

Sermon Reflections

Exclusive Worship: No Rivals • Exodus 20:1-3

Summary: Christianity is exclusive; too much so, for many. Does God accept the worship of all religions? The Word is clear! So, **Let nothing (or no one) rival your Savior's rightful place in your life** in your mind and heart.

First Command: Exclusive Devotion

1. His Exclusive Word (v. 1)

- Why is God speaking directly to all of Israel significant? (see Exodus 19:4). What was Israel's response and solution (vss 18,19)? What is the solution for us as we approach God and hear Him?
- Though He spoke to all of them, He was addressing each individual. How do we know God was speaking to the individual (SSV)? How should we interpret the "You" that begins each command? How should we interpret all of scripture in light of this truth? Who then would be the "We", in the we need calls for assistance regarding various needs presented at GBC?

2. His Exclusive Salvation (v.2)

- Before He gave them the law, what did He made clear? Who is He already? What has He already done for them? In light of this, can they do anything to become more His people? Is there anything they can do to keep their relationship with Him. What's wrong with, "I obey therefore I am accepted by God."? Grace says what?
- Compare what God did for the Israelites (OT) with what He has done for those who believe in the Gospel (NT). These two redemptive stories are based on the principle of 1 Jn 4:10; please explain.

3. Demand an Exclusive Devotion (v3)

- Having set the context, God's first command is a "Thou shalt not!". "Having no other gods" or, more literally, "there shall not be to you other gods" carries what meaning? In considering the meaning of "before me", does it allow other gods in His presence? See 1 Samuel 5.
- In comparing devotion to a marriage relationship, what would be the response of a husband or wife to the other having another spouse? What would God's response be to us having a god in addition to Him? What are some gods that might be a snare to us? How do we demonstrate devotion (worship) to them?

4. Application

- Heidelberg Catechism – Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?
A. I am not my own, but belong, with both body and soul, both in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.