"A Valentine Written In Stone" INTRODUCING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS Dr. Rick Bartosik Mililani Community Church March 9, 2003

INTRODUCTION

If you could rate your life on a scale of 1 to 10 what rating would you give it? What would it take to make sure your life was a "perfect ten"?

- God's desire for your life (John 10:10)
- God's strategy for living life as a "perfect ten" (Matt. 22:37-40)

PROPOSITION

The Ten Commandments are one of the most powerful expressions of God's love in all of Scripture – a tender love letter inscribed by the very finger of God (Ex. 31:18).

CONTEXT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The rightful setting of the Ten Commandments is the boundless, faithful love of the living God for His people. God gave Moses specific instructions about what to say to the people BEFORE presenting the Ten Commandments (Ex. 19:3-6).

- They were SLAVES, trapped in bondage in Egypt
- God heard their cries, saw their tears, and REDEEMED them out of slavery! (Deut. 15:15)
- They are now His TREASURED POSSESSION (Deut. 7:6).
- "I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself"

PURPOSE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God gave us His Word and specifically the Ten Commandments out of a heart of love, not to harm us but to prosper us, to protect us, to keep us from destruction, as we respond to Him and walk with Him (Jeremiah 29:11)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

- Our obedience to the commands of God is what marks us as a REDEEMED COMMUNITY of God's dearly loved people, who belong to Him and to one another.
- His commands help us to know how to love God more effectively (Psalm 1)