

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS,
ILLUSTRATED
AND ENFORCED, ON
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES**

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The Ten Commandments, Illustrated and Enforced, on Christian Principles by W. H. Stowell

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W. H. STOWELL

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BY **W. H. STOWELL.**

"Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments." **PSALM, cxix. 4-6.**

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." **ROMANS, iii. 31.**

SECOND EDITION.

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TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE present Edition of the Lectures is printed in a form, and at a price more adapted to general circulation.

The author desires to express his acknowledgments for the favourable manner in which the former edition has been received. It would have been gratifying to improve the work by adopting some valuable suggestions with which, from private communications, as well as from one of the organs of public criticism, he has been favoured; but as *this* would have led to a considerable *enlargement* of the volume, and, as he conceives, would have altered the *character* and *design* of the work, he has felt himself under the necessity of omitting the additional matter which had been prepared, and of suffering the Lectures to appear entirely in their original form.

Tynemouth, 7th of June, 1825.

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P R E F A C E.

THE substance of the following illustrations was delivered to the congregation attending the Author's ministry, in the ordinary course of pastoral instruction. For their use, in the first instance, they are now published; and by *them* he trusts the present volume will be regarded as a proof of his lively concern for the diffusion of enlightened practical christianity amongst them. — To those, beyond the circle of his immediate friends, who may honour these pages with a perusal, it is, perhaps, necessary to introduce them by a few remarks.

There are, certainly, many works already on The Commandments; and it may be said that any thing additional is uncalled for.

The author has reason to believe that some of the works referred to have been considered too voluminous for the habits of reading that obtain in the present day; some too brief, dry, and systematic, to excite much interest,—and others, either in danger of being overlooked, from their being surrounded by more tempting themes occurring in the *Bodies of Divinity* in which they have had a place,—or likely to produce a baneful impression by detaching the commandments from the doctrines of the Scriptures.

The writer has frequently been asked for some *single work*, in which the requirements of the divine law were stated and discussed in an evangelical spirit; and being unable to find any thing likely to meet the inquiries, he was encouraged, after much deliberation, to supply, as well as he could, what many had felt to be a deficiency in this department of religious reading.

The objects kept in view, in this publication, are the developement of those *feelings* to which the authority of each commandment is opposed, as they display themselves in the existing state of society, whether without or within the pale of the professing christian church; and the earnest enforcement of those *dispositions* which the Divine Author of the Law approves, by *motives drawn from the discoveries of the gospel*.

As the Introductory Lecture exhibits the general views sustaining the conviction,—that it is the duty of christian teachers to obey the commandments of God themselves, and to urge them with all solemnity and plainness on their fellow-men, it would be superfluous in a preface, to vindicate a design arising from such views.

How far the writer has succeeded in the attempt will be determined by the judg-