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GOD'S STANDARDS

By Myron F. Boyd

Light and Life Hour Series Number 6

Messages on the Ten Commandments
Delivered on the Light and Life Hour
Winona Lake, Indiana

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TO KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, ONE MUST KNOW THEM.

"Thy Word have I Hid in My Heart that
I might not sin against Thee."

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make Unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

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PREFACE

This booklet contains 13 radio messages delivered over the American Broadcasting Company's network and around the world by both long and short wave. Ten of the messages are on the TEN COMMANDMENTS. The other three messages are entitled: TRUE GOSPEL MINISTERS, THE MIGHTY BAPTISM NEEDED, and AMERICA UNDER GOD.

We trust these messages will stir hearts and change lives. That was the purpose of their delivery on the air, and that is their purpose in printed form. After reading the booklet, loan it to your friends and neighbors. Additional copies may be had by writing to the Light and Life Hour, Winona Lake, Indiana.

You are urged to pray for the worldwide ministry of the Light and Life Hour. You are also invited to share in the financial responsibility of carrying on such a large project in evangelism. Send all gifts to the Light and Life Hour, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Station logs are available upon request. Write for your supply to use in obtaining new listeners to the broadcasts.

The Light and Life Hour received for five consecutive years the trophy from the National Religious Broadcasters for producing the best all around gospel program on the air today among evangelicals. This year (1952) the trophy was granted to us permanently.

Brief quotations appear in the messages from G. Campbell Morgan, Clovis G. Chappell, and B. A. Maurer.

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1 FIRST COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

One has said, "The atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman." Vedder once said, "When the universe began, God, they say, created man. Later, with a mocking nod, man annihilated God." Harry Emerson Fosdick has said, "God is not a cosmic bell-boy for whom we can press a button to get things."

Strange are the many ideas which men have concerning God. The gods which have been created by men have never done any thing for man, but the eternal God has done every thing for man. Thus God has a right to say, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

In these days when people are seeking for a finer and fuller way of living, I want to suggest that God's laws if kept are the foundation for such a full and fine life. A divided mind, heart, or life will sooner or later ruin any man's peace and wreck his life. Thus we are told to have but one God in our life.

If God is our best Friend, our Emancipator, and our Guide, then we owe Him the strictest obedience, love and worship. In Christ, God emancipates us from the power of sin and inner slaveries. If all this is available to us through the true God, how useless and unavailing are all other gods!

Matthew Henry says: "The Egyptians, and other neighboring nations, had many gods, the creatures of their own fancy, strange gods, new gods. This was the sin Israel was most in danger of now that the world was so overspread with polytheism. The sin against this commandment which we are most in danger of is giving the glory and honor to any creature which are due to God only. Pride makes a god of self; covetousness makes a god of money; sensuality makes a god of the belly; whatever is esteemed or loved, feared or served, delighted in or depended on, more than God, that we do in effect make a god of." Then Matthew Henry explains what it means to have no other god before the true God: "This prohibition includes a precept which is the foundation of the whole law, that we take the Lord for our God, acknowledge that He is God, accept Him for ours, adore Him with admiration and humble reverence, and set our affections entirely upon Him."

To enlarge upon this same thought, let me tell you what Dr. W. Robertson Nicoll said: "The strength of our position is experimental. If the experience which testifies of Jesus were historical

alone, I might refuse to give it credit: if it were only personal, I might ascribe it to enthusiasm. But as long as a great crowd of living witnesses, and all the history of the Church, declare the reality of His salvation, while I myself feel the sufficiency of what He offers (or else the bitter need of it), so long the question is not between conflicting theories, but between theories and facts. To have another god is to place him beside One whom we already have, and who has wrought for us the great emancipation. It is not an error in theological science -- it is ingratitude and treason."

God, in a strong statement of accusation said concerning people of old, and it applies to many today: "This people honoreth me with their mouths, but their hearts are far from me." God asks for love and trust and loyalty, and all our litanies should express and cultivate these.

Martin Luther once asked: "What is it to have a god, or what is God?" Then he answered his question: "He is God, and is so-called, from whose goodness and power thou dost confidently promise all good things to thyself, and to whom thou dost fly from all adverse affairs and pressing perils. So that to have a God is nothing else than to trust Him and believe in Him with all the heart, even as I have often alleged that the reliance of the heart constitutes alike one's God and one's idol . . . In what thing soever thou hast thy mind's reliance and thine heart fixed, that is beyond doubt they God."

The Chaldeans were idolaters of an elaborate and imposing ritual, but their true deities were not to be found in temples. They adored what they really trusted in, and that was their military prowess -- the god of the modern commander, who said that providence sided with the big battalions. The Chaldean then is he whose might is his God.

The "god of this world" is the god being served by millions today. He is helpless compared to the almighty eternal God whom some of us have chosen to be "our God for ever and ever." Are you trusting in the weak, helpless gods of this earth when the Almighty God is available to you?

We have sold out most of the great Christian principles for gods of this world. We are money mad and pleasure mad. National leaders have sold out principle for money, saturating themselves with drunkenness and sensuality, and causing the entire nation to suffer. Individually we have placed other gods in our hearts and minds instead of the true eternal God. Whatever we have of worth, we work for or meet specified conditions in order to obtain. There may be gold in the hills but before that gold becomes ours, it must be mined. There is learning to be had from books, but we must spend hours in concentrated reading in order to obtain the knowledge recorded in them. We might think there is beautiful music in a violin, but many long hours must be spent in practice. Fritz Kreisler could get the music out of the violin but for years he had met conditions which made him such an outstanding violinist.

People leave God out of their lives because of wishful thinking, preoccupied minds, selfish desires, sinful indulgences. Now listen, while we put the first commandment in a positive way: "If thou wilt let all other gods go, then thou shalt have me."

Clovis G. Chappell once said: "We no longer think of Mars as a person, but we worship the things for which he stood. We no longer bow at the shrine of Venus, but that for which Venus

stood still lays its enslaving and defiling hand on millions. We wouldn't dream of worshipping Bacchus, the god of drink and revelry, as a person. But perhaps he has never been shown greater respect, nor had more willing worshipers, than in wet America today. The Chamber of Commerce in Dayton, Ohio, once made a test to see how the people of that city were spending their money. They found that the citizens of Dayton were spending \$113,000 more each week for liquor than for groceries. In 1938 the Central Christian Advocate published a statement that in five years those on relief who were being supported by the money of the taxpayers had spent three billion dollars on liquor. Yes, our gods are still with us and we worship them with the same fervency as did those of early Bible days."

Listen, my friend, there is a roadway to spiritual certainty. Make God the supreme choice of your heart's desires, and you shall know Him in all His beauty and power and saving grace. Unless you take God seriously when He said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," you cannot know Him in reality.

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2

SECOND COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"

"Why is Gothic architecture better adapted for religious buildings than any Grecian or Oriental style?" asks Dr. Nicoll. Then he says: "Because its long isles, vaulted roofs, and pointed arches, leading the vision up to the unseen, tell of mystery, and draw the mind away beyond the visible and concrete to something greater which it hints; while rounded arches and definite proportions shut in at once the vision and the mind. The difference is the same as between poetry and logic. And so it is with worship. We fetter and cramp our thoughts of deity when we bind them to even the loftiest conceptions which have ever been shut up in marble or put upon canvas. The best image that ever took shape is inferior to the poorest spiritual conception of God in this respect if no other -- that it has no expansiveness, it cannot grow."

If, however, architecture, attractive appointments or images satisfy our hearts, then we have not truly worshipped God. The second commandment reads: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Israel had been enslaved and then wonderfully liberated by God. Israel had seen the power of God manifested in an outstanding way over and over again. Now, think of her going into idolatry! Imagery was not the sin God is attacking, but idolatry. The worship of the golden calf is the first recorded instance of idolatry on the part of the Israelites. Israel knew that the true God was not the god of the Egyptians. The difference between Almighty God and the deities of Egypt had been abundantly exhibited.

The god they formed was after an Egyptian deity represented by the Apis-bull. This animal was held in the highest honor by the Egyptians. A beautiful temple was its home. It was worshipped. It was attended by men who were supposed to be holding holy office. When it died, it was embalmed, placed in a marble coffin, and buried in a stone tomb amid expensive ceremonies. Just a bull but made the object of worship in the place of God.

The sad thing is that such a people could forget so quickly the God who had delivered them from bondage, from death, from suffering.

Notice the prayer which Moses prayed on their behalf! In deep anguish of spirit he pleads: "Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin --; and, if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book." His prayer was answered, but the people were severely punished. Millions today are worshipping gods that are of no more value than the image of a bull. No wonder we don't have peace, joy, victory, or power in God!

Man is incurably religious. Every rational person has some god to which he yields his heart and for which he lives. No primitive people has ever been found anywhere who did not worship some deity. It is a very unnatural thing when any individual or group professes to be atheistic. Only the fool says in his heart: "There is no God." The real reason people hide under their professed belief in atheism according to the Bible is that they are corrupt, have done abominable works, and are afraid they will be made to answer for them. Every man has in his heart, whether he admits it or not, some sort of god.

Men in their search for God have made images in the likeness of man; then they have ascribed deity to the great forces of nature such as the sun, moon, stars, thunder, lightning, and the oceans. So the Greeks and Romans personified and deified these forces and gave them such names as Jupiter, Juno, Venus, Mercury, Neptune, et cetera.

