

a sermon from EXODUS 20:1-6:

LET US FLEE FROM OUR FALSE GODS AND IDOLS!

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1/15/2005 AD

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## I. A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

Let us pray: “O most Glorious GOD, in JESUS CHRIST my merciful and loving Father, I acknowledge and confess my guilt, in the weak and imperfect performance of the duties... [which Thou hast called me to.] I have called on Thee for pardon and forgiveness of sins... Let me live according to Those holy Rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy holy Word; Make me to know what is acceptable in Thy sight, and therein to delight, open the eyes of my understanding, and help me thoroughly to examine myself concerning my knowledge, faith and repentance, increase my faith, and direct me to the true object, JESUS CHRIST The Way, The Truth and The Life... Continue Thy goodness to me... [always]. I humbly implore Thee to hear, accept and answer for the sake of Thy Dear Son, JESUS CHRIST our Lord, Amen!”<sup>1</sup>

## II. A PROPOSITION

Let us flee from our false gods and insidious idols, which turn our hearts from The Almighty, and rather repent at The Cross of our Lord JESUS CHRIST!

## III. A SCRIPTURE - EXODUS 20:1-6 – NO OTHER GOD BUT THE LORD!

<sup>1</sup> And GOD spake all These Words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> I am The LORD thy GOD, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> 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:

<sup>5</sup> 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;

<sup>6</sup> And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My Commandments.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1, America’s GOD and Country, George Washington, entries from Washington’s personal prayer notebook, prayer entry for “Sunday Evening,” p 657-658.

<sup>2</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:1-6.

#### IV. INTRODUCTION – A QUESTION OF FALSE GODS & IDOLS

Saint Tertullian declares, “The principle crime of the human race, the highest guilt charged upon the world, the whole procuring cause of [Divine] judgement – is idolatry!”

<sup>3</sup> Like the ancient Hebrews, who were delivered by and dwelt before The very Presence of The Almighty within Israel, so we as Christians who dwell before The very Presence of The Almighty within The Church also at times fall into bowing down before the false gods and insidious idols of our lives! Sometimes these idols are more subtle, barely discernable to other men from outside and inside The Church. At other times, they are most blatant, discernable to everyone but ourselves! As Tertullian laments of such sins within the people of GOD, “It bewails that a Christian would come from idols into The Church. It bewails that he should come from an adversary workshop [where idols are made] into The House of GOD. It bewails that he would raise to GOD The Father hands that are the mothers of idols...!”<sup>4</sup>

So we must be always humbly and honestly asking of ourselves before GOD and man these question: What, if any, false gods and idols do we bow down to and serve in our lives? Are we keeping ourselves from the sins of idolatry? Have we erected false idols in our lives that displace our Lord JESUS CHRIST from the thrones of our hearts? Have we lost our first love, which can only be The LORD GOD Almighty? Have we gone after false gods of the world, the flesh or the devil, serving them and foolishly seeking happiness from them? And if so, have we not found their empty works turning back into the dust from which they arose, as it were, in our very hands? Should we not seek to turn from such idolatry and serve only The Lord our GOD? Should our confessions and prayers of repentance not ascend to the throne of The Saviour at the foot of The blessed Cross?

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<sup>3</sup> 3, Early Christian Beliefs, “idolatry,” 5<sup>th</sup> entry, p 350. “Tertullian (c. 197, W), 3.61.”

## V. THE HISTORICAL SETTING – MOSES WITH GOD UPON MOUNT SINAI

Let us set the historical stage here for the giving of The Ten Commandments, of which in our text from EXODUS 20:1-6, we are considering only The First Two: no god but GOD and no worship of idols. The LORD had just delivered with supernatural and earth-shattering miracles from out of the land of darkness and slavery in Egypt - and from the ever pressing murder-bent armies of Pharaoh - His people Israel. EXODUS 19:1 records, “In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.”<sup>5</sup> And there they encamped before Mount Sinai for 11 months and 6 days. “There Moses received from GOD The Law with its many instructions for worship by the redeemed people” of The LORD.<sup>6</sup> And though The Ten Commandments are binding upon all men, the giving of Them to Israel via Moses at Sinai marked the covenantal establishment of Israel as GOD’s Old Testament Kingdom on earth. There The Creator enters into formal Covenant with His people Israel, as Walvoord and Zuck observe, “The Law... [being] the nation’s ‘constitution’ for their theocratic state under their Great GOD [and King JEHOVAH].”<sup>7</sup>

