Thou Shalt Not Curse the Deaf

Lev. 19:14

Intro. A. It is with hesitation that I give my text.

1. Since from O.T., some regard it as of no account. Not so. You find need of later flowers here.
2. Since from Leviticus, too obscure. Get from very chapter, God quoted.
3. Since text itself seems at once semi-facetious and disjointed. Quote.

4. Since it deals with problem no longer a force - making the applied object of report.

B. Two parts: raises question; gives answer.

I. The Question: What determines Right and Wrong? What is the Source of the Moral Standard?

A. Christianity and Judaism agree in this and stand apart from other religions - make moral demands upon adherents.

B. What determines the standard?

C. Is it society?

1. Law has wrong that which harms others.
2. Some "rights," "wrongs" vary with societies.
3. Most societies call lying, cheating, stealing, killing wrong.
4. Yet Fiji; how deaf formed?

Real issue unaltered often untouched by popular vote.

D. Is it the conscience of a person?

1. Conscience a valuable aid.
2. But it has to be quickened, sharpened, instructed.
3. No one is born with mature, sensitive conscience
4. Conscience can be
   a. Seared as with hot iron.
   b. Misled, as in Paul's case.
   c. Or dulled, as here, else why such a ruling.

E. Is it one's best reason?

1. Have high opinion of human mind to solve impersonal problems, handle affairs of business, create.
2. But falters before personal problems.
   a. Unable to see self clearly. Note how much advising, counselling.
   b. Bound up in selfishness, deceit, and evil runs before thought.
   c. Reason used to support already formed opinions, wants.

II Answer: I am the Lord thy God.

A. No lingo reasons given—
   1. No reference to personal, social, political reasons.
   2. No ulterior motives - peace, happiness, prosperity, out of war.

B. I am your God.
   1. Source of the standard is God.
   2. The standard is God's own nature.

C. God's qualities are the motive and the standard for His people.

D. Why am I to forgive? to love? to obey? to live a good and holy life? Because God is God.

E. Church cannot force its standard on world, but can expect of its people.