

THE VERDICT TEACHING SERIES

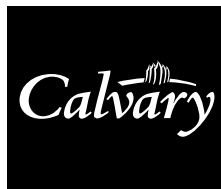
THE
10

COMMANDMENTS

THE VERDICT
WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind. This is
the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: You shall
love your neighbor as yourself. On
these two commandments depend
all the Law and the Prophets.”

— MATTHEW 22:37–40



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The Verdict is a media ministry of **Dr. John H. Munro** and **Calvary Church**.
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THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

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We hope you find this listening guide helpful as you follow along with Pastor John Munro in his teaching series and continue your study in God's Word.

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, OR “THE TEN WORDS” as they are sometimes called, have been highly influential not only in the history of the United States but throughout the world. They are the most universal of all law codes and are accepted as being from God by Muslims, Jews, and Christians.

But what role, if any, do the Ten Commandments play in our world today? And what do the Ten Commandments mean for followers of Jesus Christ?

Through the Ten Commandments, we learn much about God’s nature, His standards, and our own need for a Savior. And in the light of our Lord Jesus Christ, who perfectly fulfills the Law, we will understand how these commandments apply not only to our external behaviors but to the attitudes of our hearts.

All around us, we hear of people substituting their own individual ideas, lifestyles, and preferences for God’s truth. If there is no God, we can all live as we like. But there *is* a God, and He *has* spoken. And He speaks not to accuse us or restrict us but to draw us closer to Himself and lead us to righteousness, holiness, freedom, and fulfillment.

Join me as we embark on this study of these magnificent commands written by the very finger of God. As always, the verdict is yours!

Warmly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", with a horizontal line above and below the name.

Pastor John H. Munro

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 1

Ten Commandments or Ten Suggestions

“And God spoke all these words...” (Exodus 20:1–17)

WHY STUDY AN ANCIENT LEGAL CODE? The Ten Commandments are God’s Word: His absolute truth and unwavering standards, revealing His holiness and how to live a life pleasing to God.

The Ten Commandments were given by God to a redeemed people

- These commandments were at the heart of the Law revealed to Israel, God’s chosen people.
- These commandments were given to Israel after God had delivered them from Egypt. God is telling His people how they are to live.

The purpose of the Ten Words

- The Ten Words were not a way of salvation. They were the standard of conduct for God’s people and the basis of the Mosaic covenant.
- The Ten Words reveal the holiness and the glory of God. And they reveal our sinfulness and need for a Savior.

The Ten Words are commandments, not suggestions

- The Ten Commandments are to be obeyed.
- In their totality, the Ten Commandments are positive.
- Israel quickly broke the Ten Commandments.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Why is it important to understand that the Ten Commandments were given by God to His people versus pagan unbelievers?

Why is it a mistake to see the Ten Commandments as a ladder we climb in order to be saved?

What was the three-fold promise that God made if Israel kept the Mosaic covenant? What happened?

Why should followers of Jesus obey the Ten Commandments?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

How do you view the Ten Commandments? What role do they play in your relationship with God?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 2

The First Commandment: No Other Gods

MANY PEOPLE MAY SAY THEY BELIEVE in God, but what God or gods do they actually believe in? It is essential we know and worship the true God, not a god whom we have constructed.

The Lord is the unique God

- The Lord is the unique God because of who He is: “I AM who I AM” (Exodus 3:14). He is eternal, almighty, unchanging, perfect, and holy.
- The Lord is the unique God because of what He has done: He is Creator and Redeemer.

Therefore this unique God will have no rivals

- The Lord is a jealous God, seeking a relationship with us. It is to be the most important relationship in our lives.
- We must have no false gods. God and God alone must be number one in your life

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Consider the A. W. Tozer quote, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What comes into *your* mind when you think about God?

1

And God sp^{oke} all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

— EXODUS 20:1–3

Why does the name of God (YHWH) tell us so much about who He is?

We usually think of jealousy as being an ugly word. Why is this term used to describe God in relation to the first commandment?

Take this five-part test and think about:

1. How do you spend your money?
2. What do you love in life?
3. What do you think about?
4. What do you do in your spare time?
5. What gives you security in life?

How did you do?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Do you understand who God is? Is He number one in your life?

MESSAGE 3

The Second Commandment: Worship God's Way

NOT ONLY ARE WE TO WORSHIP the correct God, the correct God must be worshiped in the correct way. We must worship God in the way He has prescribed.

No symbols or representations of God are to be made or worshiped

- False worship distorts, obscures, and limits a true concept of God.
- False worship focuses on man's imagination and creativity rather than God's revelation.
- False worship fashions God according to the surrounding culture.

