in transformation or reconstruction. Yes, there are many things wrong that need fixing in our country, but there is no doubt about the transformation or reconstruction that has taken place in our country over these past 239 years to be a free society with the freedom of religion, freedom of the press, habeas corpus (this is a legal action through which a prisoner can be released from unlawful detention. It is an important legal instrument safeguarding individual freedom against arbitrary state action), trial by jury, and a representative legislature.

Thomas Jefferson said: “Every generation needs a new revolution.”  In reading the first paragraph of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE the thought that came is that God wants to raise up tens of thousands of pastors who from the pulpit will be calling the people to exercise their responsibility and come back to the fundamentals that our country was founded on. Gary Bauer said: “Pastors were instrumental in America’s founding. The Church has long been a pillar of strength in our society. We need their leadership in turning the tide and once again making America a shining city upon a hill.”

Through this ‘reformation’ we will see a revolution of love (God is love) in the hearts of millions that will spark them into a labor of love in every aspect of society, and this will bring in the transformation. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Chuck Colson said: “We need to confess our moral failures and our national sins. We need to repent of the lies that justify killing innocent babies and the elderly. The road to renewal begins on our knees. And it's there that we hear soul-searching questions from God himself, asking: ‘How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.’” Psalms 82:2-4

Chapter 2

First Commandment

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”

Martin Luther said: “The Decalogue is not of Moses, nor did God give it to him first. On the contrary, the Decalogue belongs to the whole world; it was written and engraved in the minds of all human beings from the beginning of the world.”

It seems almost daily I read in the news about the Ten Commandments being removed from some public place here in the States. The most recent one was in Oklahoma when the Ten Commandments were removed from the state capital in the darkness of night. Recognizing the 10 Commandments as the foundation of our laws is the reason why many state capitals have the plaque of the 10 Commandments.

Johannes Althusius said: “The precepts of the Decalogue prescribe and constitute a way, rule, guiding star, and boundary for human society. If anyone would take them out of politics, he would destroy it; indeed, he would destroy all social life among men. For what would human life be without the piety of the first table of the Decalogue, and without the justice of the second? What would a Commonwealth be without communion and communication things useful and necessary to human life? By means of these precepts, charity becomes effective in various good works.”

Psalm 119:126 “It is time for you to act, O Lord, for they have broken your law.”

We see the mass shootings taking place and many other atrocities occurring and we wonder why this is happening. I think Johannes Althusius was right regarding the Ten Commandments when he said: “Take them out of politics, he would destroy it; indeed, he would destroy all social life among men.” Isn’t this the reason for the breakdown in our social life here in the USA and in other parts of the world as well? America is becoming a lawless nation and it is not just among the ordinary citizens, but also those we elect to uphold the law.

Noah Webster’s says: “The first Commandment forbids us to have any other God, before Jehovah. It forbids the worship of any and every other being. The first and highest duty of man is to reverence, worship and obey the only true God. Men are prone to consider that their social duties to their fellow man is the first in importance, and all that is necessary to be observed in order to secure God’s favor. This is a pernicious mistake, and probably the ruin of millions of the human race. Supreme love to God, and reverence for his character, and laws, is the first duty of man, and the true source of all other duties. Obedience to God’s laws, to be genuine, was to spring from love to him; and a conformity to his character is that which constitutes excellence in human character.”

The first four commandments are often called the **First Table** and deal with man’s relationship with God. Since there is only one God, there is only one source of law. This first Commandment has to do with the source of authority and law, both in our personal life and in our nation.

There is one God and, hence, one law, for He is the source of that one law. Polytheism (which includes humanism) implies we live in a universe with many law orders flowing from many gods. Man cannot live under man’s law in this system except by force or imperialism, and this is what we have in many parts of the world.

With the humanistic or evolutionary view of law that modern man has, every man is a law unto himself because there is no over-arching **absolute law**. What this eventually brings is anarchy and to enforce law upon everyone requires imperialism by those in authority. What this means is that civil government will grow larger and stronger and more intrusive in the affairs of the citizens. This is what is happening today in the United States as well as in Europe, other parts of our world. This type of government will usurp the authority and responsibilities of the individual, family, church, business, etc. The fruit of this: the loss of liberty and even life.

Since there is one God, then there is one law, and there is one truth. This first commandment tells us that we should not have any other god (or law or truth) before Him, or beside Him. Therefore, to change from a biblical law system to another law system is to change gods.

