

**THE SOCIAL LAW OF  
GOD: SERMONS ON THE  
TEN COMMANDMENTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649707010

The Social Law of God: Sermons on the Ten Commandments by E. A. Washburn

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THE  
**SOCIAL LAW OF GOD:**

SERMONS ON THE  
TEN COMMANDMENTS.

BY  
**E. A. WASHBURN, D.D.**  
*Late Rector of Calvary Church, New York.*

WITH A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE AND WORK.

*Rev. E. A. Washburn*

NEW YORK:  
THOMAS WHITTAKER.

1881.

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By T. WHITTAKER.



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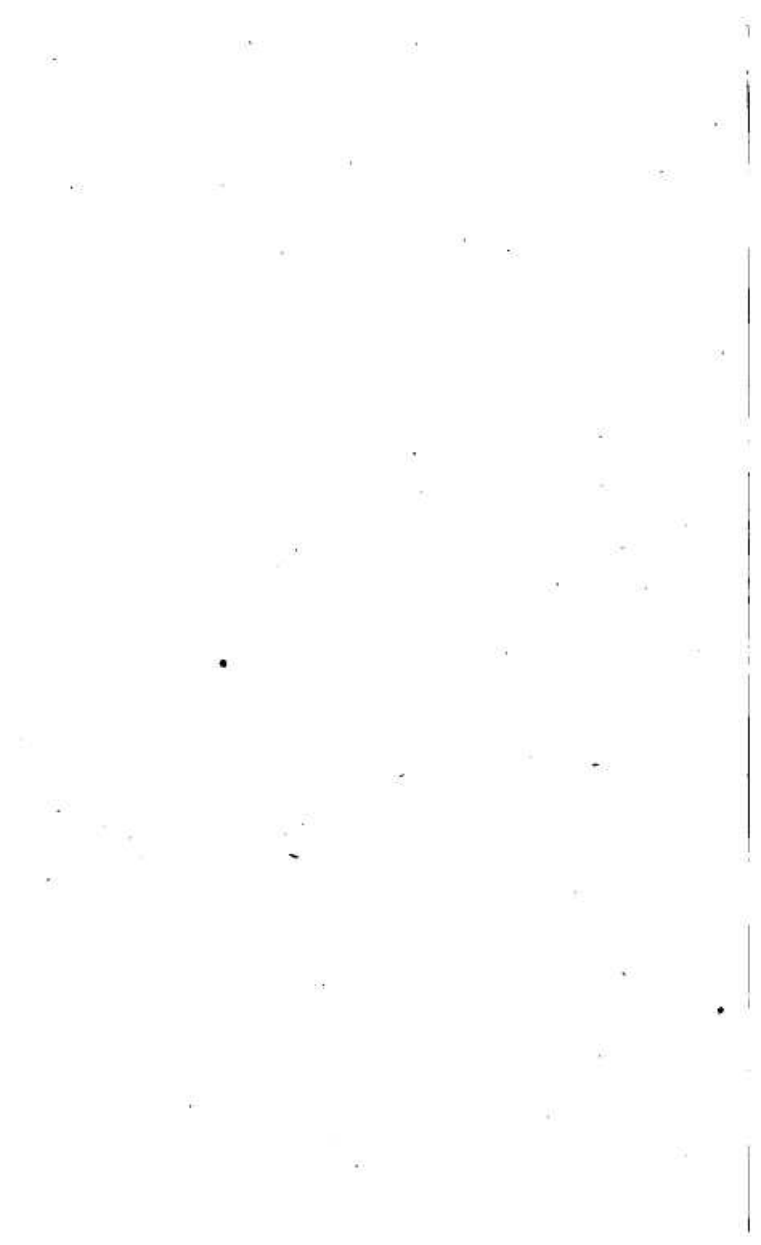
EDWARD A. WASHBURN.

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"And they buried him . . . among the kings."—e Chron. xxiv. 26.