When men follow their own depraved hearts and reasoning, they make for themselves helpless gods. Oh, why will men content themselves with miserable counterfeits of God?

There is no excuse whatsoever for false imitations today. God was clearly revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and in His Holy Bible. So, Paul says: "And the times of this ignorance, God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

The idols which men worship most today are SELF, MAMMON, PLEASURE, and HONOR or POWER. B. A. Maurer says of this god of Self: "There are those, and not a few, who know of nobody and nothing greater and more wonderful than themselves. The world revolves about themselves, and all exists and functions only to serve them. They are so intelligent that God's Bible truths are criticized here and cried down there; they are so self-sufficient that they feel no need of God; they are so proud that God's condemnation of sin and sinners in Scripture is felt as offensive and insulting; they are so good that no god can find much fault with them. And, if there is a heaven, they will certainly have a right to enter it. The most these self-absorbed people will ever throw in God's direction is a few polite gestures, and even then they feel God ought to feel highly complimented by such attentions on their part."

That is a scorching accusation, but it is true in the light of human experience. What help can be hoped for when a man is a sinner and needs forgiveness, when a man is dying and needs eternal life, from such a god as SELF? If that is our god, we are eternally lost.

Others live for money. Money cannot buy health, true happiness, forgiveness, salvation, or eternal life. One may have plenty of it and then lose it all over night. When dying, what are you going to do with your money? It cannot buy your way into heaven.

Others live for pleasure. Too often it is only lust -- not genuine pleasure. Today, as in the days of Noah, men are living for the lowest sensuous lusts of the flesh. Everywhere I go I see the people living for such cheap, tawdry, fleshly things that only make fools of them, and yet they laugh at you if you suggest any higher standards or more excellent way. They have sold out to earthly gods and are being deceived and devoured by them. Oh, why will men stoop to such low levels which only ruin them financially, physically, intellectually, spiritually, and eternally? Many employers admit that people spend Sunday in such a mad and frantic chase after pleasure that all day Monday is needed for recovery from the sheer exhaustion of it.

Earthly gods not only fail us when it comes to eternity, but they also let us down even in this life. There is very little pleasure to be had in the years of old age, when one must struggle increasingly with feebleness and pain. What possible help can be hoped for from earth's sordid pleasures when a man departs this life and stands before a holy God at the Judgment to answer for any indulgence in them?

In politics especially we have seen how men will do anything to curry favor. They turn their back on God, right, and duty, trim their sails to any wind, lie, cheat, steal to win their way to places of honor and power. We also see it elsewhere as well as in politics. Every phase of life is saturated with that kind of stuff all over the country and around the world.

Listen, friend, I challenge you to study any god of this world. You will find that they are all helpless, dead, and unable to save you, cleanse you, satisfy you, or keep you. They will every one let you down. In the dark hour of death when you need them most, they will not be there.

Joshua cried out: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." There is only one God who can help man at any time. He is the one who will never leave nor forsake us if we put Him first in our hearts and lives. Then, when you are dying, He will be there to pilot you over into the Eternal City.

I exhort you now to throw away your idols, your false gods, your gods of this world, your routine dead religion, your insincere worship, your impure habits and unclean motives and confess your sins, and accept the only true God as your God. He will save you, He will cleanse you, He will satisfy you, He will keep you, and He will give you eternal life.

Get up off your knees if you are bowing down to false gods -- then bow down in humility before the Eternal Almighty True God, and something wonderful will happen to you. I challenge you to do it with all your heart just now.

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3

THIRD COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"

A name means something only as it is connected with a personality. The names of Washington and Lincoln have been held in highest esteem in the United States. The name of Harry Truman means one thing to Democrats and something else to Republicans. The names of Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin are recognized the world over as representing certain ideologies. Among evangelicals in the church world the names of Dr. Harold Ockenga, Dr. Leslie R. Marston, Dr. R. L. Decker, Dr. F. C. Fowler, and Dr. Paul S. Rees are outstanding as great Christian leaders.

There is a Name above every name and today I want to talk to you concerning what God's Book says about it in the third commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

We in so-called Christian America cannot be proud of the frequent misuse of God's name. Profanity and swearing are so common today. People have lost their minds and their tongues are loose at both ends. Oh, that men would stop and think long enough to really realize what they are saying!

Someone has suggested that what America needs is a national mouthwash with strong soap and water to shock it into a realization of what it is doing with this careless, unthinking, and frivolous cursing. As far as I am concerned, we need more than a mouthwash, we need our hearts washed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The fountain must be impure that sends forth such profanity as we hear all about us these days. In nature there is no fountain that one day spouts forth fresh cool drinking water, and the next day bitter, poisonous, salty water. But the tongue is capable either of praising God or cursing God. Note the Scripture: "With the tongue bless we God even the Father, and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

To realize how good God has been to man, and then to realize how man treats God, and takes His Holy Name in vain, is to realize that man's nature has most surely been warped and twisted by sin and Satan. Conversations mixed with vile, mouth-filling oaths, that one hears in so many places these days, is disgustingly insipid and only exhibits stupidity and ignorance. If your shriveled-up vocabulary includes swearing and cursing, you are using the same language thugs, morons, criminals and prostitutes use.

Clovis Chappell has said that "some men and women swear as if they had been to hell for their schooling and had had the devil himself for their schoolmaster."

When I was but a high school boy working in a grocery store I remember the terrible language men would use in speaking of women. It filled me with indignation and disgust. How much worse it is to think of men cursing Almighty God!

Along with this prohibition of profane language God is also telling us not to lie thereby making an oath necessary to prove we are telling the truth. So, Jesus said: "Swear not at all! But let your communication be, Yea, Yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Man first began taking the name of God in vain to convince others of his honesty. Because a man takes an oath does not necessarily mean he is telling the truth.

God wants us to reverence His Holy Name. Men who are conscious of His nearness, and try to live according to His divine will, and praise Him as their Saviour and Lord, do not take that wonderful name in vain. The only real cure for cursing and swearing is a genuine personal and noble conception of God. Men who are humble and trust in God do not speak lightly of Him or take His name in vain. Men who believe in and depend upon God cannot fail to do Him honor for out of the abundance -- out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Genuine Christians are always living for, talking about, and singing praises to their God. To hear His name taken in vain grieves and breaks their hearts.

It used to be that we considered men who swore as being vile and filthy. They were drunkards or outcasts from society. Today, men of high degree and low degree; men educated and uneducated; men wealthy and poor; in public office and private swear by note until it has become such a habit thousands of people just take it for granted. But, listen, God will not permit us as a nation to go on swearing and cursing -- taking His name in vain -- without His judgments coming upon us.

The thing that is most disgusting is for people who know not God in reality to stand outside the church with their cigars, cursing, telling filthy stories, and then to go inside the temple of God and go through a form of worship, only to go outside and pick up the old life where they laid it down. That is exactly what God meant when he said we worshipped Him with our mouths but our hearts were far from Him. That is what Jesus meant when He said: "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" It is impossible to truly worship God one minute and turn around and use His name in vain the next minute. We are either all out for God or we are against God. Christ tells us that we must be either for Him or against Him. While it is our faith that saves us, our works are indicative of our faith.

What does it mean then to take the name of God in vain?

1) We take it in vain by our hypocrisy -- by making a profession of that name and not living up to it. We must part from iniquity if we take to ourselves the name of our God. Our worship is in vain, our oblations are in vain, our religion is in vain when we use the name of God insincerely.

2) We take the name of God in vain when we break our covenant with Him. If we make promises to God in all sincerity by conviction, let us keep them. God will not be mocked. Let us not kid ourselves -- God expects of us all that we promise Him we will do.

3) We take the name of God in vain by false swearing. That is calling upon God to be a witness to a lie. Men lie so much and so often these days they even make themselves believe a lie.

4) We take the name of God in vain by rash swearing, or in other words, mentioning the name of God in the form of an oath as a by-word with no good purpose.

5) We take the name of God in vain by using that name lightly and carelessly without any regard to its majestic significance. "When anything pertaining to God is turned into charms or spells, or into jest and sport, the name of God is taken in vain."

What is the penalty attached by God? "The Lord will not hold him guiltless." God's court will summon us to judgment. Oh, listen friend, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." But, that is the doom of all who reject, neglect, or accept without sincerity the commands of God. We are headed for judgment and hell unless we repent and believe in God by accepting Him wholeheartedly as Saviour and Lord. Christ died to forgive you -- to save you -- to give you eternal life. If you will confess your sins, turn your back on the old life, and believe in Christ's atoning blood for your salvation, you will find the only real cure for vain living and vain swearing. God in your life makes the difference.

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4

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"

There are always the extremists on both sides of any important question. The Pharisees for instance changed the Sabbath from a day of joy to a day of gloom. They had more than fifteen hundred rigid rules worked out concerning the Sabbath. For instance, if a man's ox fell in the ditch on the Sabbath, he might pull him out; but if the man himself fell in, he had to stay there. If a man should take a sup of vinegar for food, that was permissible, but if he took a sup in order to relieve his tooth ache, he had broken the Sabbath. If a man was bitten by a flea, he was compelled to permit the little pest to keep on biting him all day; for if he undertook to catch it, he was guilty of the sin of hunting on the Sabbath. The Puritans, perhaps, also went to extreme along this same line. For instance a sea captain who had been gone for two years returned to his home in Massachusetts on Sunday, and when his wife met him at the gate, he kissed her. But in those days it was not lawful to kiss one's wife on the Sabbath. This captain, therefore, was put in the stocks for his lack of reverence and his sin on the holy day.

