

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT OF THEM ALL

From the knowledge of the first and second commandments of God in the Old Testament [O.T.] given to Israel, we shall deduce what constitutes the first and second commandments of the New Testament [N.T.] unto deriving ultimately the greatest commandment of God to all His creations in the heavens and on the earth for all times. For the commandments of the Old Testament is but of the Shadow, being the similitude of the New Testament [N.T.] commandments, that is of the Image on earth. While the True commandment originates from the heavenly where the true God dwells with His Son eternally.

THE FIRST AND SECOND COMMANDMENTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Pharisees cum the Jews asked Jesus Christ severally question concerning the above state heading in his doctrine in order to know whether he identifies truly with the Scriptures of the Law and the Prophets that they hold dear and sacred in the worship of their God. And Christ was able to answer to their satisfaction at all such times.

Mtt 22:34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. **Vr.35** Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, **Vr.36** Master, which is the great commandment in the law? **Vr.37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **Vr.38** This is the first and great commandment. **Vr.39** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **Vr.40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mk 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? **Vr.29** And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: **Vr.30** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. **Vr.31** And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Unfortunately, obeying these greatest commandments of the Old Testament cannot guarantee you entry into the kingdom of God of which Jesus Christ came preaching and teaching in his doctrine as we can deduce below in Christ reply to the Jewish scribe:

Mk 12:32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: **Vr.33** And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. **Vr.34** And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

Mtt 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Rather, belief in these commandments is meant to point you to hearing and believing the Truth of the New Testament that Christ taught in the gospel unto accessing the kingdom of heaven with the eternal life that he preached and gives to those that believe and obey him.

Jn 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. **Vr.40** And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. **Vr.46** For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

Mtt 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? **Vr.17** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. **Vr.20** The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? **Vr.21** Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. **Vr.23** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Unfortunately, men are kept focused on trying to fulfill all the Shadow commandments subtly to no avail. But the end of such times of ignorance has come today, that we might believe to do the will of our LORD and GOD in Christ Jesus instead.

THE FIRST AND SECOND COMMANDMENTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The only way of identifying what the above is actually, is hinged on the testimony that Jesus came to bear witness of to the world. It is predicated on the belief of the Truth that came by Jesus Christ. By hearkening unto the form of truth identified in the Old Testament, men are still held bound under the captivity of the sin of the world without the possibility of attaining eternal life as it were. What is that Truth that came by Jesus Christ alone?

That TRUTH has to do with the revelation of the knowledge of who the only true God is and the knowledge of Jesus Christ as His only begotten Son whom He sent. And also the understanding of the unity relationship between them as One in the Spirit by which “love” is truly defined. The knowledge of the Son was hidden to men in the Old Testament even from the beginning of the world as it were. **Jn 1:29-34**

Lk 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.

Jn 10:30 I and my Father are one.

For by the knowledge of this TRUTH revealed only in Christ Jesus is life eternal possible unto men in the kingdom of God. It is by belief and obedience to this TRUTH that men shall be saved or is genuine salvation attainable, not through any other means.

Jn 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God [as in the O.T.], believe also in me [now in the N.T.]. **Vr.6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **Vr.7** If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also:

Jn 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **Vr.3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

You need to receive the revelation of the Truth and believe before you can identify the first and great commandment of God for the New Testament in order to obey. And this has to do with obedience to the voice cum commandment of the true God concerning His Son - To hear His Son, Jesus the Christ, in all things. And to honour him even as you honour the Father in order for you to live forever.

Mtt 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Jn 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. **Vr.24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Moses in the Scriptures spoke of this same first commandment that was to follow after that which he in the shadow gave unto Israel in the Law. But the Jews believed not him whom they claimed to trust as being from God still. **Jn 5:45-47**

What exactly did Moses tell Israel about Jesus the Christ?

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. **Vr.23** And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Even the mother of Jesus, Mary, revealed this same secret to the servants at the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee in her time.

Jn 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: **Vr.2** And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. **Vr.5** His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you [hearken], do it [obey].

Unfortunately, this very first commandment of God to the Church today is yet a tall order that many know not nor are they taught to do by those that oversee them as it were.

The second commandment is of Christ to the Church, for those that love him and his Father, unlike in the O.T when it was about loving self instead. And it goes thus:

Jn 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another [How?]; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **Vr.35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jn 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. **Vr.12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **Vr.17** These things I command you, that ye love one another.

