

**HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES** presents...

**THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES**  
with enough power to...

- **cleans** from all sin
- **set us free** from all bondage
- **break all the power** of the enemy over us
- **restore us to total spiritual health**
- **develop immunity** to all last-day deceptions

### **#40 – The TENDER Commandments**

We all endorse the current emphasis in both our churches and the nation on the Ten Commandments. They are not just the Ten Commandments, but they are also the TENDER Commandments. If we fail to see the latter, we are in danger of legalism. Legalism is the belief (a lie) that God owes us salvation because we keep His law. Legalism is an illegal way of applying the Law of God because it fails to see the commandments in their covenant context. This covenant context shows the Ten Commandments as truly being God's **tender** commandments in the setting of His amazing grace and love.

The legalistic (surface) way of looking at the first four of the Ten Commandments is like this:

- Do not worship other gods.
- Do not worship graven images , i.e. watch out for religious art.
- Do not take the name of God in vain – a prohibition against profanity.
- Keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day as the Sabbath.

The covenant way of looking at the first four of the Ten Commandments goes like this:

- Because God has set you free from the bondage and slavery of Egypt (anything to which you were in bondage, including the guilt of unforgiven sins), He now desires you to maintain your God-given freedom. And the way to do it is this:
- Do not worship other gods, because the God who so miraculously delivered you from Egypt is BIG enough to handle anything. Do not chase after other gods who cannot deliver and provide what your real God can do. The worship of such gods, idols, will be a return-ticket to slavery.

- Do not make substitutes for God in your own (or anyone's) image. Such substitutes will only damage your life and the lives of future generations. In the second commandment God guards us against basing our personal identity on our own substitutes for Himself. Because such substitutes are always lesser gods, we in turn become the children of such lesser gods.
- To take God's name in vain is far more than the utterance of profanity. At its core it is really about playing god. You cannot get away with this because there is only one God, and He wants to protect you and others from the consequences of assuming His role. Instead, rely on the resources of His sufficiency for your every need as expressed and promised in His many glorious names.
- *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.* This is a day to celebrate your identity in God as your Creator and Redeemer (just as much as you celebrate your birthday). Besides, the fourth commandment is really an easy commandment to keep. After all, what is easier – to work or to rest? Let the abstaining from work on the Sabbath become a day to celebrate that you are not saved by your own works, but by His work. *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”*

*“Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119,129.97).*