God and His Law are the source of righteousness for all members of society and also describes the outcome of those who are outside the law. God is also the source to uphold the law that He had delegated to man, through the institutions of family, church, and state which is to have the power to punish those who break the law. (Romans 13, 1 Peter 2.)

If we are to regain sanity in our world today then we must come back to this first Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me.”

Chapter 3

Second Commandment

Exodus 20:4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or the waters below.”

Psalm 81:8-10 “Hear me, **my people**, and I will warn you - if you would only listen to me, Israel! You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me. I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.”

This Psalm is speaking to God’s people ("my people"). So often we look at the culture around us in our own society and we very easily blame the liberals, progressives, communism, statism, or any other ‘ism.’ But, if I understand Scripture properly, the fault lies with God’s people. Here in Psalm 81 God is not talking about the heathen, or the unsaved, but He is talking about His own people; those that know Him and claim to love Him.

This is what 2 Chronicles 7:14 is talking about: "If **my people**, who are called by **my name**, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

It is obvious that the burden in seeing something done in our culture and society lies with God's people. In this Psalm 81 we read the words "hear," "listen," "follow," etc. What would be the result of hearing, listening and following God and His Word? He will forgive us our sins and He will heal the land. We will subdue our enemies. He will meet our every need.

Habakkuk 2:18: “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols.”

Of course modern man in the Western world would not think of making a golden calf, setting it up in a special room in the house and then bowing down to it. However, what we have today are what we call the humanists. They trust in their own handiwork, create their own laws, think up their own value systems, form and worship their own governmental and educational systems - trusting in them to be that which is right and true for everyone. However, they will soon find out that if it is not based upon God’s truth it will eventually lead to ruin. This type of idol-worship produces bondage and not liberty.

We must learn to worship God on His terms and not ours; for worshiping God on our own terms also means death to our society. Religion, or rather, a right belief in God, is the life-blood of a society. Idolatry for Israel was a capital offense because it was treason against God and would produce the destruction of the nation.

The first commandment tells us that there is only One God and we are to worship Him. This also tells us that there is only one law and that is God’s law. Having other gods (idols) means we also have and follow other laws that are contrary to God’s law.

The one thing that we are confronted with constantly especially here in our western world is what is known as *toleration*. Today in our Western society we have an evolving value called “tolerance,” but that is a little different than what we are looking at here. The tolerance that our society is trying to get across is tolerance about life-styles and thinking that are in direct conflict with God and His Word.

God is tolerant towards us, but that which is not in accord with His Word He will judge as evil, and so must we. We cannot be taken in by our society that tells us that we should *be tolerant* (by their definition) and not make any judgments.

We must keep in mind that the law of God is intended to judge us and preserve God’s order; to protect God’s people. This is true of the law of God’s creation and the revealed law given to Israel by God. Toleration of other laws contrary to biblical law is a form of idolatry that eventually leads to destruction, and any society that tolerates ideas and laws of wickedness will fall into confusion and anarchy.

We must realize that we are in *spiritual warfare* and biblical law (God’s Law) will always be at war against all other laws that are contrary to God’s law. We have just seen this in the USA with recent removal of the Ten Commandments in the middle of the night from the State Capital in Oklahoma. The same will happen in the other state capitals as well, if God’s people just *tolerate* it.

Chapter 4

Third Commandment

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

David Kupelian says in his book Snapping of the American Mind: “It's not much of an exaggeration to say that in today's America, tens of millions of people are living in a delusional dream state."

He goes on to say: “In politics and culture we speak casually of “the left” and “the right,” as though these were two morally equivalent camps or worldviews. In reality the socialist/Marxist ideology that has captivated today's Democrat Party is at war with reason, human nature, common sense, history and truth – **indeed, at war with God and His laws."**

This third Commandment reveals the negative aspect of the law which is important for us to understand. This negativism is not bad but in reality of a great benefit, because it limits the power of the state and insures liberty. For example, the eighth Commandment: “You shall not steal,” limits the state from stealing and taking over private property. So when the law prohibits blasphemy and false witness it is also guaranteeing that all other forms of speech have their liberty.

For example, Roman Law was based upon the positive concept of the Law that “the health of the people is the highest law.” However, all aspects of life can come under the well-being of man and society and so a law like this becomes unlimited and the state then can control all life and the result is a loss of liberty.

We see in the Bible that some cursing is biblical as we see God pronouncing curses on people and nations as well as the prophets and others on certain occasions that God called to invoke judgment on evil doers.

Stephen McDowell says about profane speech: “Profane means ‘outside the temple’ and thus all speech, action, and living which is outside God.”