If ye believe in God truly ye shall obey the first commandment of His. Likewise, if ye believe in His Son, Jesus the Christ, ye shall obey the second commandment of his too. **Jn 14:1**

The Jews rejected these commandments of the New Covenant and New Testament in the truth that came by Christ Jesus, forsaking his voice and that of his God that spoke through him to

them throughout. They hated him and his Father unto crucifying Christ at the end because they knew not the Father nor His Son truly. **Jn 15:22-25**

Jn 16:1-3 (Vr.3) And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Unfortunately, this same error of understanding of the Truth by the Jews hath been perpetuated by the Church as a business organization (CAO) in our times through their Trinity dogma of today as it were. Whereby the Truth is still shrouded in mystery till date and the confusion continues unabated, with men still not being able to tell the Father from the Son.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT OF THEM ALL

We identify the greatest commandment of God to all His creation, whether in heaven and/or on earth, by which they are all to live forever as it were. It was from it that the N.T. image of it was derived as it were. And this commandment we capture as thus:

To hearken unto and obey the voice of the WORD of the LORD thy God.

This is and has been the greatest commandment of God to all His creations. This epitomizes His love extended towards them. It is the divine principle by which the hosts of heaven and the holy angels of God operate to live above every other commandment. There is none other commandment greater than this; for all the commandments hinge on this as it were.

Ps 103:18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. **Vr.19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. **Vr.20** Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. **Vr.21** Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Our Master, Jesus Christ taught us about the greatest commandment in his doctrine, but unfortunately many do not hear him nor understand his speech.

Lk 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

The Father is greater than all and His commandment is the greatest of all, while the commandment of His Son follows suit in the same vein. Embedded in the commandment of the Father is that concerning His Son, hidden therein as it were. As the Father gave the Son commandment so he doeth and liveth by. Likewise as the Son giveth us commandment so we also do in order to live. **Jn 6:57; Jn 10:29; Jn 15:9-10; Jn 20:17; I Cor 11:3**

The Word of God is to be obeyed without question by all that are truly His, who hear His voice. This is how you do the will of our heavenly Father as Christ taught us.

Mtt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

The WORD is forever settled in heaven. And God the Father hath exalted and magnified him above all in heaven and on earth.

Ps 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Ps 138:1 I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. **Vr.2** I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. **Vr.4** All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

Hebr 1:6 And again, when He bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Phil 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **Vr.10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **Vr.11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **Vr.21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **Vr.22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

As the WORD of God is honoured and worshipped in heaven, God sent him to the earth for the inhabitants of the earth to do the same to him as it is done in heaven; for that is the will of God for all, both in heaven and on earth. And this is, that we might hear the voice of His WORD and obey always. Those that are not of God heareth not His WORD to do. It is by hearing God the Father that you hear the Son and vice versa. And this is captured thus - the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Jn 6:44-45; Jn 8:47; Rev 12:17; Mtt 11:27; Rev 5:11-14**

Mtt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Ps 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Jn 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Mtt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Mtt 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: **Vr.15** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

It is by hearing and seeing the WORD that men on earth are converted and saved as it were. And that WORD that was with God from the beginning was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. And by him is salvation unto life eternal for all that believe. And that WORD personified is in the person of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Most High God. **I Jn 4:9; Jn 17:5; Prov 8:22-36**

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **Vr.2** The same was in the beginning with God. **Vr.14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,

I Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; **Vr.2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Jn 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

This very same commandment of God to all His creatures in heaven holds sway for all His earthly creatures too, whether they be plants, animals, or man. It was so ordained from the very beginning of their creation. **Mtt 11:27**

Mtt 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

It is by obeying the great commandment that the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven and that ye enter into life. Therefore, it those that keep the great commandment that Satan goes after being the chief of those that rebelled against it of old. But, it is by the keeping of same that Christ overcame Satan and the world, thereby showing us example to follow in order for us to overcome too. **Jn 16:33; Rev 14:12; I Pet 5:8**

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

ADAM WAS GIVEN THE COMMANDMENT AT THE BEGINNING

God issued His commandment to Adam before He put him in the garden of Eden, but Adam ended up hearkening unto the voice of a creature rather than that of his Creator unto disobeying that commandment. Likewise, Lucifer fell also because he kept not the great commandment of heaven at the initial, by which iniquity was found in him. **Gen 2:15-17; Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:14-15**

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **Vr.25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen

Gen 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **Vr.12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **Vr.13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:

This is the bane of fallen men till date in the world, walking in unbelief where the word of God is concerned. The enemy had twisted the truth, turning it into a lie in the sequence of flow, making the primary thing secondary and the secondary thing primary unto error. Therefore, the world lieth in deception as it were. For example, Men seek to prosper without first seeking to be established in the LORD by hearing His voice as a foundation instead it is other voices that they heed.