But why did The Almighty decree The Ten Commandments in such a profoundly earthshaking manner? Were not these Divine Laws known to men at the first, beginning in The Garden, imprinted upon the very hearts of Adam and Eve? Indeed they were, but the sin of man and the evil of the devil had blurred the beholding of them by the eyes of mankind. As Henry answers, “This Law GOD had given to man before (it was written in his heart by nature); but sin had so defaced that writing that it was necessary, in this manner, to revive the knowledge of it.” Therefore, it was necessary for The LORD, as He called out Israel to be His people, to bind them with His Law into Covenant with Him as a witness to them and to all men, setting His people within the safe pastures of His Divine Law. Indeed, “GOD has many ways of speaking to the children of men... by His

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<sup>4</sup> 3, Early Christian Beliefs, “idolatry,” 9<sup>th</sup> entry, p 350. “Tertullian (c. 200, W), 3.64.”

<sup>5</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 19:1.

<sup>6</sup> 4, Bible Knowledge Commentary OT, EXODUS 19, II, The Revelations to GOD’s People at Sinai (chaps 19-40), p 137.

<sup>7</sup> 4, Bible Knowledge Commentary OT, EXODUS 19-40, A. The Covenant of GOD with His

Spirit, by conscience, by providences, by His voice, all which we ought carefully to attend to; but He never spoke, at any time, upon any occasion, as He spoke The Ten Commandments, which therefore we ought to hear with the more earnest heed...!”<sup>8</sup>

So here we have The Almighty calling Moses from out of the cloud of Divine Presence lying atop of Mount Sinai, in reminder of how by His mighty outstretched arm the Israelites had been so miraculously delivered, and how they had all witnessed with their own eyes the salvation of The LORD! For The LORD then reveals His purpose for the deliverance, commanding Moses to bring These Words to the people and their elders, in EXODUS 19:5-6, “Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My Covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people... And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation [unto Me]!”<sup>9</sup>

Thus Moses goes before the people and their rulers and declares what GOD has revealed. And their reply was as in EXODUS 19:8, “...All that the LORD hath spoken we will do...!”<sup>10</sup> Let us note carefully that GOD’s Covenantal blessings to His people, under The Old Covenant as under The New, are dependant upon our obedience to His Word. As Wycliffe comments, “The theocracy established by the conclusion of The Covenant was only the means adopted by JEHOVAH for making His chosen people a royal body of priests; and the maintenance of The Covenant was the indispensable subjective condition upon which their attainment of this Divinely appointed destiny and glory depended!”<sup>11</sup>

Now The LORD calls to his servant Moses, and declares to him in EXODUS 19:9-11 these overawing Words: “And The LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever... And The LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day The LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount

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people (chaps 19-31), p 137.

<sup>8</sup> 5, Matthew Henry, EXODUS XIX, 1-11, I.

<sup>9</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 19:5-6.

<sup>10</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 19:8.

<sup>11</sup> 6, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, EXODUS 19:5, p 68.

Sinai!”<sup>12</sup> At JEHOVAH’s Presence, the earth shook. At His speaking, His voice pealed as thunder. And when GOD spoke These Words, Moses and all the people trembled and fell down in humble worship! As Henry says, the purpose of The Almighty’s Presence descending in a cloud before Moses and the people upon The Mount was threefold, “...to prohibit curious enquiries... [into the Secret Things of GOD], and to command an awful adoration of that which was revealed [by The LORD of Himself], ... [and] though they should see no manner of similitude [of The Creator as He in fact is in His being], yet they should see so much as would convince them that GOD was among them of a truth!”<sup>13</sup>

So on the appointed third day, The King of The Universe sends His Presence to appear before Moses and the people, as we read in EXODUS 19:19-20, “And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and GOD answered him by a voice. And The LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and The LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up!”