This third Commandment is not just talking about taking the name of God in vain but a wicked and rebellious language that is directed against God. It shows a disregard and lack of reverence to the Supreme Being. This lack of reverence to God leads to a disregard of His Word as well as His Law. Isn’t this what we see today in our society? When there is a lack of reverence and fear of God there is really no effectual restraint of human passions, lusts, ambitions, anger, profanity, hostility, etc.

We know that the Name of the Lord represents all the ways that God makes Himself known to us and so by taking His name in vain also represents degrading who He is. In 1 Corinthians 11:28 and 29, regarding the Lord’s Supper says: “A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.” This sacrament of bread and wine represents not only who Jesus is but what He has done. Therefore, the one that “eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.” (verse 27) In this sacrament the Lord is making His sacrifice for us known and we are not to partake of it vainly or profanely.

This third Commandment deals with speech, but also at the heart of it deals with the foundation of a legal system. We have what is known as the oath of office, oath of the courts, the oath of husbands and wives in marriage as well as the oath (vows) of ministers, and all of this is vital for having a proper functioning society.

We also see the profanity in our culture as a barometer of our society. As profanity increases it shows a profane action by society against God. When we see more and more profanity working its way into our arts, TV, music, movies, entertainment, it shows a moral decline occurring in our society. We know that words eventually lead to actions and we see this in our entertainment today.

When we stop and think about it, what use is profanity? Is any man or woman wiser or happier because they use God’s Name in vain and in a profane way? Often it indicates a person’s lack of vocabulary and being able to properly express his/her emotions. Why is it that because a person does not know a proper word to use, he inserts a blasphemous word against God? "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," and so we see a desperate need for the gospel of Christ that can reach into the human heart and begin to change it. God says that He will write His laws on our heart.

Chapter 5

Fourth Commandment

Exodus 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

Basically the Sabbath is a day of rest both physically as well as spiritually, but there has always been some confusion regarding the Sabbath Day. God worked six days and He rested on the Sabbath and we are to do the same. This was something unknown to ancient non-Christian nations and so when God instituted this day of rest for people and animals it was something unique to other nations. For example, during the French revolution the leaders not only did not keep the Sabbath but tried to institute a 10 day week.

We find that when we follow God’s order and have a day of rest it helps us to be very productive in the six days of work. I find for example a short nap after lunch helps keep me going for the rest of the day, to be more alert as well as more productive.

The Sabbath is vital to our relationship with God because it shapes the way we perceive and worship Him.  We should remember the Sabbath by formally worshipping God on that day.

The Sabbath is a special day to concentrate on developing our relationship with God. It takes time to build any relationship and to build a relationship with our Heavenly Father we need to take time to do it and the Sabbath is just such a day. No close relationship can succeed without taking the time it needs, whether its courtship, marriage, friendship or especially our relationship with God.

The Hebrew word for Sabbath, shabbath, means “to cease, to pause or take an intermission.” On the Sabbath we are to take the day off from our regular activities and devote our time and attention to our Creator.

The idea in back of spiritual rest is to help build our trust and confidence in God so that we might be able to enter into the redemptive rest to where we cease from our own works and have confidence in His work.

God goes on to say in Exodus 20:9–11 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.”

Work has been ordained by God and He has given us all unique talents and skills that fit us for our unique purpose and calling that He has given us. Our work is a way to extend God’s kingdom here on earth. We see that Jesus followed His Father’s example by working hard and enjoying His work in John 5:17. “My father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

Many people want to become rich so that they can work less, but true Christians love work. We are to work not just to supply our own needs (although that is necessary), but to work for God’s glory in all that we do.

Stephen McDowell brings out that there are three Sabbaths mentioned in the Word of God. “First, the creation Sabbath when God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Secondly, we have the Hebrew Sabbath that was to be remembered in how Israel was delivered out of Egypt by God in a miraculous way. Then we have the Christian Sabbath where we remember Christ’s triumph over sin and death and eventually the restitution and restoration of all things in Christ.”

So we find that the Sabbath is a day of rest, but it is also a time to remember. God tells us to remember what Christ has done; to remember the great acts of God; to remember God’s faithfulness, mercy and love.

The one thing that I like to do on my Sabbath is to let that be a time when I just wait upon God, to remember and to write down the thoughts that He has given me about Himself, things to do in the days ahead or just to praise Him; but the main idea is to “remember.”

To me the Sabbath is a prelude to what we read in Hebrews 4 about the rest of faith. What a tremendous thing it is in the midst of tribulation, problems, obstacles, etc. we have the rest of faith knowing that God is in control and He is working out all things for His glory and purpose.