Mtt 7:24-27 (Vr.24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them [*the N.T. great commandment*], I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **Vr.26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Therefore, men hearken to obey the tradition of the elders first, the dogmas of religion, the voice of Satan spoken through their fellow men - papas and G.O.s; for they have not ear to hear the still voice of the Spirit of the true God speaking through Christ instead. Thereby transgressing the true and primary commandment of God. This is not faith at all, but unbelief instead; for true faith cometh by hearing and that by the word of God. **Rom 10:17; Lk 6:46**

Mtt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Unfortunately still till date, men continue as of old seeking to believe their so called prophets, their fellow men, that the Father did not send more than they believe the Son, Christ that abideth forever whom He sent.

Jn 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. **Vr.43** I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

II Chron 20:20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper [*men believe more in the prophets that they see than in the God that they do not see being carnally minded as it were*].

But Christ giveth us a new commandment in his own gospel,

Jn 14:1 ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Unfortunately, men being in error seek the lesser instead of the greater, the secondary rather than the primary, the servants-men of God rather than the Son of God, the temporal things rather than the eternal things of value to their own hurt. **Jn 3:30-36**

Mtt 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **Vr.32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek [*first*:]) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **Vr.33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mtt 15:1-9 (Vr.3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? **Vr.6** And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Mtt 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Therefore, as it was with Adam and Eve at the beginning resulting in the Fall, so it is with the fallen man, their offspring, in the world today. The Father hath been seeking for true worshipers ever since. And these can now only be found in Christ Jesus.

Mtt 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **Vr.9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Jn 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **Vr.23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **Vr.25** The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. **Vr.26** Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

LOVE IS AT THE FOUNDATION OF THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As we can see, both commandments of the Old and the New Testament mentioned above are premised on “Love” as the foundation. But the issue is that men from the beginning of the world are destitute of the understanding cum meaning of “Love” because they lack the knowledge of the true God. Instead they operate in the counterfeit of love, which is “Lust”, erroneously believing it to be “Love” having been deceived in this evil world by the Wicked one.

God is love and He from the beginning of His interaction with the first Man, Adam, had shown him love. But the men of old understood not the love of God until Jesus Christ came into the world. And Christ taught us the true meaning of “the Love of God” by his relationship with his heavenly Father and in his doctrine while relating with his apostles too. Yet, unfortunately still men do not hear him nor understand his speech till date. **I Jn 4:8,16**

What exactly is the Love of God?

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

I Jn 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **Vr.4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **Vr.5** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Love is hinged on obeying the voice of the WORD of God in His commandments to His created beings, whether in heaven and on earth by which they are to live. Those that obey not the commandment of God are those that do not love Him, and who love not life, but death instead. Christ our Master taught us that in his doctrine, in the very same way that we are to love him too.

Jn 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. **Vr.21** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. **Vr.23** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **Vr.24** He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: **Vr.31** But that

the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me [*the greatest*] commandment, even so I do.

Jn 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **Vr.10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Jn 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. **Vr.50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

It is not really a new commandment, but an old commandment concerning "Love" which had been from the beginning when God put Adam in the garden of Eden. It was because fallen men knew not the true meaning of love as Christ made us to know that they choose to do to the contrary in trying to show their love of God in their own thinking and ways through sacrifices and offerings instead. How is love truly?

Deu 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **Vr.4** Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Deu 30:2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; **Vr.8** And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. **Vr.10** If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. **Vr.20** That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Deu 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. **Vr.3** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Jer 7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: **Vr.23** But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

OBEDIENCE IS GREATER THAN SACRIFICE

Unfortunately, in the world, fallen men have been deceived to believe that sacrifice, offerings in whatsoever form is a demonstration of love greater than obedience to the voice of the LORD in His commandments to them. They make all manner of burnt offerings and sacrifices to God in the stead of obeying His Word to them first and foremost. They replace absolute obedience with sacrifice.