<sup>14</sup> Both Moses and the Israelites all heard the voice of The Creator thunder from amidst the cloud-covered mount on Sinai! Such was The Most High’s demonstration of His “...power and majesty, ...His holiness and awesomeness; little wonder that the people trembled, standing at the foot of the mountain!”<sup>15</sup> And Moses himself stood within the cloud before The very Presence of The Most High, where These Ten Foundations of The Book of The Law of GOD were literally spoken forth by GOD to Israel and thus to all mankind. Moses records The Words of The LORD beginning in EXODUS 20:1, “And GOD spake all These Words, saying,”<sup>16</sup>

## VI. TO THE TEXT OF EXODUS 20:1-6 – THE FIRST TWO COMMANDMENTS

Now we are ready to hear again what The HOLY SPIRIT caused Moses to record for us in EXODUS 20:1-6, which should convict us for any sin of idolatry in our lives: “And GOD spake all These Words, saying, I am The LORD thy GOD, which have

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<sup>12</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 19:9-11.

<sup>13</sup> 5, Matthew Henry Commentary, EXODUS XIX, 9-15, I.

<sup>14</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 19:19-20.

<sup>15</sup> 4, Bible Knowledge Commentary OT, EXODUS 19:16-25, P 138, paragraph 1.

brought thee out of the land of Egypt... Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... 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!”<sup>17</sup>

Note first that GOD speaks and decrees The Ten Commandments, for He is The Author of Them, and not any mere man. When our Lord JESUS CHRIST rebuked the devil, He declared in MATTHEW 4:10, “...Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship The Lord thy GOD, and Him only shalt thou serve!”<sup>18</sup> For only He delivers His people out of bondage and death, whether it be JEHOVAH redeeming Israel out of physical slavery, or CHRIST redeeming The Church out of spiritual slavery. How then can men not serve and worship The LORD and Him alone? As Saint Justin says to his Jewish friend Trypho, “there will never be another GOD, Trypho, and there has been no other since the world began... than He Who made and ordered the universe. We do not think that our GOD is different from yours. He is the same Who brought your fathers out of Egypt ‘by His powerful hand and His outstretched arm.’ We do not place our hope in some other god, for there is none, but in the same GOD as you do: the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!”<sup>19</sup>

Note second that it is GOD Who alone delivers His people out of both physical and spiritual bondage to serve Him and be His Covenant people. Saint Peter declares in I PETER 2:9, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light!”<sup>20</sup> GOD’s claim to our sole worship of Him is to be obeyed for many reasons: The LORD is The Creator of all, including man, and so has claim over us. Further, He is The King of The Universe, and totally sovereign., so that all

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<sup>16</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:1.

<sup>17</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:1-6.

<sup>18</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 4:10.

<sup>19</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, The First Commandment, # 2085, p 561. “St. Justin [Martyr], Dial. Com Tryphone Judaeo 11, 1: PG 6, 497.”



that He thus commands we are bound to obey. And further, He is our Redeemer, delivering us out of sin and its earthly and eternal consequences by His Grace into the light of His marvelous salvation. As Wycliffe says, The Commandments of GOD "...are given to a saved people to teach them how to walk in GOD's Way."<sup>21</sup> He Who redeems us by His very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to Himself is The Master of all that we are in Him!

Note third that all men, and especially we His saints, are commanded to have no other gods but The LORD. Our Lord JESUS CHRIST declares in MATTHEW 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve GOD and mammon."<sup>22</sup> That is, "...You cannot serve both GOD and Money!"<sup>23</sup> Now this does not mean that GOD's people may not have works, images and icons – artworks of religious inspiration – that are designed by faithful men to focus our faith on The Almighty and point us to Him, even to venerate as holy signs and symbols. This is permissible, as long as they direct our worship to GOD and Him alone. So for instance Israel had under Moses - by the direct Command of The LORD - the bronze serpent, the ornate Ark of The Covenant and the angelic cherubims. So also with The Church. As Saint Aquinas says, Christian "...worship is not directed to [holy] images in themselves, considered as mere things, but under their distinctive aspect as images leading us on to GOD Incarnate."<sup>24</sup> But to serve and worship earthly things of whatever type - whether made by our own hands, bought by our money, wrought by our own efforts or part of the creation itself – this is forbidden by Moses, as with CHRIST Himself. We cannot worship both The Maker and things made.

