

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. I

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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I am glad to be back after being in England for some months and I am grateful to Dr. Peter Jensen who took these broadcasts last year. I hope he will be able to continue to share these with me.

This evening I want to speak about the Ten Commandments. It may seem an old fashioned idea of someone outside ourselves telling us what to do, do this, don't do that, because doing our own thing is our modern motto. The idea of the Ten Commandments doesn't fit into this attitude. The average person today may not know much about the Ten Commandments though older people may remember having learnt them as a child in Sunday School. God gave them to His people at Mt. Sinai after He had delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

The first commandment is "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, you must have no other God but me". 'I am the Lord your God' is a short statement and the most important one that it is possible to hear, but most Australians don't accept that it is true. Even if people believe in God they don't really believe that He is their God. Our ideas of do not of course affect reality, God's existence is independent of what we think on the subject. He says, 'I am the Lord your God' and this should be the keystone of our view of life and of the world. Everything we see around us God created and He upholds it moment by moment. We may think that nature created the world and keeps it going but of course nature is a nonentity, it is just a word. God is the reality behind the world and all its movement. He keeps us living day by day and in due course will call us to His judgement throne to give an account of the life he has entrusted to us. We should be thankful to God for the beautiful world and all

the things we enjoy, for the beauty of the environment originated with him. His mind is infinite, He knows all about us, even the number of the hairs of our head, as Jesus said. He knows the smallest detail of His creation as well as the most distant star. The world depends on God for its life and we depend on Him.

But the remarkable fact is that He cares for us each one. That is His character and that is the principle on which He has made the world so that we should care for others as He cares for us. He invites us into His friendship. He speaks to us 'I am the Lord your God', He says, and we should respond by saying 'Yes Lord, you are my lord'. But of course because we are self-centred, that is because we are sinful, we don't think of Him but only of ourselves most of the time. Although we enjoy His creation, we ignore Him. Like shoppers in a supermarket at Christmas time when the carol tune blares out in the store 'come let us adore Him' we go on, not only at Christmas time, but all our life ignoring Him. Yet in spite of this God keeps on speaking to us and invites us to be His friend 'I am the Lord your God who created you and saved you', He says and we should turn back to Him, pray to Him, give Him thanks, make Him central in our understanding of our own life and destiny. 'I am the Lord your God' is the opening sentence of the Ten Commandments and our reply should be 'come let us adore Him' and acknowledge Him as our Lord and God.

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