Psalm 91:4-8 “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.”

Let us all remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Chapter 6

Fifth Commandment

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

It is interesting to note with the Ten Commandments that in the first tablet the first four commandments deal with our relationship to God our Creator. The first Commandment brings out how we need to honor God.

In the second tablet the first Commandment is dealing with man’s relationship to man - in the command to honor our father and mother.

From this it would seem that in God’s eyes, as in a small child’s eyes as well, a parent stands in the place of God. When you think about it - a parent is the child’s creator, provider, lawgiver, teacher and protector. The child’s response to this relationship will greatly determine the child’s response to society and even his relationship with God Himself. How often we have heard how it has been hard for a child who had a cruel father to relate to the goodness of our Heavenly Father.

Because of this relationship that parents have to a child the obligation of the parents to live worthy of that honor is extremely important.

From Scripture and the last six commandments we come to understand that the family is established by God as the fundamental authority on earth. We see in Genesis 1:26–28 that the original commission or cultural mandate of God was for man to take authority or dominion over the earth and this was to be done primarily through the family.

However, we find that the state has taken away much of the authority of the family as well as taking dominion or ruling over the earth. We see many things taking place by the state that undermines the family – homosexual marriage, tax laws, and welfare benefits that basically pay mothers not to live with the father of their children. We see how the state has taken over the education, health and welfare of the children and citizens.

There are other things done by the state to undermine the family that are not biblical; things like property tax, the graduated income taxes and government regulations regarding land-use, and etc.

We also see that this fifth Commandment has a promise. In Deuteronomy 5:16 we read: “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, **so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land Lord your God is giving you.”**

Paul also repeated this promise in Ephesians 6:2, 3: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother – **which is the first commandment with a promise.”**

We see some very strong language being used about anyone who would curse or attack their father or mother. This cursing is not just about the use of words, but about bringing bodily harm to the parents. In the Old Testament this cursing, along with striking the parents, was tantamount to murder and was punished accordingly.

This relationship of parents to children does not stop with age. For example, in the Old Testament we see Joseph and the reverence that he had to his father Jacob. We see this reverence with Joseph when he brought his two sons to have Jacob bless them. Genesis 48:12 “Then Joseph removed them from Israel’s knees and bowed down with his face to the ground.”

In adulthood there might be a time when it is no longer necessary or right for a person to strictly obey his parents like in childhood, but God’s requirement to honor them never ceases. With parents, and especially godly parents, the duty to honor them pays dividends to the children by giving access to the wisdom of years.

Here in the West we appreciate youth more than the elderly, but in the Old Testament and other parts of the world, especially Asia, we see that old-age is highly respected.

Chapter 7

Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”

It was mentioned in the third Commandment regarding the negative aspect of the commandments that each one of the negative laws have a positive aspect to it. For example, this sixth Commandment not only prohibits murder, but it also affirms the sanctity of human life.

The Old Testament reveals to us that life is so valuable to God that He declares that if a life is taken then a life is required. Numbers 35:30 “Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.”

In Deuteronomy 32:39 God declares: “I kill, and I make alive.”

From this it would seem that the divine institutions that God has given us – family, church and state – should strive to “make alive” in our particular areas. For the church, this would be to bring the Word of Life to our neighbors, widows, orphans, the poor, the sojourners as well as aliens in our midst. For the state or civil governments this command should not only put to death evil men with no regard to human life, but to also work to help restore a fallen world by providing an environment for the kingdom of God to advance.

Some people, even Christians, oppose the death penalty. However, in one sense this opposition is contrary to the nature of Christ's message. Stephen McDowell brings out: “The death penalty was set forth by Christ’s atoning death, which makes clear that the penalty for man’s treason to God and departure from God’s law is death without remission.” Paul tells us in Romans that the “wages of sin is death.”

This indicates that if we believe in the atoning death of Christ, we also accept capital punishment as a means of executing God’s justice here on earth. In other words, if the law of God does not require death, then Christ died needlessly.

When we think of this commandment, “You shall not murder,” we also need to see that God forbids all the many sins that lead to murder. For example:

1. Anger: Genesis 49:6 says, “for they had killed men in their anger.”
2. Envy: We see how Satan envied our first parents and could not rest until he brought about their death. We see that Joseph’s brothers envied him and they also took counsel on how they might slay him. The first murder that took place was because Cain envied Abel.
3. Hatred: We see how the Pharisees hated Christ because He had more favor and honor among the people than they had and they were not satisfied until He was dead by crucifixion. “Crucify Him, crucify Him,” was their cry.

