

Sermon Handout
“One God and Only One”
Exodus 20:1-3

- I.** God speaks v. 1
 - A.** Moses with the people at the foot of the mountain (19:25; 20:18-21)
 - B.** 10 words delivered to all the people (*cf.* vv. 18-19)
 - C.** Details revealed through the mediator v. 22

- II.** God’s initial message v. 2
 - A.** “I am the LORD (YHWH) thy God”
 - The One you are to know (theme of Exodus)
 - Your only sovereign (*cf.* v. 3)
 - B.** “I am the One who delivered you”
 - The work of deliverance was God’s only
 - Israel had no role in its liberation, except to follow God

- III.** The most basic of the commandments v. 3
 - “You shall entertain no other deity besides me.”
 - A.** There are other supernatural beings (angels, for example)
 - B.** There are idols, held to be gods by other people
 - Sources of individual or tribal powers
 - Explanations for natural phenomena
 - Capricious; they must be appeased
 - C.** These are not to be worshipped; YHWH only is to be your God
 - D.** Sovereignty belongs to God alone
 - YHWH is jealous of that which belongs to him v. 5

- IV.** The purpose of the commandments
 - A.** To declare the righteous standards of God
 - 1. The Law is God’s own declaration (not mediated)
 - 2. The Law is a perfect rule for all duties of all men
 - Rom 3:19 “the whole world guilty before God”
 - 3. By the Law is the knowledge of sin Rom 3:20 (*cf.* 2:12)
 - I Tim 1:8-11 “not made for a righteous man”
 - B.** To separate God’s people from others (sanctification)
 - 1. YHWH only is your God
 - 2. The Law is directed individually to men
 - Second person singular pronoun (“thou”)
 - 3. The Law is man’s guide to holiness (obedience)
 - The love command: Mt 22:37-40 (*cf.* Rom 13:8-10)
 - 4. The Law corrects our attitudes, not merely our actions
 - Mt 5:20-48; Dt 11:1; Mic 6:8; Mt 9:10-13