

## TEN RULES FOR THE ROAD

Exodus 19:1-25

April 5, 2009 Sunday pm

### INTRODUCTION

- A. "A few years back Ted Turner, the outspoken chairman of the Turner Broadcasting System and the creator of CNN, declared the Ten Commandments to be outmoded.
  1. He said they weren't relevant to current global problems such as overpopulation and the arms race
  2. To replace them, Turner offered his own, "Ten Voluntary Initiatives." They included: to help the downtrodden, to love and respect planet Earth, and to limit families to two children.
  3. He concluded by calling Christianity a religion of losers." [David Holwick. "Laying Down the Law." Exodus 19:3-8. Sermon Central]
- B. Today, we introduce ourselves to the Ten Commandments.
  1. In Exodus 19:5-6 God told Israel why he rescued them from Egyptian bondage. It was to show the world what a relationship with God looks like.  
**Exodus 19:5-6** <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."
  2. God then gave Israel the Ten Commandments so the world could see how people could have a relationship with him.
- C. Is Ted Turner correct? Are the Ten Commandments outmoded?
  1. Jesus didn't think so.  
**Matthew 5:17-18** <sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.
  2. The word "fulfill" means "to give full meaning".
  3. Today lets consider at least three purposes the Ten Commandments still serve today.

### I. FOR ONE THING, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ACT AS A MORAL MIRROR.

- A. The Law of Moses as the Ten Commandments were known by the Israelites revealed their sinfulness by showing a striking contrast between their actions and God's holiness.
- B. The Apostle Paul confirms the reflective quality of the Ten Commandments.  
**Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

### II. SECOND, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ACT AS A COMPASS OR MAP.

- A. They were given to show Israel how to live their lives in accordance with God's will.
- B. Indeed, the entire Bible serves this purpose.  
**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

### III. FINALLY, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS POINT US TO CHRIST.

- A. This is what the Apostle Paul says.  
**Galatians 3:24** So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.
- B. The Ten Commandments won't take us to heaven, but they will point us in the right direction—to Jesus.

## CONCLUSION

- A. So Ted Turner is incorrect. The Ten Commandments are not outmoded after all.
- B. Why? Because....
  1. They serve as a moral mirror showing us what sin is and that we are indeed sinners ourselves.
  2. They serve as a guide or map showing us what God expects from us.
  3. They serve to point us to Jesus where we discover we can be saved not by keeping the Law but by faith in Christ.