Jesus Christ blazed with indignation against the Pharisees of His day. He told them that man was not made for the Sabbath, but that the Sabbath was made for man. There is no doubt but that our fathers may have overdone it in their strictness on the Lord's Day. But, as Clovis Chappel

suggests: "If the Sunday of our fathers was blue, ours seems to be a bit scarlet." Then he says, "Sunday is now for many the most hectic day of the week. It is the day in which those whose business it is to amuse us have to work the hardest. It is the day when we have some of our biggest athletic contests. It is the day when many, even of our church people, give their most elaborate parties. It is the day for our biggest picnics. It is the day on which we try to get enough exercise to last us an entire week, when we try to get enough sunburn to take a full six days to heal. It is the day when the largest crowds flock to the theaters. It is the day when our roads are most congested by traffic. It is the day that we send the largest number of wounded to our hospitals. It is the day on which we send the largest number of slaughtered to our morgues. Surely the day is no longer blue, but scarlet."

The sad thing is that the so-called Christian people today have drifted into carelessness under the spell of the world. Instead of the world getting its convictions from the church, the church seems to be running after the world in this respect. In my short life of slightly more than forty years, I can well remember when the influence of the church was sufficiently strong to keep business houses, amusement centers, and worldly places closed on Sunday. Today, in general, they are running wide open.

Sunday has been sacrificed upon the altar of the twin gods -- pleasure and profit. So, you see, the thing that is ruining the Lord's Day is the same thing that is undermining the whole of the Christian experience and life. We are living for pleasure and for money more than we are for God. No one can deny this.

Sunday, in the plan of God, is for the purpose of building the spirit of man. We have six days to use in the building of the body and the mind. Do you think it unfair of God to set one day apart for the building of your spiritual and eternal life? Man is more than an animal or even an intelligent animal -- he is an immortal soul.

We cannot misuse Sunday without robbing someone else of the proper use of Sunday. God has told us how to use the Lord's Day. It is for rest and worship. When we cease to worship, the pull of the world is liable to rob us of our day of rest. When we cease to rest, we are likely also to cease to worship. When we forget God's day, we will soon forget God. When we forget God, we turn our backs on life and lose our souls.

To be sure God is to be honored and served daily, but one day in seven is to be particularly dedicated to His honor and spent in His service and worship. It is God's day. It is a sacrilege to alienate it. The sanctification of it is a debt. Matthew Henry says: "It is designed for a memorial of the creation of the world, and therefore, to be observed to the glory of the Creator, as an engagement upon ourselves to serve Him and an encouragement to us to trust in Him who made heaven and earth." Again he says: "God has blessed, honored and sanctified it, let us not profane it, dishonor it, and level that with common time which God's blessing has dignified and distinguished."

Years ago a Christian was on his way to church on Sunday morning. A man with his wagon and team and load of wood came by. The Christian called out, "Stop, you are running over it." Then as he looked under the wagon, he cried again, "You are running right over it and are killing

it." The driver stopped, got down from the wagon, and looked for the mangled body of a child or at least a dog, but nothing was there. He then said to the Christian, "What did I run over?" "Over the fourth commandment," the Christian replied, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."

To abstain from work on the Lord's day, however, is not within itself sufficient. One must also make the day holy by worship of Almighty God. One is not a Christian just because he abstains from all forms of crime. We must not only flee from that which is evil, but we must also follow that which is good. So, the person who makes Sunday only a day for sleeping in and taking it easy to rest up for the six days to follow, is not doing his whole duty to God. To be sure we are to relax and rest on Sunday, but we are also to worship God.

In the days when the entire family went to church and sat together in the family pew, there was not the crime, wickedness, and indifference to religion that there is today. In the United States only about 20 million people go to church on Sunday morning, and only about 3 million go to church on Sunday nights. 65 million nonchurch members don't go to church, and 65 million church members don't go to church regularly so that about 130 million people in America are not regular church attendants. No wonder we are face to face with crime, sin, and disgrace! When we come back to God, God's day, and God's book, something will happen. No man can be a Christian and never go to the House of God for worship unless he is physically handicapped so that it is impossible. Christians love the church and are there for worship as often as they can get there.

God will not forever wink at our sin and forgetfulness of Him and His day. We cannot continue to use His day for a good time at the expense of sacrificing worship and devotion to Christ, and be blessed of God. To keep the Lord's Day is a duty we owe to God, to ourselves, and to our fellowmen.

R. W. Dale says of Sunday: It is a day to rejoice in; a day not of bondage, but of freedom; not of gloom, but of gladness; a day in which we declare that we are not merely merchants, mechanics, shopkeepers, lawyers, doctors, but men -- children of God and heirs of immortality; a day in which we assert our position as the rulers and lords of the material universe, and refuse to be in thrall to it and in which we claim to be the citizens of an invisible and Divine commonwealth. It perpetuates the memory not of our rescue from slavery in Egypt, but of a still nobler redemption. It bears witness to the resurrection of Christ; and to our resurrection with Him -- it is an "Easter" day in every week." Every Sunday is a reminder of one's present rest in God, and of one's eternal rest with God. Listen, wake up, let us make Sunday a great day of rest, love, worship, devotion, and we'll be better off now and eternally. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

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5

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"Honor thy father and thy mother"

The father was dead. The mother labored hard for years taking in washings, doing house work, and anything she could find to do in order to provide for her children and educate them. One of the boys became a physician and surgeon; he married a fashionable young lady; he had a good practice and an excellent home. He was ashamed of his poor old mother whose back was bent from many years of care, so he made his young bride think she was dead. Finally, his conscience got the better of him and he decided to tell his wife that an old aunt who had reared him was now ill and helpless and asked her if she would mind letting her stay up in their attic. Thus, he took his own mother to his dingy attic to stay. She ate the crumbs from their table; she slept on a cheap rough bed; she was deprived of seeing the beautiful sunshine, flowers, and grandeurs of nature.

Night after night the young man tossed in restlessness. His health began to break. After two long years he confessed to his wife that his own mother was up in the attic and that she had labored for twelve long years to get him through college and medical school. He and his wife went upstairs, begged the old mother to forgive them, brought her downstairs to the beautiful spare bedroom, took her to their bountiful table of good things to eat three times a day, took her out for a drive to enjoy the wonderful scenery about their community.

We would call that young man a wretch for treating his old mother as he did for so long.

Notice the contrast to the following story.

An old school master said one day to a clergyman who came to examine his school: "I believe the children know the catechism word for word." "But do they understand it? That is the question," said the clergyman. The schoolmaster only bowed respectfully, and the examination began. A little boy had repeated the fifth commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," and then he was asked to explain it. Instead of trying to do so, the lad blushing said: "Yesterday I showed some strange gentlemen over the mountain. The sharp stones cut my feet, and the gentlemen saw they were bleeding, and gave me some money to buy me some shoes. I gave the money to my mother, for she had no shoes either, and I thought I could go barefoot better than she could."

This fifth commandment is the "first commandment with promise." Obedience to our parents brings the divine blessing, saves us from youthful perils, and makes better adult citizens of us by having learned the lesson of obedience to law. Children who early learn how to obey are less apt to become criminals.

What have our parents done for us? They gave birth to us. They have educated us. They have provided for our wants and needs in days of infancy and weakness. They have loved us as no one else can. They have watched over us with intense interest. In many cases they have helped us spiritually to come to a realization of our need of God.

We honor our parents by a true reverence, by constant affection, by untiring obedience, and by every effort calculated to enhance their welfare and delight, by never causing them pain by our evil-doing, by caring for them in old age as necessary, by commending them to God in our prayers.

J. S. Excell says we must honor our parents because "God commands it, because blessing will be attached to it, because the high relationship demands it, because self-respect prompts it, and because in the future we will need a like regard."

We may contrast the promise given here to another passage of Scripture where we read: "Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother."

Shakespeare once said: "The voice of parents is the voice of gods, for to their children, they are heaven's lieutenants."

Notice how some of the outstanding Bible characters honored their parents: Joseph, though governor of Egypt, bowed himself with his face to the earth before his father, Jacob; Solomon, the most magnificent of earthly kings in olden days, honored his mother with the same reverence, rising up to meet her and bowing himself unto her, and giving her the place of honor at his right hand; and then notice that Christ was subject unto His parents. He set a real example once and for ever.

Dr. Maurer says: "Since it has pleased God to give life through generation and birth of parents, surely all of us, whose first third of life was so immeasurably enriched by them, must applaud God's gracious arrangement and His wise selection. Most of us will agree, I believe," said he, "that among the finest and best years of our lives were those carefree, sheltered, youthful years spent in the loving atmosphere of the parental home. That these two, who have done so immeasurably much for us, should receive as small return, honor, obedience, gratitude, and love at our hands is tremendously important to the righteous God, who gave us into their care and keeping."

No matter what weaknesses any one's parents may have, they have done more for us than any one else in the world, and we are under greater obligation and in deeper debt to them than we shall ever be to any other human being. Not only did the gift of life come to us from them, but they spent long sacrificial years, the best years of their lives, in tenderly nursing and nourishing us toward maturity. As humans we are born more helpless than most animals, and our period of dependency upon our parents is much longer than any animal. The best third -- the prime -- of our parents' lives was invested in us.

