

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS...#1

Thank you, Mr. Overton, for your gracious introduction and the opportunity to present this material on the Ten Commandments, one of the greatest literary notes ever produced.

Introduction

Of all the literature in human history, only a few documents have born the mark of greatness in shaping the affairs of the lives of men. We think of the American Constitution and the ordered form of government it has provided for millions of people and we may also remember the Magna Carta and the liberties it established for the entire English speaking world. Certainly we would mention the Bible and the life-transforming truth that has continuously flowed from its pages and no doubt it has far outweighed all other works as a guide in truth to both men and nations. The Bible, infallibly given by the authority and grace of God; has shown life and freedom to countless numbers of persons...life and freedom regarding both this world and the next.

Yet within the Scripture itself there are those portions that are gargantuan in proportion. While all the Word of God is true, some portions of it have claimed a unique closeness to its readers. We think of the 23rd Psalm and the beautiful presentation of the shepherding Lord; of the 53rd of Isaiah and the grace of One who would bear the sins of many. With these passages of personal holiness and beauty, we also think of the cornerstone portions on which all else rests and the most impressive of these is the Ten Commandments. No single piece of literature has expressed so much influence on such a wide range of people, nations and religious ideologies as has this short portion from Exodus 20. In a few words the Lord of earth and heaven gave a law that provided a foundation of truth for multitudes in generations to come.