The true God opposes false worshipers

- A violation of the second commandment is serious.
- God opposes false worshipers.

We seek to be biblical worshipers

- God **commands** us to worship Him.
- Biblical worship is **God-centered**.
- Biblical worship is **Christ-centered**.
- Biblical worship is **Word-centered**.
- Biblical worship involves our **heads, hearts, and wills**.



“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

— EXODUS 20:4–6

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

How does the second commandment (worshiping God's way) build on the first commandment (our view of God)?

What are the reasons for not using objects, symbols, or representations of God in our worship?

Why was the construction of the tabernacle and the furniture so detailed?

What are the characteristics of biblical worship?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

How do you approach worship? How does this impact the spiritual tone of your home?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 4

The Third Commandment: In God's Name

IN THE LORD'S PRAYER, JESUS TAUGHT His disciples to pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). God's name is to be hallowed; it is to be revered and honored.

The Lord's name is very precious

- Names are important.
- The name of the Lord is very important and significant.

We break this commandment when...

- We use the Lord's name **profanely**.
- We use the Lord's name **carelessly**.
- We use the Lord's name **casually**.

We break this commandment when...

- We misappropriate the Lord's name to underline our own words.
- We misappropriate God's name to underline our spirituality.

We break this commandment when...

- We praise the name of the Lord with our lips, but deny Him with our lives.
- Don't say that you are a Christian, and then live like a non-Christian.

You will be saved and cleansed by calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13)

- You need a change of heart.
- Call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

3

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

— EXODUS 20:7

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What are some of the names of the Lord? What do they reveal about His character, reputation, and nature?

Does it surprise you that using the Lord's name carelessly or casually applies in this commandment? Why or why not?

How does using the Lord's name in a pseudo-spiritual way break this commandment?

Why is the name of Jesus Christ the most precious, the most exalted, and the most powerful name in all of the universe?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

What is your experience with the name of the Lord?

What aspects of this commandment are most convicting to you? How will you change your mindset and approach?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 5

The Fourth Commandment: A Day of Rest

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT is probably the most controversial of the Ten Commandments. It is the only commandment not specifically repeated in the New Testament. Does it merely relate to the ceremonial law of Israel, or is there an abiding principle for us today?

The Sabbath was to be kept holy

- The Sabbath was not given as a burden but as a gracious gift by God to His people.
- On the Sabbath, no work was to be done. The aspect of rest is emphasized.

The reasons for the Sabbath

- Creation called for a Sabbath: *a rest of delight*.
- Redemption called for a Sabbath: *a day of celebration* and a sign of the special relationship between God and His people.

The benefits of the Sabbath

- The benefit of *rest*
- The benefit of *worship*

The application of the Sabbath

- Consider the New Testament concept of the Lord's Day versus the Sabbath as a sign of the old covenant.
- The Sabbath has its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

4

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

— EXODUS 20:8–11

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Why is it helpful to understand that God initially gave the Sabbath as a blessing, not a burden?

What does a day of rest signify?

How can your view of the fourth commandment impact your view of worship?

What is the difference between the Lord's Day and the Sabbath?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

What is your approach to the Sabbath?

Are you experiencing the true and abiding rest found in Jesus Christ?



ACT JUSTLY

LOVE MERCY

WALK HUMBLLY

WITH →

Your God

MICAH 6:8

MESSAGE 6

The Fifth Commandment: Family Relationships

WHILE THERE IS NO PERFECT FAMILY, the principal place for our spiritual, moral, behavioral, and emotional training is within the home. It is clear that the family is essential to God and society.

Why should we obey the fifth commandment?

- It is a command of God.
- It is a command with a promise.
- Obedience is the right thing to do.
- If you honor your parents, your children will honor you when you are old (as a general rule).

How do we obey the fifth commandment?

- We honor our parents *by obeying* them.
- We honor our parents *by loving* them.
- We honor our parents *by respecting* them and submitting to their discipline.
- We honor our parents *by caring* for them in their old age.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”

— EXODUS 20:12

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What is the promise given with the fifth commandment? What are the implications?

Parents and families are not perfect. Should negative circumstances impact our application of the fifth commandment?

How can you honor your parents in practical ways?

How did our Lord Jesus Christ honor His Father?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Have you received God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ so that God is your Heavenly Father?

Are you drawing on His supernatural love to enable you to love and honor your parents, children, and family members?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 7

The Sixth Commandment: The Sanctity of Life

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE A MIRROR revealing God's holy standards. The sixth commandment may seem to be one where we may have fewer struggles, but consider its implications carefully.