Note fourth that we are commanded to not make any graven images for the purpose of serving and worshipping them. We may expand here on the previous point by noting that Saint Paul records by The HOLY SPIRIT in PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11, "That at

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<sup>20</sup> 2, KJV, I PETER 2:9.

<sup>21</sup> 6, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, EXODUS 20:2, p 69.

<sup>22</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 6:24.

<sup>23</sup> 8, NIV, MATTHEW 6:24.

<sup>24</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, Graven Images, # 2132, p 573. "St. Thomas Aquinas, STh II-III, 81, 3 ad 3."

The Name of JESUS every knee should bow... And that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST is Lord, to the glory of GOD The Father.”<sup>25</sup>

Saint Tertullian observes here that GOD forbids us to make graven images of anything in creation for the purpose of worship for two reasons: “to prohibit the material display” of idols, that men might be tempted to bow down to them and serve them.<sup>26</sup> And here is attached this dreadful danger of Divine punishment versus the much greater Divine mercy. Because The Almighty is jealous for His Name and the worship due from men only to Him, bringing down Divine judgement upon such sinners to the third and fourth generation: “...witness The Commands so numerous and weighty [throughout The Scriptures]... No offense is counted by GOD so presumptuous as a trespass of this sort!” But note how much greater a magnitude of Divine mercy there is upon those who do not so offend, down to the thousands of generations!<sup>27</sup>

## VII. THE MODERN FORMS OF FALSE GODS & IDOLS

Saint Origen defines the idolater as a man who “transfers his undestructible notion of GOD to anything other than GOD.”<sup>28</sup> The New Catholic Dictionary observes that the word idolatry is derived from the Greek word “eidololatreia,” which means “image worship.” The sin of idolatry “...extends to all divine worship given to anyone or anything but The true GOD. ...it bestows reverence due to GOD alone directly on the image itself or on the creature represented.” And no matter how clear the hand of The Creator is always before our faces, men have been constantly seduced into idolatry by “Disordered affections, need of sense-images, ignorance of GOD's excellence, and diabolical agency.” Man's fallen state and separation from The Almighty by his sins have throughout history led his darkened imaginations “...to attribute divine power to myriad false gods of every kind.” Indeed, “Idolatry was Israel's national sin,” of which

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<sup>25</sup> 2, KJV, PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11.

<sup>26</sup> 3, Early Christian Beliefs, “idolatry,” 13<sup>th</sup> entry, p 350-351. “Tertullian (c. 207, W), 3.314.”

<sup>27</sup> 3, Early Christian Beliefs, “idolatry,” 14<sup>th</sup> entry, p 351. “Tertullian (c. 213, W), 3.635, 636.”

<sup>28</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, Idolatry, # 2114, p 569. “Origen, Contra Celsum 2, 40; PG 11, 861.”

she excelled in her apostasy "...to despoil and dethrone GOD and to substitute a creature...!"<sup>29</sup>

And let us not deceive ourselves – we even today still have many idols to which we bow down to and worship – even in this presumably advanced and modern age of man! In fact, even more so, for the false gods and insidious idols of today are I think more insidious because they are often more subtle! As the Israelites were often from time to time ensnared by them, so are men today, even faithful Christian men and women! For although modern man now no longer bows down before false idols made of wood, clay and precious stone fashioned into statues, these temptations are still trying upon our souls!