"YES, lay him down where sleep the royal dead.  
His steady hand no more the censer swings.  
Room for this priest beside the bones of kings!  
For kingly was he, though a priest," they said.  
Great-hearted friend, thee, too, we counted bred  
For priesthood loftier than the tardy wings  
Of souls content with songs the caged bird sings  
Are wont to soar to. Thine it was to wed  
Far-sundered thoughts in amity complete;  
With Christ's own freedom fettered minds to free;  
To thread the darkling paths where timid feet  
Faltered and slipped. Oh, it was not in thee  
To blanch at any peril! Then most meet  
That thou amidst the kings should'st buried be.

W. R. H.





## IN MEMORIAM.

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EDWARD ABIEL WASHBURN was born in Boston, April 16th, 1819. A descendant of John Washburn, of Evesham, who was Secretary to the Plymouth Company, he was a member of that large and widespread family so distinguished in the varied departments of life. His father being a merchant in easy circumstances, he enjoyed all the advantages afforded by his native city; and from the Latin School he passed to Harvard College, where he graduated with high honors in 1838. Having decided to enter the Congregational ministry, he proceeded to the Theological Seminary at Andover, where he spent one year, going the following year to New Haven, but returning to the former place to complete his third year. At this period he was distinguished for his literary tastes and acquirements, and was a great admirer of Carlyle and Coleridge; while he also found a great stimulus to intellectual activity in the writings of his kinsman, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Among his associates and classmates were some who have since become distinguished, like Drs. Storrs and Hitchcock. He was now licensed to preach, and for six months he was occupied in filling various vacant pulpits, being everywhere well received. His acquaintance with several Church clergymen, including the then Rev. Messrs. Clark and Vinton, in con-

nection with Mr. Hall, now the Rector of Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, led the way to a fuller consideration of the constitution of the Church than he had previously given, and, as the result, it finally appeared to him that the Congregational theory could not command his assent.

Accordingly he became a candidate for Orders in the Diocese of Massachusetts, spending the period of candidacy at the South. July 12th, 1844, in Trinity Church, Boston, he was admitted to the diaconate by the Bishop of the diocese, whereupon he took charge of St. Paul's Church, Newburyport. While officiating there as deacon, and on the occasion of the death of President Jackson, he made use of one of the prayers in a way that excited inquiry among some concerning his views respecting the condition of departed souls, and when the time came for his advancement to the priesthood his bishop at first declined to give him ordination. The erroneous impression was removed, and he was set apart as a presbyter by Bishop Eastburn in Grace Church, Boston, October 9th, 1845. Mr. Washburn served as Rector of St. Paul's until 1851, with much usefulness and popularity. Those, indeed, were among the happiest years of his life. In 1851 he resigned and went abroad, for the benefit of study and travel. He was absent until 1853, in the mean while visiting Egypt, Palestine, India, and China, remaining in the latter country about six months. On his return he was called to St. John's, Hartford, to succeed Dr. Coxe, preaching his first sermon on Easter Sunday, 1853. He was married June 16th, of the same year, in Trinity Church, Washington, D.C., to Miss Frances H. Lindsley, eldest daughter of Dr. Lindsley. For a time,

in connection with his parochial work, he performed the duties of Lecturer on Ecclesiastical Polity at the Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Connecticut. In 1860 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College. In 1862 he was called to the rectorship of the large and wealthy church of St. Mark's, Philadelphia. In 1865 he was elected as the successor of Dr. Coxe, at Calvary Church, New York. In 1871 he was a delegate to the Evangelical Alliance, and in 1872 he went abroad again, and visited Spain, in company with his friend, Professor C. M. Butler. In 1873 he attended the sessions of the Alliance in New York, and in 1879 he was a delegate to that body which met at Basle. During the summer of 1880 he spent two months travelling horseback in North Carolina and Virginia, returning to his clerical duties in the autumn, though suffering severely from time to time, as indeed had been the case for a great portion of his life. He officiated for the last time on the Sunday before Christmas, preaching a carefully prepared sermon, and retiring from the pulpit exhausted, though hoping to recover to do ten years more of active duty. Yet ere long this hope was abandoned, and with submission he recognized the inevitable event. Dr. Washburn passed away from earth shortly after noon, February 2d, 1881, his end proving what might have been expected of one whose life had been one long course of preparation for death. Says one of his classmates : " He fell asleep while words of prayer were ascending beside him, and while the loving and blessing hands which clasped his own were scarcely conscious that their strong pulses had been stilled."