



# Ten Words to Live By

Oct-Nov 2023

## Introduction



### Ten Words: Dates of Sermons

Oct 22 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment – Undivided Allegiance *Deuteronomy 4:32-40; 5:1-7*

Oct 29 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment – Undiminished Worship *Exodus 19:16-20:7*

Nov 5 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment – Unslandered Name *Exodus 20:1-7*

(Nov 12 *Remembrance Sunday*)

Nov 19 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Unhindered Rest *Exodus 20:1-11*

(Nov 26 is *Kingdom Sunday on the feast of Christ the King – Ministry Fair: ways we can be involved in the life, ministry and outreach of the church*)

One book that Andy has recommended and whose chapter headings just happen to be the same as the sermon-titles is **Jen Wilkin's 'Ten Words to Live By – Delighting in and Doing what God Commands'** (publisher: Crossway). The second part of that title suggests a positive way of looking at the Ten Words.

### New Testament Approach to the Ten Commandments

As Christians we need to see how Jesus approached the Ten Commandments and what the writers of the New Testament taught about their value, especially for Gentiles (non-Jews) who do not see God in the way He is described for the Jewish people in Exodus 20:2 as *'the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery'*.

The 5 passages on the next page are a starting point; there are questions on each passage below.

#### 1. Matthew 5: 17-20

How does Jesus sum up his view of the value of what we call the 'Old Testament' Law and the teaching of the 'Old Testament' prophets in *verses 17 to 20* ?

In *verses 21 to 22* Jesus develops the teaching of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, from what we do to include what we think. How does this suggest that we can please Jesus in our approach to the commandments?

#### 2. Mark 10: 17-21

Which commandments does Jesus endorse in his encounter with the teacher of the law? In what way does Jesus say this man should do even more than obey the commandments?

#### 3. Mark 12: 28-31

How does Jesus summarize the commandments here?

#### 4. Romans 3: 21-24

Paul is teaching about 'righteousness' – how we can be in a right relationship with God. What role does, or doesn't, the Law (including the Ten Commandments) have in obtaining 'righteousness' ?

#### 5. Romans 13: 8-10

The later chapters of Romans are about putting our faith into practice. What role do the commandments have in this part of our life of faith?

**Matthew 5: 17-20**

<sup>17</sup> 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>21</sup> 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, "Raca," is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

**Mark 10: 17-21**

<sup>17</sup> As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' <sup>18</sup> 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good – except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup> 'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.' <sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

**Mark 12: 28-31**

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' <sup>29</sup> 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." <sup>31</sup> The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'

**Romans 3: 21-24**

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**Romans 13: 8-10**

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.