We see how Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow to Haman, and how Haman was not satisfied until he got a warrant to bring about Mordecai’s death (murder).

The Scripture seems to indicate that there are different ways to murder. We could murder with our “mind.” 1 John 3:15 says, “Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer.” We can murder with our tongue. We see this with the Pharisees as they falsely accused Jesus before Pilate. We can murder with the pen (or our computer with writing) as we see with David when he wrote to Joab to put Uriah in the fiercest part of the battle so that Uriah would hopefully die, and getting his secret desire fulfilled so that David wasn’t the one actually killing Uriah. David was the true murderer here. 2 Samuel 12:9 states, “You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.” We can murder by plotting the death of someone although never laying a hand upon the person as we see with Jezebel plotting the death of Naboth in order to get his vineyard.

Although it is sinful for a private person to shed someone’s blood, unless it is for self-defense, at the same time is also a sin for the state to NOT shed blood when it is required under God’s law. It is not murder for the state to put to death a person who murders another person; it is true justice and protection of civilization.

Chapter 8

Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”

Psalms 119:137-138 “You are righteous, Lord, and your laws are right. The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.”

God’s laws fit human nature. Laws that our legislative branch makes should fit human nature and since human nature is fallen this should be kept in mind regarding the laws legislature makes. If the laws do not fit human nature then I would say that those laws are unjust.

A question that then comes up is: What laws are unjust? To answer this we need to have a basis for judging that which is unjust. Right now we have two systems for doing this. The first system is God's standard which is laid down in the Holy Scripture: The Ten Commandments.

Our Founding Fathers followed God’s standard and for a number of years our society was based on the Ten Commandments, but we are now turning away from it. What are we turning to?

The past number of years we have begun to accept another method of obtaining knowledge and that is through human reasoning based on human experience instead of the revelation from God. So what we have today is fallen man making laws for fallen man. Talk about the fox in the hen house! So what has this resulted in today? We have laws that protect abortion on demand (taking of innocent life), redefine marriage, tax laws that are unreasonable, etc. The result of this is the making of laws based on human reasoning instead of divine revelation.

It was Noah Webster who said: “All carnal intercourse between the sexes, except in lawful marriage is forbidden.” He goes on to say that the consequence of breaking this law is unspeakably great. “The injuries to health, the dissipation of property, the ruin of female character, the destruction of family happiness, and the abandonment of all moral and religious principle, with the final loss of the soul, are among the woeful consequences of this wickedness.” In our society today we see the result of this: fatherless homes, divorce, latchkey children, etc. In other words, the result is the disintegration of the basic building block for a stable society: the family.

The stable family will produce a stable nation. Ephesians 5:21–23 lays out the principles that will produce stable relationships to produce a stable family. A question often debated today is whether a woman can compete with men in public life and the answer is that of course they can. But it is also true what Stephen McDowell brings out: “No one can compete with the mother in the home – no one can fill her place.”

Hebrews 2:1 says: “We must pay the most careful attention therefore, to what we’ve heard, so that we do not drift away.”

In 1 Corinthians 7:2 God told us: “Let every man have his own wife, and that every woman have her own husband.”

In Hebrews 13:4 God reminds us that, “Marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled.”

In Genesis 2:22 God instituted marriage in paradise; He brought the woman to the man and He gave them to each other in marriage. In John 2:2 we see that Jesus Christ honored a marriage ceremony with His presence. From teaching in Scripture we learn that the special duties belonging to marriage are love and purity.

However, we find today that because we have not **“paid close attention to what has been said”** we have not only drifted away, but today we find many families, marriages, and homes shipwrecked resulting in heavy cost upon our Western social fabric.

It would seem from this seventh Commandment that the most important thing for the church today is to help establish godly families according to biblical principles.

We know that lust is the very foundation of the sin of adultery. Since the fall of man holy love has degenerated into lust. Scripture brings out that adultery is twofold:

1. It begins in the mind: mentally. Matthew 5:28 states: “Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
2. Then the physical act that is forbidden by God’s law: “You shall not commit adultery.”

Job, whom God called a righteous man, calls adultery a **heinous crime**. Every failing is not a crime, but adultery is a **heinous** crime. Jeremiah, speaking for God says that adultery is outrageous: “They have done **outrageous things** in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives.”

Adultery is outrageous because it is a breach of the marriage oath that man and woman made in the presence of God to be faithful to each other. And it is a great dishonor to God because the adulterer sets his will above God’s law.