The government through the income tax law recognizes that it costs about \$600 a year to rear a child. That includes only the bare necessities of life. Then by the time we are 21 years of age, our parents have invested at least \$12,600 in us. If instead of rearing us, our parents had invested that money in interest-bearing securities, and to compound the interest for 21 years one would have to double the figure I just mentioned, which means our parents have invested approximately \$25,000 in us when we become of age. This does not include all the worry, sacrifice, heartache, love and prayer lavished so freely on us. When we begin to think of the size of the debt we owe our parents, we can realize why God said, "Honor thy father and thy mother."

Delinquency starts in the home. Where children refuse to obey and honor their parents, they generally become delinquents in every respect. We learn how to get along with others and to respect their rights in the home. If we fail to do so in the home, we will generally fail to do so in

society in general. Then we have lawbreakers and criminals on our hands. That is the reason we have more criminals in our jails and penitentiaries than we have college and university students in America. The purpose of this fifth commandment is not to protect the parents but to protect the youth.

Now, parents, I want to speak to you for a moment. You need love, wisdom, tact, good judgment, common sense, honesty, purity, a kind spirit and yet a firm discipline if you are to rear your children to be a blessing to this world. The biggest business in America today is the crime business. The criminals all came from homes -- homes in general where wholesome discipline and genuine love were not known. You will never make a great citizen out of your child by letting him have anything he wants anytime he wants it. You are only preparing him for a life of disgrace and confinement later on. But, listen, you cannot have discipline in your home unless you are willing to discipline yourself. If you don't want your son to drink and smoke, to gamble and lie, to curse and swear, then you quit such things yourself. If you want your children to be cultured and refined, then practice some culture and refinement in your own attitudes and relationships. If you want your children to be church minded, then you get up and go to Sunday school and church with them. If you want your children to be Christians, then you get down on your knees and ask God to make genuine Christians out of you. You cannot expect your children to be any better than you are. The younger generation today is exactly what we as parents are making of our children. We are going to be held responsible before Almighty God for our indifference, our sins, our bad examples, our lack of praying and church going, our lack of reverence for God and law.

Children and young people, honor your parents; but, parents, be sure you so live and rear your children as to have a right to expect them to honor you. The family altar will come nearer to blending the family in unity and building a great home than anything else. If you have not started one, start it today.

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6

SIXTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not kill"

"Thou shalt not kill." What a strange subject for a great congregation assembled in a missionary convention! I don't suppose very many murderers have come out to hear me or are listening over the air. But, listen, there is something in the natural heart of man that if rubbed the wrong way at the wrong time could easily get any one into trouble. There is more to this command of God than may appear on the surface. Martin Luther said of it: "We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need." Dr. Maurer has said in paraphrasing it: "Here God, as it were, is placing His protecting hand on every human head and declaring: 'Hands off! Untouchable, forbidden ground! I gave this life; I alone have the right to recall it; let no one trespass on my divine prerogative of setting the bounds of life; let no one decrease by a single hour the life span I allot him.'"

Life is irreplaceable when once gone. There is not power enough in all the scientific world to restore it. We can restore money, buildings, health or reputation, but we can never restore life once it is gone. Murder is a presumptuous usurping of God's rightful function. That is a most wicked thing to do.

Murder also prevents God from carrying out to the full His plan for any life on earth. Wicked men, whose lives have been cut short by murder, might even have been saved had they lived longer.

Since I am not speaking to murderers of human lives, I want to lay emphasis on how we may murder and commit suicide in other ways not generally thought of, yet of utmost importance. Anyone who willfully robs or deprives another of the opportunity of hearing the gospel and getting right with God is a murderer. Parents, that is directed to you; liberal preachers who deny the efficacy of Christ's blood, that is directed to you. Let me repeat: Any one who willfully robs or deprives another of the opportunity of hearing the gospel and getting right with God is a murderer. Is that not presumptuous usurping of God's rightful function just as much as taking the life of another?

We are so concerned about our church organization, our finances, our programs, and our social activities that the important matter of soul-winning is not given proper attention. If genuine Christian people would get a burden and passion for the lost around them and do something about it, we could and would see the greatest revival this world has ever known. We say "Amen" to such a fact, but go right out of our churches and missionary conventions to forget it. This will come to you as a shock but I say it under deep conviction: Down through the years, church leaders and church members have committed murder many times. When I think of the wasted hours in heated arguments over methods of worship, manner of one's personal attire, minor doctrines and standards not essential to salvation, and then realize how churches have kept people from attending their church by their attitudes or have driven them away by failure in love, my soul is pained.

It is time all evangelical churches unite in spirit to expose sin with all the holy unction that God gives us, and then to show the world how Christ so loved even the sinner that Christ died to save him from sin. As Christians we ought to be more devoted to the task of winning men and women to Christ than the devotees of any ideology anywhere in the world. When we fail, we permit souls to die without God.

Now take this matter of suicide: If any one has habits which result in the weakening of the heart or poisoning the bloodstream, and he knows it, it is suicide for him to continue with such bad habits. To over-indulge in anything to the extent that it becomes injurious to the body is in fact suicide.

Church members are constantly committing spiritual suicide. A worldly spirit is suicide to one's spiritual life; to live for the flesh is spiritual suicide; to deny one's self food for his soul is spiritual suicide; to shut one's ear to the voice of the Spirit to the Word of God is spiritual suicide; to be governed by carnal attitudes, to manifest a carnal spirit of selfishness, pride, envy, covetousness, hatred is spiritual suicide. To say evil things about a brother or sister for the purpose of injuring their reputation in the eyes of another is spiritual suicide and murder. To

withhold money from God's Kingdom because one doesn't agree with everything in the church or its work is spiritual suicide and murder. You have to pay your income tax whether or not you agree with everything about your government -- it ought to be the same with God's Kingdom. I would rather live in my country than any place else in the world so whatever it costs me, I'm willing to pay it. To be a Christian is the greatest thing in all the world. I wish I had more to give in support of God's Kingdom. Souls are at stake. My dollars may mean their salvation.

I want to say a word to you parents now: We owe it to our families to so rear them that they will "rise up and call us blessed." To save your child, you must be a genuine Christian yourself; you must study God's Word and attend God's house; you must live clean and honest; you must be spiritually minded; you must be consistent and kind, gentle and longsuffering, patient and sympathetic; you must be full of love and carry a burden for his salvation. Too many parents have been guilty of spiritually murdering their children. One young lady after a long discouraging battle took poison. She left a note in which she said: "Good-bye, Dad, I'll see you in hell." Is that shocking? I hope the shock of it will awaken us, stir us and drive us to our knees. If we had saved all our children to our churches, the world today would be a different place in which to live. If spiritual murder is the cause, God forgive us.

Oh friend, I have been stirred of late to the need of a mighty spiritual awakening every where. God has set up a standard in the Ten Commandments. How many of us know them? How many of you preachers even know them?

The difference between so-called Christians or church members and worldly people is altogether too little nowadays. I hate to admit it but the following story illustrates what I mean. A church building burned so the congregation was forced to find a temporary place for worship. Unable to locate such a place the tavern keeper offered his tavern. The congregation accepted the offer and met for several Sundays in the tavern for their services. There was a parrot in the tavern. On the first Sunday morning when the preacher entered to arrange for the service, the parrot said, "Well, new bartender!" When the choir entered, the parrot said, "Well, new floor show!" But, when the congregation or at least part of it entered, the parrot said, "Huh, same old crowd!"

Listen friends, it is high time we wake up. Sin is sweeping the world, crime is increasing, drunkenness is everywhere. No wonder we are in a mess in the world. We must stop our killing every way, both physically and spiritually. The only thing that will save us is old time religion. It will meet our modern day needs.

Oh friend, I want to tell you now of Christ's blood that can "make the vilest sinner clean." It can wash the carnal spirit and make us Christ-like. If you'll yield all to Christ and let Him remake you and fill you, your life can and will be a channel of blessing. There is no other power on earth that can do for the sinful human heart what the blood of Christ can. It can remove the deepest-dyed stain in any heart It can transform the most hellish temper into a sweetened disposition; it can make the stingy, covetous, envious spirit into a big heart of giving. Such an experience will transform even the murderer. Do you long for this transformation to take place in your heart and life? Wherever you are and just as you are won't you say, "O Lamb of God, I Come!?"

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SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not commit adultery"

Cruelty, desertion, non-support, incompatibility and a dozen other excuses are used to obtain quick and easy divorces today. Marriage was instituted at the time of man's creation and is a constituent part of human life.

God's plan for the home, for the sacredness of marriage, and for the propagation of the human race is a perfect plan. For that reason God says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." We ought to be blushing with shame when we think of the awful divorce rate in America. In some sections one out of every three marriages ends in divorce. This is a serious thing. There is absolutely only one excuse for divorce anywhere in the world, and that is adultery. Just because the state gives us a divorce is no sign we are free in the sight of God. Judge William J. Gaynor of New York who presided over the famous "Powers Divorce Case," said divorce was a divine as well as a legal matter. In instructing the jury, Judge Gaynor said: "I charge you gentlemen that so far as concerns any religious, or sacramental, or church bond existing between these people, we have nothing whatever to do with it. If you decide for divorce in this case, remember you only cut the knot tied by the State's law, but you absolutely do not touch the religious or sacramental bond which states that persons are married 'until death do us part.' When we are through with this case, that obligation is left untouched. We do nothing whatever to it. They are just as much bound by it after we get through with them, as they were before. We do not sever it, we do not break it -- and that is something, it seems to me, that is very often misunderstood."

