

# Exodus (The Way Out)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, April 21/22, 2018 Ray Davis

## Exodus 19:1-20:26 “The Perfect Ten”

If you were to summarize the characteristics of a perfect person, a perfect family, or a perfect community, what would be on your list? No need to do that, God has done that for us by giving us The Perfect Ten (10 Commandments)! God boiled everything He needed to say to people about how to flourish in life, in our relationship with Him and others into the 10 Commandments.

Sad to say but most people in American culture would be hard pressed to tell you what is on the list let alone the purpose for the list and frankly don't care.

### **Three Primary Perspectives:**

#### **Moralism (Legalism): I obey; therefore, God accepts me.**

Yes, God is very loving, but in the end, you must be good, or He won't love you. Law is primary, and love is secondary. His blessings are conditional.

#### **Antinomianism (Liberalism): God accepts me; therefore, I don't have to obey.**

Yes, you should obey but, in the end, God loves everybody and will accept everybody. Love is primary, and law is secondary. His blessings are unconditional.

#### **Gospel (Liberty): God accepts me in Christ, therefore I want to obey.**

Are His blessings conditional or unconditional? Yes! Why? Because on the Cross, Jesus completely fulfilled the conditions of the law so that God could love you completely unconditionally. This leads to paradoxical obedience: I take sin seriously and avoid it like crazy because it's very destructive and it is why Jesus died, but when I do sin I don't fall into condemnation or despair because it is why Jesus died.

### **Four Purposes for The Perfect Ten (10 Commandments):**

- 1) To invite us into intimacy with God as His treasured possession.** Ex19:4-5; 1John 4:19; Matt22:37; John14:15
- 2) To create a God-glorifying countercultural community.** V6 a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Matt5:13-16; 1Pet2:9; Luke 6:20-49

### **3) To reveal the inner workings of your heart.** Ex20:1-17; Pro4:24; James 2:20

- **The vertical (1-4) is connected to the horizontal (5-10).** 1John4:7-21
- **The internal (head/heart) is connected to the external (hand).** Matt5-7; Luke6:43-45
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment is connected to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> commandments.** Exodus 20:3; 1John5:21

### **4) To show us our desperate need for Jesus our Savior.**

Ex20:18-21 Response of fear. Ex20:22-25 God provides a way to approach Him. Rom3:20-24; 2Cor5:21; 1John5:3

### **Growing Notes**

- 1) Read the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph on the sermon notes. What are your thoughts and feelings? Did you ever think of the 10 Commandments as a means for the perfect society? Explain. Do you think most people see God's 10 Commandments as coming from His perfect love and infinite wisdom for our best interests? Why or why not?
- 2) What are the three categories for the ways people see the purpose of God's law? Which one do you tend to default towards? Read Exodus 19:1-8, 20:1-17. What is the order: Obey me and I'll save you, or is it I've saved you therefore obey me? Explain.
- 3) God does not give them the law and then deliver them; he delivers them and then gives them the law (Note: Ex19:5-6). That means the purpose of the law cannot be to get God to love you, accept you and get you to heaven (Rom3:20-24). Explain. How is this different from how most of us think and from every other major religion in the world?
- 4) What is the purpose of the law (Review the four points and Bible references)? Which one(s) are most compelling to you? Which one(s) are most convicting to you? What should we do if (or when) we break God's law (1John 1:9/Rom8:1)? How can we overcome patterns of sin (Titus2:11-12/1John5:3)? What is God speaking to you? Pray.