Chapter 9

Eighth Commandment

Exodus 20:15 “You shall not steal.”

John 7:24 “Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

So often our judgment is done through colored glasses. We bring our own prejudices, dislikes, likes, favoritism, etc. into our judgment. We often have our own agenda in what we believe. This is why it is so important to make sure that we have the mind of Christ that we see things from God's perspective. What is God's perspective?  It is the Holy Scriptures, and specifically the Lord’s Ten Commandments that we are to live by. This should be the basis of our judgment.

With our judges, when they pass judgment on any and all cases that come before them, their united judgment should be based upon our biblical Constitution which rules our land, but so often the judges bring into their judgment their own human perspective and agenda which is not true justice.

The right understanding of this commandment: “Do not steal” has behind it that it is a God given right for man to own and keep property. In one sense this commandment speaks to us about the restoration of our fallen world. In other words, we are to take back what Satan has stolen from us and to take our proper responsibility to what God gave us in Genesis 1:26–28 as in the Cultural Mandate. God has given to man and his family the right to own property, and not to the state the right to own property.

Many today believe that the state has sovereign rights on property. This is what we find in the French revolution. Thomas Paine in his article, “Rights of Man” in writing for the national assembly said: “The nation is essentially the source of all sovereignty; nor can any individual, or any body of man, be entitled of all sovereignty; nor can any individual, or any body of man, be entitled to any authority which is not expressively derived from it.” So we find today that man will take dominion, either under God’s law which will produce life, or the law of man which will produce tyranny and death. This to me is the lesson of the French revolution.

Civil lawyers defined theft as: “The laying hands unjustly on that which belongs to another.” What are some of the causes of theft?

Unbelief: The unbeliever will ask, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?” Because he believes that God cannot they then try to prepare their own table and often that results in man coveting more than what he owns or actually needs.

We know that an external source of theft is Satan’s activity. Satan is a thief and he will produce thieves of all kinds. We read in John 12:6 that Judas was a thief and it would seem that the reason he became a thief was that Satan entered into him. (John 13:27)

There are also different kinds of theft mentioned in Scripture. For example, we can steal from God by not giving Him our best. King David said that he would not offer to God anything that did not cost him. Another example, we can steal from others by holding back the truth that they deserve to have. We can steal like the robber, who goes into the house to take away another man’s possessions. We can steal from our employer the time to do something other than the work we were hired to do. We also find that the state has passed laws that take from one group of people that have, to benefit another group of people that do not have.

Other examples with the state are their inflationary economic policies.

History is filled with examples of tyranny reigning.

In Scriptures we see that the right for personal ownership of property comes from God. He owns everything and gives it to man as a gift. He gave it to Adam and Eve and later we find that He gave it to Israel.

America’s Founding Fathers did not want to go the way of the feudal system which was predominant in Europe but instead accepted God’s definition of property belonging to man and not the government. In the beginning of the founding of our country the government owned no large tracts of land on a permanent basis. If any lands were acquired they were made available to the public. Stephen McDowell brings out that the government owns little land east of the Mississippi which is in great contrast to the Western United States where large portions of many states are owned by the government.

Also under biblical law there was no “property tax.” The reason for this is because the earth belongs to the Lord and He has given it to men and their families, not to the state. This means that man cannot be dispossessed from his own land. Every man has a basic security in his property.

There are many other points that we could bring out regarding this commandment, but we do see that America is at war with God’s Law and we can understand why the Ten Commandments are being removed from public offices.

When I speak about America being at war with God’s laws we need to keep in mind what David Kupelian says in his book, Snapping of the American Mind: “In politics and culture we speak casually of 'the left' and 'the right,' as though these were two morally equivalent camps or worldviews. In reality the socialist/Marxist ideology that has captivated today's Democrat Party is at war with reason, human nature, common sense, history and truth – **indeed, at war with God and His laws."**

Chapter 10

Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

Proverbs 6:16–19 “There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a **lying tongue**, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a **false witness** who pours out **lies** and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.”

In the sixth chapter of Daniel we find that Darius was going to appoint Daniel over the whole kingdom because Daniel so distinguished himself above the other administrators in character. The other administrators tried to find fault with Daniel but could not because there was no corruption in him, he was trustworthy and not negligent. The reason I bring this out regarding Daniel is that he was a man of truth and influence. This is what we need today in our societies: men and women of influence who surround men and women of power – like David and Darius.

