

Introduction: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS [1]

Week 1 January 30th, Ten Commandments Introduction

Thoughts from “*This Faith is Mine*” reflections on the Small Catechism. [2]

Something to think about:

The Ten Commandments are laws, foundational truths that we can use to guide us. What they can do is help us understand what we are doing wrong and what we should be doing right. The commandments are like the speed laws. It may say 35 MPH, but that doesn't mean everyone goes that speed! Laws--even God's laws--don't make people good. Laws actually show us that we aren't good. Laws may even instill fear, and compel external compliance for them. But they have no life-power.

Life-power comes only in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Law shows us our sin. Our very nature is sinful. We are not perfect! But, we have the perfect rule of God shown to us in the Ten Commandments! We try hard to do what is right but we fail in comparison to the perfect Law of God! The Law shows us we are incapable of being perfect and we need His help! We need a Savior! He sent us Jesus Christ! He sent His Son to redeem us. He took our sin, suffered, died and was resurrected. We are washed clean, sin is removed once and for all, and now we want to cheerfully do and think and speak as God's will directs us! We have freedom from sin and from the Law to serve God willingly.

Questions:

- What are the 10 Commandments? Where are they in the Bible?
The 10 Commandments are the Law of God.
Written in Deuteronomy 5 and Exodus 20

How did God give His Law?

- At first when God created people, He wrote the Law on their hearts. But later they were written on the two tablets of stone that Moses brought down from the mountain.

What is the summary of the commandments 1-3 (First Table)?

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matt. 22:37 and Deut. 6:5.

Reference:

[1] “Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation” (NIV edition), Concordia Publishing House, 1991 with illustrations 2005, 54-56 pages, ISBN 13: 978-0-7586-1121-5, ISBN 10: 0-7586-1121-5

[2] “this Faith is Mine: Reflections on Luther's Catechism” Concordia Publishing House, 1960/2005 104-105 pages ISBN 0-7586-0727