I Sam 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. **Vr.19** Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? **Vr.22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. **Vr.23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:

Mtt 15:1-9 (Vr.3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition [*of rendering sacrifices and offerings*]? **Vr.6** And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. **Vr.7** Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **Vr.8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **Vr.9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

By the commandments of men that value sacrifices of things above hearkening and obeying the voice cum commandments of God, the CAO get men to be doing the lusts of their father, the Devil instead. This being wisdom in their own eyes and that of men, but foolishness in the eyes of God where it matters the most. They hinder men from entering the kingdom of God to grovelling in the kingdoms of this world instead.

Mtt 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. **Vr.16** Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! **Vr.17** Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? **Vr.18** And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. **Vr.19** Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? **Vr.23** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Jn 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

THE PERTINENT NEED TO HEAR/HEARKEN IN ORDER TO OBEY

Without hearing the voice of God you cannot hearken to obey His voice. God is always speaking in His holiness, but men in their sins generally do not hear His voice. Rather they hear every other voice in unrighteousness than His that is in righteousness. It is the children of God, the children of righteousness that hear the righteous God instead. **Ps 60:6; I Jn 2:29; I Jn 3:7,10**

Ps 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this;

Job 33:14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. **Vr.15** In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; **Vr.16** Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,

Jn 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. **Vr.44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

Jn 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The fallen carnal man easily hears the voice of Satan and that of their fellow men than that of God and His Christ in the Spirit as it were. Unless God gives a man an ear to hear or opens his ear to hear His voice such a man cannot hear nor see in the Spirit. It is not of he that willeth nor of he that runneth, but it is of the LORD that sheweth mercy. Ye have to be born of the Spirit in order to hear the Father and His Son as it were. **Jn 3:3-8; Rom 8:5; I Cor 2:9-15; I Jn 4:4-6**

It is a great privilege to hear the voice of the LORD and to see His Son. It is those that are Called, Chosen, Ordained and Sent by the LORD that their ears are opened to hear Him as it were. The Father openeth the ear of those that He calls to hear His Son, the Son openeth the ear of those that he chooses to hear his Father, while it is those that are ordained and sent with the Holy Ghost that hear the Spirit of Christ in the world. It is not given to all to hear and to see in the Spirit, but only to those thus appointed. **Lk 9:34-35; Mtt 13:9-11; Jn 15:26-27; Acts 2:39; Jn 6:40; Jn 14:16-17; Mtt 11:27**

Acts 22:13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. **Vr.14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. **Vr.15** For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

2 Pet 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **Vr.17** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Vr.18** And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. **Vr.21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Jn 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

Jn 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **Vr.27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

I Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. **Vr.5** They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. **Vr.6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

If you cannot hear the voice of God, His Christ nor that of the Holy Ghost, then how can you hearken to obey the voice? A hardened heart, a stiff neck and living in disobedience is a great hindrance to hearing the voice of the LORD. It is of the mercies of the LORD that one can hear, see and speak His words.

Jn 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? **Vr.39** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, **Vr.40** He hath blinded their

eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Mtt 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. **Vr.13** Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. **Vr.14** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: **Vr.15** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; **Vr.16** Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. **Vr.17** For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Hebr 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **Vr.7** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, **Vr.8** Harden not your hearts, **Vr.12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **Vr.13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

The Father bore testimony of the Son to the world, even as the Son bore testimony of the Father to the world too. And the Holy Ghost presently bears testimony of the Son to all the world. It is those that hear the three that keep the commandments of God and bear the testimony of Jesus Christ by the Spirit that have the world, the flesh and Satan serve as enemies to them. **I Jn 5:7-13**

In Conclusion, we reference the wise saying that king David and his son Solomon declared to all that dwell under the Sun to do even as those that dwell above the Sun always do:

Ps 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. **Vr.11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **Vr.12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Ecdl 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. **Vr.13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. **Vr.14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Above all, that which Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour said unto us, his disciples thus:

Jn 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **Vr.25** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

The conclusion of the matter under the New Testament concerning the great commandment is thus:

I Jn 3:23 And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Mtt 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

May the good Lord and Master Jesus the Christ grant you the spirit of wisdom and understanding in the things written herein, to your coming unto the knowledge of the liberating truth that is in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.