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JANUARY 8, 2009

Resolve to Learn (and Obey) the Commandments

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We have been doing some pretty deep and creative studying of the "Ten Commandments" for ten of my columns (Rita's Beacon) over a period of 20 weeks.



I've enjoyed doing the research for this important topic. Just seeing the Ten Commandments concisely printed somewhere is not as clear or interesting as it is when delving into the text more deeply.

It could be compared to swimming on the surface of the ocean, or donning a snorkel mask or scuba diving equipment and going deeper for a better look at the sea creatures around you. Learning to recite the Ten Commandments is taught in many churches and synagogues. Yet I've noticed that over the years remembering the Commandments in order is often forgotten.

Ever since I learned the Commandments, together with the 10 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet as mnemonics, I have not forgotten them or the order. That's why I taught you the Hebrew letters to go along with the Commandments. (Below see: Commandment, Hebrew letter, and mnemonic.)

1. "You shall have no other gods before Me." "*Aleph*." One Strong, mighty God.
2. "Do not engrave idols nor worship them." "*Bet*." What's in your home (*beit*)?

3. "Do not take the Name of the Lord God in vain." "*Gimel*." Humble camel kneel.
4. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." "*Dalet*." Door to God's house.
5. "Honor your father and mother – for a long life." "*Hey*." Human breath – expel.
6. "You shall do no murder." "*Vav*." Hook or nail. They "nailed" him.
7. "You shall not commit adultery." "*Zain*." Weapon or axe cuts between couple.
8. "You shall not steal." "*Chet*." Means fence. A fence keeps out intruders.
9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." "*Tet*." Like a snake.
10. "You shall not covet a neighbor's wife, servant, property." "*Yod*." Hand, takes.

Why learn the Ten Commandments? Because God said to. Because you'll be happier if you do. Because it will keep you out of a lot of trouble. Because you'll be able to teach them to your children, siblings, and others. Because these were the only Words written by God's own hand on tablets of stone. Because when you see God at the end of your life you'll be glad that you lived as His disciple.

In fact, for your "New Year's Resolution," learning and practicing the Commandments would be a great decision and would have life-lasting effects.

Psalms has all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet in increments of every eight verses. Quite an amazing chapter. You already know the letters and spiritual meaning for the first 10. Try applying the spiritual meaning to the octave stanza

of the same letter. *Aleph* (1) for first 8 verses.

If you could read it in Hebrew you would see that each octave begins the sentence with that exact Hebrew letter. Psalm 119 is the longest and most unique Psalm in the Bible. Read it.

Here are some good commandment verses: "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also will I lift up to Your commandments ... And I will meditate in Your statutes" (Psalm 119:47-48).

If you make obeying the First Commandment your priority, it will help you keep all the others. Make God number one in your life, your one and only God.

Deuteronomy says, "And You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all Your soul, and with all your might" (6:5). He will love you back. Happy New Year!

Guidelines:

If you want more help, go to the Beacon archives, or my Emotionally Free website listed below, and print off my ten columns. Purchase a View Binder notebook and begin your own study to share with others.

For the best listing of the Ten Commandments go to Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-22.

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