What is murder?

- The literal translation prohibits the unlawful taking of another person's life.
- There are situations where the deliberate taking of human life is not unlawful.

Why is murder wrong?

- "You shall not murder" is a command of God. He has all power and all authority.
- We are made in the image of God. Therefore, each life is precious and sacred.
- God gives life and sustains life. He is in control over life and death.

How does the sixth commandment apply to us in our society?

- Murder by the hand is wrong.
- Abortion is the taking of innocent life and is forbidden by God.
- The intentional killing of a person because of his/her present or foreseeable medical condition or quality of life (euthanasia) is wrong.
- Suicide is wrong.
- Attitudes of hate and vengeance are murder of the heart.

6

"You shall not murder."

— EXODUS 20:13

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What are some situations where the taking of human life is not unlawful?

Why is our understanding of the one true God and His sovereignty central to why murder is wrong?

Why is abortion a violation of the sixth commandment? Is suicide the unforgivable sin?

What is "murder of the heart"? What is at the root of murder?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Do you see how the attitudes of hate and vengeance are opposed to God's purposes of love and life?

Have you been transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ? Have you experienced anger or hate being replaced by the love of God?

MESSAGE 8

The Seventh Commandment: The Sexual Revolution

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY of unrestrained sexuality. As followers of Jesus, we see our sexuality as a beautiful and precious gift of God. It should be expressed according to our Creator's instruction, not abused or cheapened.

God designed sex to take place within the sanctity of marriage

- God ordained marriage as a unique union between one man and one woman for life.
- The seventh commandment is designed to protect the marriage union and the family.

How may adultery be committed?

- By the physical act of adultery
- By adultery in the heart
- By unbiblical divorce and remarriage

Why is adultery wrong?

- Adultery defies God. Our society may think that casual sexual liaisons are acceptable, but God's standards on sexual purity do not change.
- Adultery desecrates the marriage vows.
- Adultery denies true love in favor of selfish lust.
- Adultery destroys families.
- Adultery defiles the body.

7

“You shall not commit adultery.”

— EXODUS 20:14

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What is so significant and special about the marriage union?

Why does sexual immorality damage the soul?

What are examples of adultery of the heart?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

We praise God that in Jesus Christ the deepest sin can be cleansed. Have you experienced this spiritual cleansing?

How do you practice the presence of God in your daily life?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 9

The Eight Commandment: Don't Steal

AS CHRISTIANS, WE RECOGNIZE that God owns everything. When we receive something from the good hand of God, it is not wrong to own it. But it is wrong to take anything that belongs to someone else. In our society, theft has reached epidemic proportions.

Ways we break the eighth commandment

- By obvious theft — Many people think that stealing from the rich, a large store, an institution, or the government is acceptable. It is not.
- By deceitfully depriving someone of what is lawfully their — extortion, embezzlement, cheating, filing false claims, and fraud.
- By borrowing money or goods and failing to return them — unpaid debts.
- By depriving someone of the fruit of their labor — unauthorized copies, withholding fair wages and tips.
- By exploiting others — lying about a product, overcharging for work or professional services.
- By misusing your employer's property and time.
- By withholding money due to the government.
- By robbing God.

Ways to keep the eighth commandment

- Work hard.
- Give generously.
- Be content.

8

“You shall not steal.”

— EXODUS 20:15

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Why would some people say that some forms of theft are justified or acceptable? What is the biblical view?

What is meant by “robbing God”?

How does God’s grace manifest in our lives? How do our motivations change?

How does discontentment show a lack of trust in God?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Are you a contented person, or do you find yourself wanting more? Where is your trust?

If you are a follower of Jesus, have you seen God at work in your life, impacting your heart and your actions?

9

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

— EXODUS 20:16

MESSAGE 10

The Ninth Commandment: The Truth and Nothing but the Truth

LYING IS RIDDLED THROUGHOUT our society. In politics, business, sports, and in personal relationships, lying has become socially acceptable and even institutionalized.

Two reasons why false witness is sinful

- Lying is sinful because God hates lying. As followers of Christ, we believe in absolute truth.
- Lying is sinful because of the value of the individual. We are to treat one another with integrity, respect, and dignity. Without honesty, the framework of our society begins to crumble.

Examples of false witness

- Perjury
- Lying and false accusations
- Slander and gossip
- Flattery

Two specific examples

- Jesus sets out the biblical procedure for resolution (Matthew 18:15–20).
- The dishonesty and deceit of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11)

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What does it mean to believe in absolute truth? Who and what is absolute truth?