In ROMANS 1 Saint Paul chastises the heathen for his idolatry, declaring that GOD's being is clearly to be known by the works of His creation, of which we are a part. And let us note this carefully: the denial of GOD's being, and thus His majesty and prerogative to declare good what is good and evil what is evil in His Law, are the doorposts which lead men into all manner of damnable perversions and directly to the destruction of hell! So we read in ROMANS 1:18-20, "For the wrath of GOD is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of GOD is manifest in them; for GOD hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse!"<sup>30</sup>

And make no mistake: hell is happy to provide myriads of false gods for the purpose of idolatry to the darkened imaginations of men in every age! And if the old ones won't do, the devil is pleased to present as many new ones as needed to tempt every generation with! No doubt Satan rejoices that the old idols are often effective over men's souls in every time and place to set up false gods in men's lives: money, careers, material possessions, worldly acclaim, earthly power, promiscuity, fleshly perversions,

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<sup>29</sup> 9, New Catholic Dictionary, entry for "idolatry."  
<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/ncd04104.htm>

<sup>30</sup> 2, KJV, ROMANS 1:18-20.

even relationships and loved ones. And when needs be, the devil is more than accommodating to offer the world updated versions fit for the idolatrous hearts of enlightened modern man: addictions of all types - gambling, alcohol, street drugs - sporting events and shopping malls in full force on The Lord's day, modern medicine, technology, the welfare state, earth worship, new age recycled witchcraft... For all the pleasures of the flesh, the heart and the mind that may be lawfully enjoyed as from the hand of GOD, hell is forever corrupting to replace our worship of The Creator with that of the created!

#### VIII. FLEEING FROM OUR FALSE GODS

So we see that any thing or person that comes between ourselves and The LORD is a form of idolatry! And when we as Christians fall to such temptations, does not the very sacred heart of JESUS suffer offence? Do we as The Saved on earth in our Lord CHRIST thus not mock GOD ourselves? "Look at those Christians!" cry the idolatrous heathens, "They serve both GOD and mammon! Why should we then reform ourselves and worship only The Creator?" When we as Christians become contaminated with the leaven of idolatry, do we not as it were place ourselves with those who turned away from JESUS The Messiah who on that day of infamy stood before Pilate?

Picture ourselves then standing there in the multitude of the people in that courtyard, those rulers of the Jews who were bent conspiring to see The CHRIST put to death, and the hapless Roman military governor bringing out before us both JESUS and the murderer Barabbas. Saint Mark records the events for us in MARK 15:9, "But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"<sup>31</sup> For, as Saint Mark states further, "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them."<sup>32</sup> So the same multitudes who had just a week prior acclaimed JESUS CHRIST as the triumphant Saviour entering the city now responded to Pilate's "What will ye then that I shall do unto Him Whom ye call the King of the Jews?"

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<sup>31</sup> KJV, MARK 15:9.

<sup>33</sup> again and again, “Crucify Him! ...Crucify Him!” <sup>34</sup>

For when we who are redeemed from sin and death by the sacrifice of GOD Incarnate upon The Cross insist on running into and remaining within the darkness of idolatry, we ourselves become as one of those apostates of ancient Israel who cried out for their idols and turned their backs on The Grace of The Lord! For if we deny GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost, we are in essence making for ourselves false gods and setting up for ourselves idols! We are then defiling GOD’s holy Name, closing our eyes to His Revelations of both creation and Scripture and trampling as it were the precious Body and Blood of CHRIST under foot! And O what a fearful thing for such a soul to stand on his day of judgement before the throne of The Almighty which has not repented of such sins! Indeed, GOD will give up such a soul to his own lusts of idolatry for eternity!

So Saint Paul continues his discourse against the idolatries of men in ROMANS 1:21-25, who turn their backs on the mercy and Grace of GOD, that they may continue in fellowship with the idols of their lives: “Because that, when they knew GOD, they glorified Him not as GOD, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible GOD into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore GOD also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of GOD into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than The Creator, Who is blessed for ever. Amen!” <sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> KJV, MARK 15:11.

<sup>33</sup> KJV, MARK 15:12.

<sup>34</sup> KJV, MARK 15:13-14.

<sup>35</sup> 2, KJV, ROMANS 1:21-25.

