

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS # 8

Introduction

Considering the influence the Ten Commandments have had for good, it is surprising that they are often spoken of in a resentful manner. I recall being programmed to sing, some years ago, a piece popular at that time, "On the Road to Mandalay." In one of these stanzas, the writer noted:

"Ship me somewhere east of Suez
Where the best is like the worst,
Where there aren't no ten commandments,
And a man can raise a thirst."

Strange, it would seem, that the law God gave to protect life should be resented by its beneficiaries. But such has often been the case and what was provided by God to bless us is seen as being a trial. No doubt this is largely due to the fact that the law limits us and will not allow us to live only for our own ends.

Probably that is our real difficulty. Since the first sin of our first parents, we have been marked with a progressive selfishness. We see it in babies as well as adults. It is marked by impulses to "do our own thing" or to have our own way. But the law says a loud "NO" to this sort of thinking. It tells us that we must first honor God and then honor others. We often reach badly to that admonition for our interest is often self-appointed. So rather than repent we rebel and denounce the law thus depriving us of the only available true guide.

However it does not have to be that way. If we receive the Word of God, the deliverance of God, and bow ourselves to the will of God, His guidance becomes peace and blessing to us. What a contrast in happiness and joy exists between those who love the Lord and those who live grudgingly regarding Him and His word!