The bottom line is that King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land issuing a decree that people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

A question: We should we at all times and under all circumstances tell the truth to all men who ask anything of you? I do not believe so. We can be silent.

Rahab lied to protect the lives of two spies, but Rahab’s faith that James singled her out for as an example of vital faith, was not in that she lied to protect them, but that she received them as God’s messengers and sent them out another way than they came in. (James 2:24-25)

Abraham and then later his son Isaac lied about their wives to the kings in order to avoid murder and rape, and Scripture does not condemn them for lying, although they were shamed by God for lying.

It was Churchill who said during the time of war that the truth is so important it must be guarded by a bodyguard of lies. Interesting...

This Commandment is against two things: First, slandering our neighbor. Like someone once said, “The scorpion carries his poison in his tail, the slanderer carries his poison on his tongue.” Perhaps the best definition of slandering would be to unjustly report things about others in order to do them harm. Holiness will not keep us from being slander as we see with the apostle Paul as well as Jesus Himself, but we can learn from them how to respond.

This commandment forbids the giving of false testimony and it is especially appropriate in the testimony given by witnesses in courts of law. This commandment not only forbids straightforward lying and slander, but also telling the truth in order to do harm or get revenge.

Another question that does arise with this commandment is: What should be our response to those that do slander and falsely accuse us? First, we labor to make a sanctified use of it. For example, Shimei cursed David and when Abishai wanted to put him to death David forbade him to do so, and said “If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why you do you do this?’ In other words, if we are falsely accused we first need to see if there is any unrepentant sin that we need to deal with. If there is then we need to deal with it, but if we are falsely accused God will take care of it.

Psalm 37:6 “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” It is God who can bring forth our righteousness as the light.

This commandment also brings out that because we should not slander or falsely accuse others, we should be a favorable witness for the innocent and stand up in their defense. How true it is that a man may wrong another by silence as by slander; when he knows him to be wrongfully accused, yet does not speak in his behalf.

We see Peter standing up for the other apostles when they were slandered. They were accused of being drunk after being filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:15 “These men are not drunk, as you suppose.”

Jonathan knowing David to be a worthy man knew that all the things that his father Saul said of David were slanderous and so Jonathan vindicated David by being a truthful witness for David. 1 Samuel 19:4-5 “Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, ‘Let not the King do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.’”

We are here to extend the kingdom of God and the kingdom of God consists of that which is just, right and true.

Chapter 11

Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

The key word in this commandment is the word “covet,” and then we get a list of things that we should not covet: everything that belongs to our neighbor.

Coveting “signifies an earnest and strong desire after a matter of which all the affections are concentrated and fixed.” The word *covet* also brings in the emotional aspect that deals with the sin of intention. In other words, this law deals with not only the action of man but also the heart of man.

There are some good things that we should covet, for example, Scripture tells us that we are to “covet earnestly the best gifts.” (1 Corinthians 12:31) In other words, we should earnestly desire or covet the things of God. Jesus brings out the same thought in the Sermon on the Mount where He makes clear the thoughts and actions of men addressed in God’s law.

The question that could be asked is: When is it wrong to covet? There are several things that we could think of:

1. We could be moving towards covetousness when our thoughts are wholly taken up with the world. A simple test that we can take is where does our mind go when it is free from the task at hand; to the world or to the things of God?
2. We can be moving towards covetousness when we take more pains getting what is of this world rather than what is of heaven.
3. Our conversation can reveal the spirit of covetousness within us. John 3:31 “One who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth.”

It would seem that the root of covetousness is distrust in God’s providence. So it would seem that faith in God and His Word is the victory that will overcome and 1 John 5:4 states: “This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

What is happening today is that since we have moved on from a Christian consensus to a humanistic one, this is now affecting our law laid down in our Constitution as well as God’s law.

With a Christian consensus there were absolutes and that gave us the base for making laws, but now law is becoming arbitrary. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said: “Truth is the majority vote of that nation that could lick all others.” In other words, what he was saying is that law is only what most people think at that moment of history and there is no higher law.

What this means in our society, especially here in the Western world is that law can be changed at any given moment of time to reflect the mood of the people. In other words, there are no absolutes, the standards are what the majority thinks. With this thought in mind we can now understand why the 10 Commandments are being removed from our public places because they stand for absolutes.

What is happening is that law becomes what a few people in government think it should be or what they think promotes the sociological and economic good of the people. In other words**, God is out and man is in.**

So we find that the moral judgments of the majority are now influenced by, or even overruled by the opinions of a small group of men and women. Values can be altered overnight at an almost unbelievable speed.