This sin of unfaithfulness, lack of loyalty, and adultery is as old as sin itself. It came with the fall of man. The first principle of human life is its relationship to God. The second is its inter-relation, that of man to man. The spirit of this commandment forbids all unchastity.

Dr. O. Campbell Morgan says of the 7th commandment: "The command is a simple, unqualified, irrevocable negative. No argument is used, no reason given, because none is required. The sin is of so destructive and damning a nature that it is in itself sufficient cause for stern forbidding. To emphasize the commandment, therefore, it is only necessary to consider the sin against which it is directed. A sevenfold vice is this sin of unchaste conduct, being a sin against the individual, the family, society, the nation, the race, the universe, and God."

Science bears testimony to the awful demand of Nature for purity, and will assert that she has no pity for the unclean. The terrible results of unchaste life in the purely physical realm are such as cannot be mentioned here. Suffice it to say that disease has taken its toll of many thousands because of impure conduct. The statistics of lunacy tell horrible tales of the effect of unclean life upon the mental side of man's nature. Many sad stories prove that the highest spiritual culture and usefulness have been marred and ended by the sin of yielding unlawfully to lust. The perfect unity, then, of the body, soul, and spirit are destroyed by this vice.

Again let me quote Dr. Morgan: "To minimize the law against impurity is to deny the value of love. The love law of the universe is the will of God for all. Thus, every impure act or person strikes a blow at the very heart of God. By an eternal necessity He excludes the 'abominable . . . and fornicators' from the new heaven and the new earth, and gives them 'their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.'"

So highly does God think of marriage as He wants it to be, that He frequently uses it as a picture of His own relation to His covenant people. A number of times in the Old Testament Israel is spoken of as God's spouse and He as her husband, while the New Testament uses the same picture when it calls the Church Christ's bride. Surely, greater honor could scarcely be paid marriage than that it has been patterned after God's relation to the trusting, believing hearts that have enthroned Him.

I think a word should be said to unmarried youth at this point. This high ideal as outlined in God's Word is torn down by all manifestations of fleshly lust which would cheaply enjoy the privileges of marriage outside its bonds and apart from its responsibilities. He desecrates marriage and places himself on the lustful brute's level who boldly claims sexual license while cunningly sidestepping the serious responsibilities of marriage and parenthood. Of the young and unmarried this high ideal of marriage demands purity, unspotted chastity, in order that they might present themselves to their marriage partner as clean, pure, and chaste as they expect the other to be. Before God, with whom there is no respect of persons, there is of course no double standard either. Whether married or unmarried, fornication or adultery is sin in the sight of God and condemned severely by His Word.

Sin begins in the heart, in the imagination, and in the will. Thus Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount warned us to flee vain imaginations, lustful day-dreaming, for such will lead to the outward act of sin sooner or later. God is trying to put us on our guard, on constant watch against the first appearance of this most deceptive sin, for the God of purity will not dwell in the same heart that cherishes and finds pleasure in unclean, fleshly lusts. Listen, friend, get rid of sin if you want God to indwell you and bless you and use you. Some of us know that God and sin cannot abound in the same heart at the same time. One must go in order to make room for the other.

This commandment of God speaks to us today with peculiar timeliness and urgency. Society has let down the bars, and laxity in the moral law is prevalent everywhere in recent years as never before.

To practice this sin, one does it in secret. That is harmful. We do injury to ourselves the moment we have to shroud our conduct in secrecy. If we have something to conceal, there is always a nagging fear that somebody will discover our secret. The wise man said: "The guilty flee when no man pursueth." To live in fear is to live in wretchedness. A sense of guilt always accompanies this sin. Dr. Chappell tells this story of a young couple who defied society and the moral code. But somehow they could not see it through. They were found one day locked in each other's arms in their gas-filled apartment. On the table was this letter written by the girl. "We have been accustomed to laugh, Fred and I, at the moral code as a set of man-made rules to frighten timid folks into being good. But we have learned through our experience that the wages of sin is death, yea, many times worse than death, hell on earth.

Fifty thousand unmarried mothers are registered in the United States every year. Ten thousand girls die every year from illegal operations. Many thousands of orphans are made and homes are broken up everywhere. This sin is the curse of the age.

What is the cure for such recklessness? We must get rid of the cheap, lewd, magazines and fiction that have polluted the realm of literature in which the marriage relation is treated with amused pity, and whoremongers and adulterers are pitied and excused, if not defended. "Such (so-called) literature is the most pernicious prostitution of a free press that any country can suffer from." Again, cheap movies and vaudevilles are responsible for much of the laxity today. The dance halls also contribute largely to such looseness.

We may not be able to clean up these places and things as we should like, but we can preach a Christ who if given a chance can save people so well that impurity and sin has no place in the life. That is the hope of this age -- an old-fashioned revival of genuine religion. When a revival strikes, sin goes. When salvation is found, purity comes. Oh friend, turn to Christ. He can and will help you climb out of the low, immoral, unclean life into which you have fallen to a life of holiness and purity and heaven. If you have gone too far to save yourself, or for any one else to save you, remember -- there is still One who can. God can save you. Give Him a chance.

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8

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not steal"

We were told on good authority some few years ago that some sixty families owned and controlled one half of the nation's wealth, while about 150 million had only the other half to live on. One has suggested that "if we probe the methods by which these swollen accumulations of wealth were piled up, we find in many cases the most flagrant violations of God's expressed will that 'the laborer is worthy of his hire.' " In certain higher circles we must admit of wholesale stealing, of a greedy conscienceless grabbing of the fruits of the labors of others. This is against God's law and our own civil laws.

All of us are quick and ready to criticize men of wealth and companies of making millions of dollars in profits each year. We must agree that at times capital has not been as fair to labor as it should have been. Without doubt there has been an awful waste of money in careless handling of governmental affairs by politicians who knew nothing about economy. We agree that in one sense such is stealing. There is altogether too much stealing in high circles. We must condemn it for it is not in harmony with the law of God. When any one can make himself a multi-millionaire overnight by robbing from the employee and the consumer, that is sin.

Many of us, however, do not live or work in such high circles. There is just as much stealing on a low level and it is just as sinful in the sight of God. He who would steal small things would steal great amounts if he thought he could get by with it. The principle of stealing whether

on a small scale or a large one is sin. Don't be too quick to condemn the man who makes millions by stealing if you steal anything, even though it may be worth only ten cents.

A manager of a large ten-cent store recently said: "We lose thousands of dollars every year through thefts. People by the thousands steal small ten and fifteen cent articles right off our counters." So this sinful condition of the human heart is found on all levels of society. Why do men steal? Sin in the heart. A university professor with a fine salary was caught taking little things in a grocery store; a preacher, pastor of a large city church, was also caught stealing groceries; a wealthy woman was caught taking small items in a large department store. No wonder the boys and girls pick up things which do not belong to them.

It makes us shudder when we think of the origin of the great liquor fortunes, the great stock-market fortunes, or the great movie fortunes, made not by rendering men a useful service but by preying vulture-like on men's weaknesses and failings. But, when we realize that small children have the same subtle, sneaking, motivating power in their hearts, we realize the sinfulness of the human race. Oh, how deceitful is sinful man!

An honest laborer has every right to protection and should be paid well for his labors. But, the lazy drone who does nothing on the job, who demands and accepts high wages without really earning them, who watches the clock and merely puts in time, who engages in slowdowns or sit-down strikes and thereby cripples honest productive industry, is just as dangerous an enemy to society as the greedy exploiter of labor. Both are thieves. Surely labor has a right to be organized and to demand what is fair! But the scandalous abuses practiced by certain unprincipled leaders during the past few years is stealing. When labor leaders will call strikes that are damaging to the laborers themselves, to industry, and to a long-suffering public, while the leaders themselves strut and parade in unearned luxury, that is stealing. The honest laborer in such a case is being robbed, not helped by his organization.

If we could only learn that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesses!"

Then, too, stealing may be manifest in the things we have not done as well as in the things we have falsely taken. Dr. Chappell quotes the following:

"I never cut my neighbor's throat,
My neighbor's purse I never stole
I never spoiled his house and land,
But God have mercy on my soul!
For I am haunted day and night
By all the deeds I have not done;
O unattempted loveliness!
O costly valor never won!"

We owe something to the community in which we live; to the agencies that are making society better for all of us; to the church that proclaims a higher way of life, to the gospel benefits which we receive in so many ways. To withhold what we owe makes us thieves.

There are three whom we must not rob. First, let us not steal from ourselves. We never enrich but always impoverish ourselves when we steal from ourselves. Even selfishness is suicidal. We rob from ourselves when we waste time, when we waste money, when we waste physical strength, when we indulge in selfishness, pride, lust, covetousness. We rob ourselves from being at our best when we take poisons into our bodies by bad habits, or when we overindulge in even the legitimate things of life. We rob ourselves when we fail to read and study, when we fail to find out about God's way of life and salvation. We rob ourselves when we stay away from church and the means of grace.

We must not rob others of that which legitimately belongs to them. Material stealing is a crime universally abhorred. Intellectual stealing is also dishonest. It is stealing to so undermine society until the moral tone of the people is lowered. Every one who undermines public virtue is stealing. When we make slighting remarks about another's personality, wisdom, attitudes, or conduct, we rob them of their proper influence in society. Too often the remarks we pass on do not have any certain foundation. "Some one said so" is about all we know concerning it. When we plan any program that would hinder others from attending church or promoting God's Kingdom, we rob them of great values.

