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March 30 & 31, 2019

Valley Church
Week 11 – The Ten Commandments

INTRODUCTION:

Exodus 20:1-2

GOD GAVE ISRAEL THE LAW IN ORDER TO...

1) ...AFFIRM AN EXISTING _____

“I am the LORD your God...” (20:2a)

2) ...REFLECT HIS _____ CHARACTER

“...who brought you...out of the land of slavery.” (20:2b)

3) WARN OF THE _____ OF FALSE GODS

“You shall have no other gods before me” (20:3)

False gods are REAL but not TRUE – and still exist today!

- Ba'al = the god of _____
- Ashtoreth = the goddess of _____
- Mammon = the god of _____
- Molech = the god of _____

4) OFFER A MEANS FOR THE _____ OF SINS

“When anyone sins...” (Leviticus 4:2...to be continued in Week 12)

THE BIG IDEA:

The Law is not grace, but the original giving of the Law was indeed a gracious act whereby God established order for His covenant people. Because of Christ, we are not under the Law because He has fulfilled the moral, civil and ceremonial requirements of God's Law on our behalf – giving us His righteousness as a free gift received by faith alone (Matt. 5:17; Rom. 3:19-26; Gal. 3:23-25; Heb. 8-10). Instead, Christians walk by the Spirit in newness of life (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 5:15-26).

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS, FAMILIES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. As you begin your discussion, go around the room and have each person or couple (if applicable) state one reason why they're thankful to live under the New Covenant as opposed to the Law (Old Covenant).

Ponderings:

2. Based on what you remember from the weekend message, why was the giving of the Law to Israel a gracious act by God? Try to be as specific as possible...
3. In numerous passages, Paul contrasts the Law with the New Covenant. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 as a group and discuss the following thoughts and questions:
 - In verse 8 Paul refers to the Law as "the ministry that condemns men." If this is true, then in what sense can it possibly be a gracious act of God in giving it to His people?
 - According to verses 16-18, finding freedom from the Law is part of true Christian discipleship. Yet, some still claim that this will encourage abusing grace as a license to sin. How do you respond to this claim?
4. Thinking back to those false "gods" which are still alive in 21st century culture, which has had the strongest "pull" in your life?
 - Power (Ba'al) = the desire for power/control
 - Pleasure (Ashtoreth) = the desire to escape reality with fantasy/pleasure
 - Prosperity (Mammon) = the love and pursuit of money
 - Pragmatism (Molech) = wrong priorities – the end justifies means
5. How has God's grace worked in your life to help you gain victory over the attraction of that false god? Be as transparent as possible...
6. As honestly as possible, answer these questions one by one...
 - Do you still struggle in your understanding of Law and grace?
 - Is the teaching you receive at Valley helping to bring clarity?
 - How do you sometimes show a lack of confidence in the "once for all" nature of Christ's work to give you total forgiveness and new life?
 - On a typical day, how do you truly feel that God "views" you – as a failure or success? A disappointment or a joy? Explain...

Promptings:

7. What are the differences between a typical "local church" and a truly New Covenant community of faith?
8. Close in prayer – asking God to continue to transform you and Valley Church into the New Covenant expression of His grace that He desires...