

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: The Law

The Heights Church March 19, 2017

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2

- [A problem of seeing God?](#)

[1 Timothy 6:15–17](#), “He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, **whom no one has ever seen or can see**. To him be honor and eternal dominion.”

[Matthew 5:8](#), “Blessed are the pure in heart, for **they shall see God**.”

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2 (John Piper)

- **We can't see God even spiritually** with unmediated directness. This is partly owing to our sinfulness and partly owing, perhaps, to our creaturely weakness. He is too great, too bright, too glorious, and we could not live if we saw him with unmediated directness. We must always have Christ our Mediator as a go-between. And I think that is what Jesus meant when he says in [John 6:45–46](#), “It is written in the Prophets\*, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me — not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.”
- \*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. (Isaiah 54:13)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2 (John Piper)

But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:36 - 44)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2 (John Piper)

- Now, when it says, “except he who is from God; he has seen the Father,” he means, not with physical eyes. The Son of God didn’t have physical eyes before the incarnation, and that is what he is contrasting our seeing with. Only the Son can see the Father with non-physical, unmediated, direct seeing. We cannot see God spiritually the way the Son of God in unmediated directness can see him.
- We use the word “see” to mean that we finally understand and discern the beauty and glory of God after being blind to it. Like when we say: Oh, now I see. Our soul is tuned in to the glory so that the glory of God that shines through the gospel is seen as glorious, and we are no longer spiritually blind to it. That is the first way we see him.

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2 (John Piper)

- And the second way is that, in the narrative of the Bible, we see the glory of God and finally we will see him face to face through Christ — by seeing Christ. So, [John 1:14, 18](#) says, “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. . . . No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.**” So, we see God by seeing Jesus. And [1 John 3:2](#), “**We know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.**”
- **So, the implication is: Pursue purity of heart, purity of faith, purity of life so that your heart is able to see God’s beauty as what it really is in the Scripture, and so that, when he comes or when he calls us in death, we will see him face to face and be glorified with him.**

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 3

**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)**

- **Profanity in a worldly sense is certainly wrong but that is not mainly what is in mind in taking the LORD's name in vain.**
- **We access God through his name not an idol and hence must not use God's name in false worship, incantations, divinations, for attesting falsehood or speaking blasphemy. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (Matthew 6:9)**
- **Not only should we keep God's name holy and set apart (hallowed) but God Himself does the same.**

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 3

**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)**

- **We take God's name in vain whenever we use it lightly, carelessly or in oaths that intentionally are unfulfilled.**
- **Perjury is prohibited as well as wrongfully interpreting God's motives.**

And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. (Deuteronomy 1:27)

- **The essence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment is reverence for God's self-revelation.**