Then, too, we must not rob God. Most people rob God far more often than they rob men. You have no right to steal yourself from God. You belong to God, not to yourself. If you do not use yourself to the glory of God, you are stealing from God. If you withhold talent, time, energy, money, glory from God, you are stealing from Him. If we paid God up like we ought to -- just as well as we do the government our income tax, we would see the Kingdom of God going forward as never before. We are thieves and robbers if we are not giving God our tithes, using one day a week at least for His glory, laying ourselves upon His altar for service. To steal is to sin, to sin is to be lost unless we confess our sin and get under the blood of Jesus Christ. I beg of you to get right with God if you have been guilty of stealing from yourself, from others, or from God. It is your only hope for life eternal.

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9

NINTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor"

People all over the world are ashamed of failure and poverty. To be little and unknown, or to be poor, seems to fill the heart of the average man of the world with fear, terror and foreboding.

The only thing in the world we need to fear is sin. A reputation unsmirched by evil is a most precious possession. In the final analysis, it doesn't make much difference what anyone thinks of us except God. "To be right with God depends upon character, and character is not affected by reputation," says O. Campbell Morgan. Character is what a man is. Reputation is what others think of him.

The ninth commandment reads: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Some men pass for a better character than they really have and others probably have a purer character than they have been given credit. After all, only God knows the absolute truth concerning the character of a man, for "man looketh on the outward appearance, while God looketh on the heart." From the heart are the issues of life. Many a pure motive has been spoiled by lack of capacity to translate the motive into efficient service. The Psalmist describes God's knowledge of us in these lines: "O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off."

In our dealings with one another, we are to endeavor to know the truth. The intercourse of men with each other is to depend upon actual facts of character, conduct, and capability in as far as it is possible to know them. If they are not known one is not to act as though he does. Our whole social fabric is based upon testimony that one bears to another, and in order that that fabric may be established in truth and righteousness, such testimony is to be true.

Therefore, no testimony should ever be given beyond that which one knows to be the truth, and no facts are to be withheld intentionally that would alter the decision if the full truth were known.

In our courts it is expected that men shall tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. They are tribunals for the execution of justice. Justice is based upon truth, and any false testimony borne is a violation of truth and produces a miscarriage of justice. For this reason, therefore, perjury is made a criminal offense, and rightly so, because through perjury other forms of crime may go unpunished, and the innocent be made to suffer. The most bare and unblushing form of this sin is, of course, that of slander, the lie invented and distributed with malicious intention. Probably no form of injury done by man to man is more despicable than this.

If we rob a man of material things, they may soon be replaced if not recovered. But the slanderer who invents a lie forms a weapon that takes away a reputation and the chances are that it may not be regained. This, often times, causes untold and prolonged suffering to the innocent, while in so many cases, the liar goes on undiscovered and unpunished.

Now, very few people, comparatively speaking, will ever have to testify in a courtroom. But there are other ways in which we bear false witness. We do so by tale-bearing. That is, we repeat stories we have heard without careful investigation and certain knowledge of the truth. Surely we must protect society by telling the whole truth at the proper time to the right persons, but we are never to deliberately, maliciously pass on that which we know to be true just to make it hard on an individual in order to get the better of him. The truth spoken with malicious intent is just as much a sin as the bearing of false witness.

False witness is borne when a false impression is given out. To hint that something is wrong without going into the facts is bearing false witness. Then, too, by being silent when we ought to speak up is to bear false witness. To tell the truth when one knows it, is just as necessary as to keep still when one doesn't know the truth. We are morally obligated to protect both the individual and society. Then, again, the imputation of motive is a prolific source of evil. We are much too careless about hinting that people have a wrong motive in doing certain things. No man is

the rightful judge of another's motives. Listen to what God says in His Word: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Jesus' teaching was very clear: "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Most of us wouldn't throw very many stones if we carefully obeyed the injunction.

Flattery is also a form of false witness. One commentator says regarding this: "To say to another man concerning him things which are not believed to be true, which, indeed, are known to be untrue, simply for the sake of pleasing him, and paying tribute to his vanity, is to perjure the soul, and may be to imperil his safety. In the same way, to utter unwarranted praise, to give a testimonial of character, or to recommend a man simply out of friendship for him while he is known to be unworthy of the testimony borne, is to inflict injury upon the person to whom he is recommended (and to inflict injury upon the one recommended)."

To break the ninth commandment is to be a thief, a coward and a liar. To lie is to sin and "they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." Here is the final doom of liars.

But is there no help? Indeed there is! The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for that purpose -- to pardon and cleanse the sinner. The blood of Christ can penetrate the blackest heart and wash it white as snow. Even though you have miserably failed over and over again, Christ is waiting to make you clean, honest, pure, and holy. Confess your sins openly and frankly to Christ and turn your back on them forever. His all-sufficient grace will be adequate to help you live victoriously. He will save you if you will come to Him now with all your heart.

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10

TENTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not covet"

"No man's religion ever survives his morals," said South on one occasion. One of the most common sins of all ages has been that of covetousness. Christ said a great deal about this sin in the New Testament. Some hobbies that some preachers and churches ride were never mentioned by Christ, but here is a sin that Christ condemned over and over again. "Thou shalt not covet," is the last of the Ten Commandments.

There is one sense, of course, in which it is all right to covet. Paul, for instance, says: "Covet earnestly the best gifts." There is nothing wrong in desiring the very best God has for one. You can have God's best for you without in any way injuring your neighbor. Jesus pronounced a blessing on them who desire righteousness. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." We should all covet the knowledge of God, the smile of God in approval, the rich blessing of God, the likeness of God, the eternal home of God. If we fail

to have such strong desires, it is a sign of moral and spiritual sickness. Such sickness finally leads to death.

The negative command from God is, "Thou shalt not covet" any of thy neighbor's possessions. The positive command of Christ is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Covetousness is a deep basic sin which leads to many hideous crimes. The fruit of covetousness includes lying, stealing, murder, adultery. To covet is to put the secular above the spiritual; to put material gain above God; to reverse God's command to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness;" to be concerned more for material values than for human and divine values; to put the saving of money above the saving of souls.

Covetousness works evil to any who give way to its deadly poison. Covetousness is like Dichloride of mercury which is a poison some people take to commit suicide. If they fail to take enough of it, they literally rot away above ground. It is thus a slow and ghastly but sure death. A covetous individual is never a happy, influential, dynamic individual whose personality and spirit are contagious.

A covetous person cannot be fully happy and contented. Such a person is always looking at what he doesn't have instead of what he does have. Have you ever been out on a farm and watched them feed pigs? One pig will grab an ear of corn and run away with it. Another pig will run after him to get that one ear even though there may be a hundred other ears on the ground. I have seen that same spirit in the world among people who are supposed to be refined and cultured and I have also seen it in the church among people who called themselves Christian. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves.

Ahab, who had more than he needed, got his heart fixed on a vineyard belonging to another and thus became despondent and wretched. Haman went to the top in the kingdom and many thousands did obeisance to him, but one man refused to bow, so Haman became angry and made such a fool of himself he got himself hanged. Covetousness bounces back on us mighty hard sometimes.

Some of us have been stirred by newspaper stories of hideous crimes committed by kidnapers. They did not kidnap and slay from anger but from covetousness.

Covetousness has been the fundamental cause leading to all wars. It has raped many a country and is still doing its deadly work. Men and nations have sold out principle and character for material gain. For money men will manufacture and sell poison which makes men drunk and unbalanced, ruins their homes, damns their souls. I tell you it is one of the worst sins known -- covetousness.

Envy and jealousy are close relatives of covetousness and always inspire her on in her evil deeds. Covetousness is a great and blind delusion. Covetousness has a greedy insatiable appetite that can never be fully satisfied. The poor slave of grabbing dooms himself to perpetual unhappiness, for what he actually wants, he'll never get.

Judas will always be remembered for his hideous crime of selling his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. If one cherishes covetousness in the heart, there is no telling the flagrant wickedness to which it will lead. Covetousness led Ahab to commit murder.

The rich man said, "I will pull down my barns, and build greater; . . . And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." In the twinkling of an eye Jesus exploded those plans by declaring, "Thou fool." Think of it! "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Thus we are exhorted: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world The world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." When my father passed away a few months ago, he left no money nor property, except a few good books. But, oh, he left a heritage that is worth more than millions to me and my family. His godly life, his spiritual enthusiasm, his rich prayers, his big heart, his spirit of kindness and forgiveness, his common sense, his vision of the possibilities in God, his faith in God's Word, his steady unwavering will to be true to God at any cost will live in my mind and heart as long as I live. "He being dead yet speaketh." He did more for his family and his church than he could have had he left a million dollars.

Friends, we are coveting the wrong things. That is the reason we are in such an awful mess politically, socially, morally, religiously. Our only hope is to get a new perspective, a new vision, and a new heart.

To covet is to doubt the wisdom of God's providences; to disturb the balance of society; to embitter one's existence; and to deny the spirit of the gospel.

God shows the importance of this law by placing it last in the series of Ten Commandments; by stressing the fact that it is one of the secret sins of the heart; by stressing the fact that it is the root and mainspring of every other evil. We may covet our neighbor's property, money, clothes, or we may covet his abilities, or his reputation.