Why is the devil identified as “the father of lies”?

Think of lies you have told or encountered in your life. How have those lies destroyed trust and caused problems?

What is the biblical procedure for resolution set out by Jesus? Why is it important to go to the person directly?

How does the account of Ananias and Sapphira underscore the seriousness of sin?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Are you trustworthy? Are you committed to a lifestyle of truth? Is there any deception or hypocrisy in your life?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 11

The Tenth Commandment: Don't Covet

FEW OF US HAVE SERVANTS or oxen and donkeys, but we continue to be envious of the success and the possessions of others.

Three things about the sin of covetousness

- Covetousness is a sin of the heart. Other sins often become known to others, but covetousness deals not so much with our outward actions as with our inward attitudes.
- Covetousness is a sin of dissatisfaction and selfishness. The covetous person is never satisfied with what he/she has.
- Covetousness is a springboard to other sins.

The Law and sin

- **Three things to remember about the Law** (God's commandments):

The Law defines sin and reveals sin.

The Law stimulates sin. The Law by itself is good, but we resent the restrictions and want to do the very things we are told not to do.

The Law is powerless over sin. It cannot give us the power to obey the commands of God.

- **Two things about sin:**

Sin seems so alluring, but it deceives.

Sin not only deceives, but it kills. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

10

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

— EXODUS 20:17

The cure for covetousness

- **Contentment** — Accept what God has for you.
- **Faith** — Trust in God, that He will provide for all of your needs.
- **Cleansing** — We need new life, divine cleansing, and divine power

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

How does the sin of covetousness demonstrate that our hearts are not right, even if our outward conduct is correct?

How is covetousness a springboard to other sins?

Why are the commandments (the Law) powerless over sin?

Why does having an eternal perspective help cure covetousness?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Do you struggle with covetousness or other hidden sins? Place your trust in Christ and live an authentic life obeying God and loving others.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE 12

The Greatest Commandment: Love

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” — Mark 12:28–34

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY about the Ten Commandments? In Mark 12:28–34, Jesus is asked, “What the greatest of the commandments?”

Love is the fulfillment of the Law

- Love is the essence of the Law. All of the commandments can be summarized by perfectly loving the Lord and loving our neighbor.
- Jesus Christ, who is perfect love, is the total and perfect fulfillment of the Law.
- Because Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Law, authentic followers of Jesus are not under the Mosaic law, but the law of Christ.

Love God supremely and totally

- **Love God supremely** — our love cannot be divided.
- **Love God totally** — we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- **Love others** with this divine love.

Receive this gift of love not at Mount Sinai but at Mount Calvary

- Fear, condemnation, and death flow from Mount Sinai's law.
- God's love and grace flow from Mount Calvary's cross.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Why is love the essence of the commandments?

What is meant when we say we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

How is Jesus Christ "the end" of the Law?

What is the law of Christ (the new covenant)? How is it different from the Mosaic law (the old covenant)?

How is this further reflected in the pictures of Mount Sinai and Mount Calvary?

THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Have you realized that by yourself, it is impossible to keep the commandments? Have you received the love of God through faith in Jesus Christ?

Are you bogged down by religious or legalistic regulations? Or have you experienced the Christian life as a living, loving, and growing relationship with the living and loving God?

THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

"Where the Gospel is preached, the lives of men and women and boys and girls are transformed. Through His death and resurrection, Christ gives us peace with God, present power for living, and future hope for eternal life." — PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO



John H. Munro

The Verdict is a daily and weekly radio program featuring the expository Bible teaching of Pastor John H. Munro.

Born and raised in Scotland, John graduated from the University of Edinburgh and practiced law in Scotland before God called him to full-time ministry. He and his wife, Gudny, moved to Texas, where he attended Dallas Theological Seminary.

For more than 30 years, John has dedicated his life to pastoral ministry, preaching and teaching the Word of God. He has served as Senior Pastor in Kalamazoo, MI, Pittsburgh, PA, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Since February 2006, he has served as Senior Pastor at Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC.

Each day on The Verdict, listeners are challenged to turn to the Bible and render a "verdict" as they consider their personal response to the truth of God's Word. John Munro presents a clear examination of Scripture, offering insight and application for all backgrounds, from those unfamiliar with the Gospel to mature believers following Christ.

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*The Verdict is a media ministry of Calvary Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.
At Calvary, our mission is to be and make authentic followers of Jesus Christ.*

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FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION 1:9