## IX. CASTING DOWN OUR THE IDOLS IN OUR LIVES

Having said all these things, let us return again to The Words recorded for us by Moses in EXODUS 20:1-6, commanding all men to give their worship to The LORD alone. We have heard the call of The Almighty here which convict us of any sins of idolatry in our lives? “And GOD spake all These Words, saying, I am The LORD thy GOD, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt... Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... 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!”<sup>36</sup>

Though we have been blessed by His Grace to live in an age when we have a fuller Revelation of GOD – both The Law of Moses and The Cross of CHRIST, both The Old and New Testaments, Israel having expanded to all the corners of the earth as The Church - we are still bound by the same Ten Commandments of The Almighty! For They declare what is required of us in our relations to first The Creator and then to our fellow man. They guide us in The Way of righteousness. They teach us right from wrong. And they convict us of our error and sin when we violate their precepts, that we may know that we are in need of GOD’s Grace provided us at The Cross by The Body and Blood of the Redeemer given up for us! Therefore all men are without excuse for their idolatry, irreverence and atheism. And this being true, how much more so of we who are redeemed as the saints of GOD in CHRIST?

But The Creator wants more than only outward external formal righteousness from us. He desires also that we be remade internally righteous by conforming us to His Image and Likeness in CHRIST, which is freely offered to all who will repent at The blessed Cross! So we my hear – if we will but listen - the offer of The Almighty of forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life in The Words recorded as by Saint Paul in TITUS 2:11-14, “For the Grace of GOD that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all

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<sup>36</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:1-6.

men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great GOD and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST; Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!”<sup>37</sup>

Let us therefore abandon sin, fleeing from any and all the damnable false gods and decrepit corrupting idols that may have infiltrated into our lives, resorting to the mercy of The Almighty offered so abundantly in The Grace of CHRIST! For we are called, as Henry says, to daily be “Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; to renounce and have no more to do with these, as we have had!”<sup>38</sup> Let us therefore obey GOD’s Commands and live in His holiness! For we are daily called “To live soberly, righteously, and godly...; there must be doing good as well as [turning from]... evil... We should live soberly with respect to ourselves, in the due government of our appetites and passions, keeping the limits of moderation and temperance, avoiding all inordinate excesses; and righteously towards all men, rendering to all their due, and injuring none, but rather doing good to others, according to our ability and their need.”<sup>39</sup> And let us therefore take our place in our home on earth, which is The Church militant, that we may look forward to dwelling with CHRIST forever in our eternal home Above, which is The Church triumphant! For this is “...the great thing we look and long and wait for; and a blessed hope, because, when attained, we shall be completely happy for ever!”<sup>40</sup>

## X. IN CONCLUSION

We have seen the great necessity of this message! For such sins of idolatry are found, not only outside of The Church on earth, but often even among GOD’s people themselves! And my friends, this ought not to be! We see all around us in this supposedly modern age of human enlightenment how men continue to destroy themselves by bowing down to false gods and serving their insidious and all consuming

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<sup>37</sup> 2, KJV, TITUS 2:11-14.

<sup>38</sup> Matthew Henry, TITUS II, 11-14, I, 5., (1.).

<sup>39</sup> Matthew Henry, TITUS II, 11-14, I, 5., (2.).

<sup>40</sup> Matthew Henry, TITUS II, 11-14, I, 5., (3.).

idols! And even we who are saved by The precious Body and Blood of The Lamb of GOD will, if we honestly examine our lives before His Presence and before men, find that we have all at one time or another – and perhaps still do – attempt foolishly to serve both GOD and mammon!

Let us then carefully consider if there be any such sins of idolatry in our own lives that we may be guilty of before the seat of Divine Mercy! Let us fall down prostrate before The Cross of our Redeemer - face down, our robes of sackcloth ripped in grief by our own hands, our heads covered in ashes - and repent! Let us seek the covering for our sins in the perfect righteousness of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, His atoning Blood painted as it were upon the doorposts of our hearts! Come, let us seek The Lord while He is near!

Let us be purified from all sins of idolatry by the strong arm of The Creator at The Cross of The Redeemer by the power of The Sanctifier! O LORD, may we forever seek only to keep the blessed Saviour upon the throne of our lives! O LORD, may we always flee from our false gods and insidious idols, which turn our hearts from Thee, and rather repent at The Cross of our Lord JESUS CHRIST! In The Name of GOD The Father, and The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN.



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