The hideousness of this sin is shown by what God thinks of it God abhors it; God condemns it; and God will shut us out of heaven because of it. Psalm 10:3 -- "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth." Habakkuk 2:9 -- "Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil." First Corinthians 6: 9 and 10 tells us of those who will not go to heaven -- "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." That is not very good company, is it?

Now, let me say that if you withhold from God that which you ought to give him, you are covetous. We owe God ten per cent of all we make. Our freewill gifts and offerings should be beyond that. Church members who hinder the work of God by withholding their tithes and offerings are covetous. They are not born-again Christians, and are not on their way to heaven. Is that too

strong? It is the truth, nevertheless. Had the church been as faithful to God's work as it should have been through the centuries, this old world would have been fully evangelized long ago. Only a genuine experience of heart-felt religion and a mighty baptism with the Holy Spirit will save us and make out of us effective soul-winners. God save us from littleness, stinginess, selfishness, jealousy, envy, covetousness, hatred, backbiting, and carnality in any way it manifests itself. We'll never win this world to God by a carnal church. We must fall so deeply in love with Christ that He has our all.

My friend, I want you to have a copy of these ten messages on the Ten Commandments which have been combined in booklet form. One copy is available to you without cost. We also have pledges we want you and your friends to sign. Write for yours today. Before we can have a great revival in the world, we must have a genuine revival in the church.

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11

THE MIGHTY BAPTISM

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost"

As a young preacher I was pastor of a saint of God who was so near like Jesus that it made a lasting impression on me. I shall never forget her spirit, her enthusiasm, her kindly loving disposition, her abundant labors for the Kingdom. Her religious experience and life were contagious. The secret of that remarkable life was the indwelling presence of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Today we commemorate that outstanding day in history -- Pentecost. Oh, what a day that was! But, oh, what a day it is when the Spirit moves into our heart and life!

There is abounding spiritual victory through the power of the Spirit. Such victory may be ours. But, to obtain the fullness of the Spirit we must be willing to pay the price of self-humiliation, give up all idols in our life, fully submit to the will of God for us, consecrate everything we have and all there is of us to God, and die out to the spirit of the world. To be sure, meeting such conditions may not be so pleasant, but the results are worth infinitely more than the cost.

I just concluded a series on the Ten Commandments last week in which I tried to raise a standard from God's Word. Is it possible to keep the commandments and live a victorious life? Yes, through the power of the Spirit such glorious victory is a reality. The reason for our failures is our lack of the Spirit! Let me tell you what this glorious experience will give to you.

The love of God will be shed abroad in your heart. That means you will have a new degree of confidence and faith in God and His power. In Romans 5: 5 we read that the "love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." In such an experience hope will sing in exultation. A vigorous faith will try almost anything for God. Joy will suppress disappointments, discouragements, and sorrow. In Romans 15: 13 we read: "Now the God of hope fill you with all

joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. To abound in hope is to have victory at its best

The coming of the Holy Spirit to the heart always brings disclosures of the divine nature. In such a spiritual state, one will more fully understand and appreciate God. The Spirit inspires and comforts us by giving us outstanding revelations of God's mercy and grace. At such times one feels that his heart is bathed in the love of God. It is something like fluid drive -- our spiritual gears operate in a bath of heavenly oil and divine love. How much easier it is to function for God in such an experience! The Spirit also gives us a revelation of God's Almighty power. When the soul is thrilled with the power of God, it cries out: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." No wonder Paul shouted: "Unto Him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (that is the power of the Spirit) ' unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." (If you ever praised God in your life, there is a good place to do it)

Listen, my friend, all that is available to you through the Spirit.

D'Aubigne was wonderfully baptized with the Holy Spirit. Under the influence of it he wrote the history of the Reformation -- the most spiritual history ever penned outside the Bible.

Mrs. Jonathan Edwards was gloriously filled with the Spirit of God. She testified to the experience by saying: "The presence of God was so real and near that I seemed scarcely conscious of anything else . . . I continued in a constant, clear, and lively sense of the heavenly sweetness of Christ's excellent and transcendent love which gave me a perfect rest in Him . . . My first exaltation of soul subsided into a heavenly calm and rest of soul in God, which was even sweeter than what preceded it."

Assurance and certainty and a divine persuasion of soul are worth everything and fully satisfy the heart. They also tend to establish us in spiritual things. In Isaiah 32:17 we read that "the effect of righteousness is assurance for ever." Are the once trusted securities of this world toppling and crumbling around your head leaving your soul naked, uncertain and afraid? God's righteousness can be your assurance and safety amid chaos and confusion. The strength of the Spirit will supply poise and self-control in the face of opposition and misunderstanding. The demonstration of the spirit of Christ is the greatest need in this complex age. Christians must be Christlike if they are to win this world to God. The Spirit in His indwelling presence so tempers the soul that we are in a position to live, to speak, to manifest the true spirit of Christ.

When filled with the Spirit, the conscience becomes remarkably sensitive. The checks of the Spirit are more easily discerned. Promptings of the Spirit are eagerly honored. One is very zealous to obey God in all things. It is much easier to ask forgiveness of those with whom we have disagreed and spoken too harshly. When controlled by the Spirit we are more careful about our influence and about the feelings and opinions of others.

When the Holy Spirit comes in power to our hearts, He brings a greater apprehension and appreciation for the Word of God. Christ said: "The Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have

said unto you." There is no commentator or interpreter of the Holy Bible that can compare with the author Himself, the Holy Spirit. The Bible is His Book. He wants us to spend more time with Him in the Book. How much further we would go spiritually if we did! The Spirit helps us in our spiritual discernment. Charles Wesley found this to be true and wrote:

"Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee
The prophets wrote and spoke;
Unlock the truth, thyself the key;
Unseal the sacred book.

God, through Himself, we then shall know,
If Thou within us shine:
And sound, with all thy saints below,
The depths of love divine."

The Spirit-filled person loves, honors, obeys, and worships Christ. Daniel Steele said: "All who have the anointing know and honor the Christ." One cannot honor Christ if he denies His virgin birth, resurrection, miracles, and the efficacy of His shed blood to save and cleanse us. And to deny His second coming is to deny ourselves of the final hope of the Gospel. All these things are very real and precious to the Spirit-filled person.

The Spirit inspires our songs, testimonies, sermons, and Christian endeavors. The Holy Spirit is the only source of preservation for orthodoxy and evangelical Christianity. He has kept vital Christianity alive through the centuries and will continue to do so.

The Spirit gives us a passion for souls, a genuine courage, and a holy boldness. He gives us a freedom of utterance that is not natural within ourselves. He gives us a desire for usefulness in the Kingdom, and helps us to bend every effort in that direction. God told Moses to go and He would be with Him. God told the disciples to go and He would teach them what to say. "Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly" as they were inspired by the Spirit. Peter was as bold as a lion after Pentecost. Before Pentecost the disciples wanted the main places in the Kingdom. The purifying power of the Spirit took away jealousies, envies, pride, carnal ambitions so that the disciples became great men of God. Dr. Peck said: "I always loved my work, but now it seems to possess me." David Brainerd said: "I cared not about how I lived or the hardships just so I could gain souls to Christ"

If every member of every church the world over would pause long enough at the foot of the cross to get rid of sin, and then be filled with the Holy Spirit, what a mighty spiritual awakening would come to this world! We could see a sweeping revival of the Wesleyan style that swept over England and the United States. That is the burning need of the hour. That is the hope of our nations in order to head off the powers of darkness and hell that are pressing in upon us. Oh, God, send the Spirit in all His glorious power and purity to our hearts and to our churches is my prayer on this Pentecost Sunday. I trust you will make it your prayer and do something about it

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"Full of grace and truth"

I was born and reared in a parsonage and then spent 15 years in a parsonage as a pastor myself. I'll never forget those hours when I struggled over my call and decision to enter the ministry. But, since laying everything on the altar of God in complete consecration, I have tried to throw myself with all there is of me into His service, going day and night in my attempt to win souls for Christ. I have been warned by many to let up. But, this is no hour in world history for any minister of the gospel to let up. The hour in which we live calls for the best there is in all of us.

Matthew saw Christ as a King; Mark saw Him as a servant; Luke saw Him as a man of our humanity; and John "beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father," and thus John said that Christ was "full of grace and truth." As Jesus caused men to realize God, so the ministry today must cause men and women to realize Christ. Christ is repeating Himself through a divinely anointed ministry.

The vision the disciples received of Jesus never left them. It was written indelibly upon their minds and hearts. One of our greatest needs, as ministers today, is to take time to look at Christ until we, too, see Him in all His glory, beauty, purity, and power. "Grace and truth" found a proper blending in Christ's spirit, attitudes, conduct, and ministry. In this fast age we have lost something in failing to tarry at the feet of Jesus as we ought. No man can be a great minister of the gospel who has not looked long and earnestly into the face of Jesus Christ.

Preacher friend, to find our true example in the ministry, we must go back beyond Wesley, Luther and Paul to Christ. The two characteristics expressed by John are to be our pattern for a successful ministry. The word "grace" might be translated love. If we are to minister to this age and save souls, we must be saturated (yea, supersaturated with love and truth. As Jesus was more than human, so every gospel minister must be a "superman." This can only be accomplished by becoming "partakers of the Divine Nature."