John Locke wrote an essay stating that knowledge and understanding come from sensory experience which gained wide acceptance among the so-called “Enlightenment Thinkers” as having some validity. This idea led to another idea that by being able to control the intake of sensory experience the contents of our minds could be manipulated, which in turn led to the belief that by controlling the impressions that we receive by legislation we can control what people learn and know. So this led to the belief that people can be improved, not by religion, but by legislation, and education became the prime factor in all of this. This is what led to the re-education camps of the 20th century as well as a social experiment by the Soviet Union. The new task of politics was to make man virtuous.

We can now look back at the dust-bin of history and what do we see?  Soviet Union collapsed and that legislation failed.  All of this is an attempt to gain what the Lord Jesus Christ gives us freely when we come to Him.  We can become a new creature, but this life is found in Christ not in what man can do.

“And God spoke all these words.” These Commandments did not come from the inspiration of man, but by revelation from God. Yet we see how they have been downplayed in our societies worldwide. We are not saved by the law, but through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the law is given to protect our unalienable rights that come from God and not from the state.

Chapter 12

Is America at War with God’s Law?

Conclusion

Isaiah 59:14-15 “So justice is driven back and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.”

In doing this series on the Ten Commandments one thing stood out that I would like to end with. Just as God has set in place laws to govern this universe so He has done the same thing for the moral fabric of society in what these Ten Commandments stand for. We are not saved through the law (if that was the case then the incarnation of the Lord with Him dying on the cross would be of no effect), but we are saved through the amazing grace of God through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross.

However, the law has been given to us to direct us in the right way or right path in order to live a productive life; one that is true and just in a fallen world.

We see the war that has been waged against God’s law with it being removed from our government courts, schools and other public buildings. We seem to think that by getting rid of the law of God we now have freedom to do what we want and to believe that what we think, apart from God’s law is right.

In other words, like Israel in the Old Testament under the judges at the close of Joshua’s reign, they each did as they wanted in their own opinion of right and wrong; they were right in their own eyes but not right with God.

What we do not understand is that by getting rid of the Ten Commandments (as gaining what we think is freedom) this has put us under the tyranny of thousands of ‘little man-made laws’ that has enslaved us instead and most people (even Christians) do not understand that they are slaves and not freemen.

For example: take property rights. God’s 8th commandment is “do not steal,” meaning that we have the right to property of our own, but look at all of the ‘little laws’ that have popped up taking away our rights slowly but surely.

For example: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is becoming very powerful can declare your property worthless because of some minor infraction under their man-made laws, and take it from you. Or take the government’s ability to issue property tax that if not paid they can take away your property.

Another example: the ‘little law’ in existence called ‘eminent domain.’ This law gives the government the right to take private land for public purposes, but only if the government provides fair compensation to the property owner. The process through which the government acquires private property for public benefit is known as condemnation.

How this works is that the government will come in when the town or city is expanding and see private property to acquire for this expanding purpose and will then offer the owner what they think is a reasonable price. If the owner agrees then it is settled, but if the owner does not then it goes into ‘condemnation proceedings’ where the owner then comes and brings out the price that they think is fair and then the two: government and owner settle the matter. However, we find that developers wanting a piece of property also go to the government and persuade the government to use ‘eminent domain’ to acquire private property that can then be developed often for the benefit of the developer, but primarily for the expansion of the town or city for the increase of tax revenue.

What we are finding today are other ‘little laws’ taking away our rights, one by one. For example: we have today a law called ‘hate law.’ Sounds good because we do not want any hate speech taking place, but in reality we see that it is a law that bans one from even preaching certain truths from the Word of God because it convicts (condemns) us under God’s law. For example: calling homosexuality a sin can now be labeled as hate speech.

Because Pandora’s Box has been opened, where all of this will go no one (but the Lord) knows, but Isaiah prepared us for it by telling us about a time like this: “Justice is far from us and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows… We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but is far away. So justice is driven back and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.” Isaiah 59:9,11b,14,15

If this sounds familiar in our day it is only because we have rejected God’s law that gives us freedom to do what is right and true with protection of that freedom. Yet, we have been brought into bondage by these ‘little man-made laws’ man has conjured up.

I admire the giant intellect and moral standing of our Founding Fathers when they drafted our Constitution that has stood the test of time, but is now being lowered to the dust bin of history. We need men/women in the seat of government who will govern with the Constitution in mind and do that which is true, right and just. We still have the power of the vote. Might we use it wisely. Amen?