**A Question For You**

Dearathus Studentius Magnus Greaticus,

 I do pray and beseech thee, oh thou Greaticus Classmemberus, take thee heed unto my supplication. Yeah, for verily, verily, I say unto thee, unless thou shalt bend thine ear to my plea, I cans’t not abide. For when thou doest demonstrate thine abilities to such a worm as I, I cans’t not bear my frailty. For thou, oh Studentius, are indeed the Magnus Greaticus, The Stupendous Wondermous, and the Fantasticus Amazingus!

 I stand in awe as I contemplate thee. And I bow in thine presence and present my request unto thee. Oh Greaticus Classmemberus, the Maximus Awesomus, though I am not deserving an answer from thee, yet I make my petition before thee now. May I be so bold as to ask thee this one question, and I will never more bother thee for another, for I knowest that thou art the Numberoneamongus! My question of thee this once, for I sincerely desire to know, is verily this: **“How art thou, oh Greaticus Studentius?”**

 For verily I do submit this as only a humble servant.

**8. Do not steal…**we clearly understand the concept of taking someone’s belongings as being wrong. To take what is not ours and claim it for ourselves cannot be condoned. But what if the target of our stealing is a large company? It is just as wrong for the Christian to waste their time at work, as it would be to steal cash from a cash drawer. To do less than we could possibly do for our employer, is always wrong. And do we waste other people’s time as well? Do we listen to and obey our teachers, or do we do as we want and cause delays or consternation?

**9. Don’t give false testimony…**Telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is a rare commodity in our world today. Lying has become so commonplace that we expect it as a regular part of business. There was a day when a person’s word was their bond. God expects us to honor our commitments regardless of the inconveniences to us. Telling the truth, even when it makes us look bad, is part of the task of living righteously. And half truths designed to make others seem less is wrong as well.

**10. Do not covet…**This last commandment may well be the one that trips us all up the most. God saved it for last, and went on to explain it in detail so that we would not miss it. We generally think of murder as being at or near the top of any list of wrongs that anyone could commit. And yet, God simply says, “Do not murder,” with no further explanation. To covet is not an outward action. It is a condition of our heart that God can see clearly, whether we want to admit it or not. Anytime we look at anyone who we come in contact with each day, and wish we had what they have—no matter how insignificant that thing might be—is a problem. To covet implies that we are dissatisfied with what God has given us. That our life doesn’t measure up to what we want. That God does not supply enough, or give us enough, or the right things.

No one alive has ever been able to keep these ten commandments—except Jesus. We fail at all of them. When we come to the point that we admit where we fail, we can ask for forgiveness, and our God is more than willing to forgive and forget. And do not forget that the remainder of The Law followed right after this passage, and explained in even greater detail the standard of right and wrong that God holds unwaveringly.

**A Brief Visit Of The First Ten Commandments**

**1.** **You shall have no other Gods before Me**… In the fast paced world that we live in, it is not easy to remind ourselves constantly through the day that there is a God who cares about every moment that we experience. Talk to God constantly throughout your entire day. Make Him a part of each decision you make. Practice the idea that God is right beside you every moment of every day!

**2. Make no idols…**It would seem to most of us that we have this one under control…but do we? If there is anything in our lives that we place more importance on than the commands of God, we have a problem. If God asked you today to walk away from EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE, could you do so and never look back with a longing desire for what you once had? If not, its and idol.

**3. Don’t misuse the name of God…**that includes swearing and cussing. But we must also admit that this commandment warns us about claiming the name of Christ—being a CHRISTIAN—but living like the rest of the world.

**4. Remember the Sabbath Day…**While we no longer hold to honoring Saturday now in the New Testament church age, remember that the concept of the Sabbath, a day of rest, extends all the way back to Creation. God graciously gave us a day of rest. He told us to follow His example and set aside one day to honor Him and do no work. It is possible, in fact, it is a gift of God, that we can have a better life overall, if we set one day a week aside for rest.

**5. Honor your parents…**That is not easy at any age. But respect towards parents is a requirement of God. The concept of family and how it is supposed to operate in our world has huge implications to society. When the foundation of the family is eroded, the culture fails along with it. It is an essential building block that God instituted in the Garden, to help make our lives better. And this command comes with a promise of a longer life. Do we really believe that? This promise is astounding! A longer, happier life if we honor our parents. Could it be that simple? Yes.

**6. Do not murder…**We all understand that taking the life of an individual, by an individual, is wrong. But one might ask, “What about capital punishment? Can a nation put criminals to death?” The law that followed the ten commandments, clearly delineated the process whereby a nation could take the life of an individual. The expressed reason was listed—to deter crime. And it worked. I don’t know where you stand on the subject of abortion, but it is this author’s belief that it is nothing short of murder. Taking the life of an innocent child cannot be condoned or tolerated in any way!

**7. Do not commit adultery…**Jesus defined this law when He explained that it also extended to our thought process. By implication, all of the ten commandments are defined as including our thought process. Anything that we think about, or dwell on, or wish for, can bring as much guilt upon an individual as the actual act.