The divine government is controlled and limited by love and truth. There is not one thing God ever does that is not prompted by love or truth or both. Love and truth cannot be separated. When it comes to Jesus Christ, we will all agree that there were no shadows in Him; there was no duplicity in Him; there was no turning aside from the main principle of holiness; there was never a deflection from the straight line of righteousness. With Christ, however, it was not only righteousness, but always "righteousness-plus." That is, truth plus love. With Christ, love was governed by light; grace was governed by truth; and passion was governed by principle. There was no deviation under any circumstance with Him.

A true gospel minister, then, cannot be shady in his business dealings; he cannot be two-faced under any circumstance; he is always the same whenever and wherever you find him; he is governed by principle while love radiates from his spirit. Such a preacher would die before he would be untrue to God's Word, and yet there is nothing bitter, sour, harsh, or unkind about his nature and spirit. Such a preacher is never ashamed, embarrassed nor apologetic because he has

preached the truth when that truth was presented from a heart of love baptized by the holy Oil of heaven. Such a preacher never has to ask if there were unfavorable reactions to his message. He lives and preaches in the consciousness that if one "knows the truth, the truth will set him free." He is just as bold in dealing with individuals outside the pulpit as he is in preaching to the masses. He is fair and considerate of all -- the poor as well as the rich -- the uneducated as well as the educated. He cannot be bought by money, honor, or position. Yet, while he is full of truth, he is also full of love. He is kind, gentle, longsuffering, sympathetic, understanding and helpful. Love keeps a man humble, "not puffed up." Love will go a long way to help needy souls. A pastor said to me one day in speaking of some young married people, "I told them I would rather they would not attend my church since they did some things of which I did not approve. ' ' Listen, that is not the spirit of love! Love will put up with the ugly personality and differences of opinion for years to win a soul to Christ Love will cause us to forget about our eight hours a day and send us out to bleed and die if necessary for the lost Love will go to the slums, to the ends of the earth to see men saved. There is no envy, jealousy or selfishness where love reigns.

Truth, with all its demands, will never permit us to go beyond the bound of love, and love will never take us beyond the bounds of truth. A young minister wrote a letter to John Wesley asking him what place truth and love should have in his ministry. I quote from the answer Wesley gave him: "Some think preaching the law (or truth) only; others preaching the gospel (or love) only; I think neither the one nor the other, but duly mixing both, in every place, if not in every sermon." Later on in the same letter Wesley said: "The commands of God are food as well as the promises of God -- food equally substantial. The commands as well as the promises, duly applied, likewise nourish and strengthen the soul." Wesley then suggests that light and strength, law and grace, truth and love come from the same source.

Again Wesley says preaching all love without truth "vitiates the congregation's taste so that they cannot relish sound doctrine . . . their appetite is destroyed so that they can neither retain nor digest the pure. . . Word. Hence it is, that preachers of this kind spread death, not life, among their hearers. The messages of such preachers are an unconnected rhapsody of unmeaning words.

'Verses smooth and soft as cream,
In which was neither depth nor stream.'"

Preachers, we need to declare the truth that God is forever against sin; that His wrath is to be poured out upon those who wink at sin and treat it lightly; that there is a great Judgment day coming; that men are to be forever with God or forever separated from God. But, we are also to preach the gospel of Christ's love that sent Him from heaven to die for the sinner because of His infinite love. Calvary stands as a perpetual memorial to the fact that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly." Let us then go after sin with all there is of us, but let us keep our souls bathed in the love and passion of the cross, unctionized by the Holy Spirit, then we shall reap fruit and have a revival of old time religion. To do so we must maintain regular contact with God; guard ourselves against the flesh; maintain spontaneity and joy in the service of the Lord; remember that even we must appear before the Judgment seat of Christ to give an account of the deeds done in the body.

A gospel minister must live up to the Ten Commandments and the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount if he is to lead his people into a clean, spiritual, victorious life in Christ.

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13

AMERICA UNDER GOD

The line of reasoning some people are doing is foolish. Many declare God is obligated to be on the side of the democracies. But, let us remind ourselves of one thing: God is not obligated to anyone and God will not wink at sin. Sin in the church is as bad in God's sight (probably worse) as sin outside the church. Sin is as bad in God's sight in the democracies as sin in the nations under dictatorship.

It is a known fact that our own nation is far from being free from sin. Thus one of our very first lines of defense should be a spiritual one. What we mean by "spiritual defense" is preparing ourselves so we can legitimately expect God to assist us. To get such a program under way we must repent of our sins, clean up our country along social lines, turn back to the Bible, and accept the principles of righteousness found therein. We must become a God-honoring, church-going, Bible-reading, and praying people.

Can we in reality call ourselves a Christian nation? According to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, our crime bill in this country exceeds fifteen billion dollars a year (1941 figure -- much larger today). In that same year the Justice Department in Washington announced there were 1,517,026 serious crimes committed in the United States. There was a felonious homicide every forty-five minutes, a robbery every ten minutes, a burglary every one and two-thirds minutes, and an automobile theft every three minutes. There are at least 700,000 boy and girl criminals in our country today. The peak age for all arrests is between 19 and 20. There are four criminals in the U. S. for every school teacher. They outnumber the total enrollment in our colleges and universities three and one-half to one. At least four million of our people are engaged in crime.

During the past ten years America has cut its religious contributions 30 percent, while we have increased our spending for tobacco, liquor, gambling and the movies. That type of program could not by any means be called a spiritual defense.

Let me compare figures from one state in our union for you to see the actual picture. This state spent 50 million dollars last year for liquor, 12 million dollars for milk, 28 million dollars for education, and 10 million dollars for all religious purposes. In other words, more money was spent in that state for liquor than for all education and religion combined. That is far from being a spiritual defense program.

It was reported authoritatively that our spirit of complacency and liquor were to blame for the Pearl Harbor debacle. While today we are priding ourselves in our democratic ideals, we are going right on using profane language, from the president on down to the least of us, stuffing ourselves with poison, emptying our churches for the movies and television, and acting as though nothing could ever happen to us. Let us not be deceived for "God is not mocked; for whatsoever a

man (or a nation) soweth, that shall he (or it) also reap." If we don't want God to forget us, let us not forget Him.

The Lord's Day is thought of in no higher respect than any other day any more. We cannot shove God off His throne in this nation, forget His holy day, wink at his moral standards, and go on killing, swearing, lying, stealing, getting drunk, and committing adultery, and expect God to bless us or to protect us.

The men and women who established this great nation were people of vital religious faith. They established the first schools so their children could learn to read the Bible, but now we do not have the Bible in our public schools. They founded their first colleges so their young men could be trained to preach the gospel. They caused to have stamped upon their money a slogan declaring their trust in God rather than in man. They, in order to provide a free government, drafted a constitution which, of all the political documents of which the world has known, is nearest to the principles of the New Testament. It was religion which fanned the flame of freedom in their hearts. "Whenever and wherever in history democracy is seen living, it is growing from and nurtured by great religion." In so far as religion is stifled, democracy withers and dies. For proof of that statement, look at the countries with dictatorship today.

I am mighty happy to announce anywhere that I am an American. There are many millions of folks in the world today who would gladly exchange places with us. Misery, tragedy, blight, and disaster are all that the dictators have brought to the world. God has blessed us materially: "We have one-half of the world's gold, 40 percent of the world's silver, 50 percent of the zinc, 60 percent of the copper, 65 percent of the oil, 40 percent of the railroads, 85 percent of the automobiles. As a country we represent only 6 percent of the world's population. We have a wealth of raw material. We have ample supply of labor. We have unusual inventive genius. Practically every commodity that man uses can be found in America." Some of the greatest beauty spots in the world are in our country,

God has blessed us in so many ways, but what are we doing about such blessings? Are we using them to the glory of God? Will our future be as blessed of God as our past has been? Our greatest need at the present time is God. One has said that our trouble is not that we have gone off the gold standard but off the God standard. We have gone wild after pleasure, we have sought knowledge and hold first place in the matter of inventions and science, we have gone after wealth and have obtained it, but we have miserably failed to go out after God, and present moral, social, and spiritual conditions show it.

God outlines one way of escape for us. "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal (prosper or protect) their land."

From our president and his cabinet down to each of us, we must meet those conditions if we expect to make this nation great. We have almost every thing we need in this nation. We don't need changes in our form of government, nor anything else, but we do need God in what we have. We need God in our hearts, our homes, our schools, our business, our churches, our government. "It is our sub-zero moral and spiritual weather that ought to be concerning us at this time."

"Pericles built a civilization upon culture and it failed. Caesar built a civilization upon power and it failed. The Medo-Persians had a great nation but they drank their way to doom and thus their civilization crashed to the ground: Egypt flourished until she forgot God, and then she went down. Greece under Alexander conquered the world, but he couldn't conquer himself -- he died in a drunken orgy, and the civilization of Greece tumbled down. Rome was once the proud center of the world, but luxury and lust ate at the center of her life and she also perished."

Our forefathers built this nation upon God and religion, and so far God has wonderfully blessed us. The Continental Congress spent hours with this vital question. Do You recall the picture of Washington at Valley Forge? His little army was almost starving and freezing to death. Everything that they held dear was at stake. They were fighting against seemingly insurmountable odds -- but out there in the snow was George Washington upon his knees. That is the spirit that must grip our nation at this hour if we are to live. Let us quit talking so much about praying and being religious, and repent of our sins and start living according to God's laws. If we'll turn back to our knees, back to God's Word and back to God Himself, this nation can and will be mightily blessed. But, listen, that is up to you and me as individuals. Others ought to do it but we have to do it if we want to be blessed of God ourselves. Back, back, back to God.

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THE END