

January 5, 2010

Dear Friends,

A new year is a time of making improvements in our life. The Ten Commandments are useful. To be a good Christian we must not only belong to the Church, we must also keep the commandments. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai and Christ, our Lord, confirmed them.

The commandments were written on two tablets of stone by the hand of God and given to the Israelites on their way to the Promised Land. Everyone is obligated to keep the commandments. These commandments apply to Christian and non Christian, believer and atheist, even the president, congress and our judges. There are no exceptions.

The First Commandment: I am the Lord thy God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall not have strange Gods before me. You shall not make graven images for yourself of anything that is in heaven above or on earth below, nor of anything in the waters. You shall not adore or serve them.

The Second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

The Third Commandment: Keep holy the Sabbath day.

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Keeping the commandments will change our life and bring us closer to God. The commandments will keep us on the right path, for there are so many things that will ruin us in this life and damn us in the next life. Many Christians are ensnared into living a double life. Isn't it strange that we can profess our belief in God and yet have no knowledge of or desire to keep God's commandments? Let us start this New Year by examining our life and asking the God of love for the grace to keep his commandments.

Father Paul Q. Gary