

Morsels

from the

Master

When Luther's puppy happened to be at the table, looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes, he [Martin Luther] said, "Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish, or hope" (Table Talk #274).

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Who Is Martin Luther & What Is A Lutheran?

A Lutheran holds firmly that the Scriptures are God's inspired Word. A Lutheran distinguishes clearly between both Law and Gospel. A Lutheran esteems the Sacraments (Baptism & Holy Communion) highly and seeks to make every possible use of them. A Lutheran remembers their Baptism as the time God adopted him or her as His own dear child and draws great comfort from this. A Lutheran recognizes that Christ's Body and Blood are truly present in Holy Communion, along with the forgiveness of sins, and therefore longs to receive this Holy Supper as frequently as it is offered. A Lutheran recognizes these Sacraments are powerful because of their connection to God's Word, the only true revelation of God's saving plan. Because of this, a Lutheran studies God's Word faithfully, knowing that his or her comfort rests solely on God's promises found in that Word and made visible in the Sacraments.

Unfortunately, because of sin, a Lutheran, at many times, will not always have the perfect zeal and trust described above. But that's why we're here--to equip you with the knowledge and faith to carry you through those times of trouble and doubt. May the Lord bless our studies as we grow in our faith and in our knowledge of His Word!

When, Lord willing, you are confirmed, you will subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions, because the Lutheran Confessions are drawn from Scripture and faithfully present Scriptures teachings. Subscribing to them is a serious thing, because you are agreeing to their teachings and promising to believe and live according to them. You should, therefore, at least know what Confessions we subscribe to:

Luther's Small Catechism
Luther's Large Catechism
Augsburg Confession (UAC), 1530
Apology (of the Augsburg Confession),
Smalcald Articles, 1537
Formula of Concord, 1577

The Bible

Law / Gospel

Lesson 1

The Bible's Two Major Parts

What was the Old Testament (OT)?

Acts 3:18

*But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the **prophets**, saying that his Christ would suffer.*

Who did Christ speak through?

What did He say?

What does that mean?

2 Peter 3:2

*I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy **prophets** and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your **apostles**.*

Through whom did our Savior give the command (that is, the whole Christian message)?

What is the New Testament (NT)?

Acts 3:18

But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

What happened in the New Testament?

Hebrews 9:15

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Put this in your own words.

What were the covenants?

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Why was the NT written?

Why do we do Bible Study?

Lesson 2

Where Do We Learn About God?

Nature

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

What do the heavens and skies do?

How do the heavens and skies proclaim the work of God?

What is the first place God shows us who He is?

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Ever tried to make an excuse for something you did wrong?

What has clearly been seen from the beginning of the world?

What are those qualities?

How does nature show us these things?

So what do we learn about God from nature?

Conscience

Romans 2:14,15

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

Ever tried to play a game without knowing the rules?

Where does this verse say God's law is written?

What does it mean that God's law is written on their hearts?

Illustration: Our conscience is like a referee in a basketball game. When something happens that it doesn't think should happen, it blows the whistle and we feel guilty.

Romans 1:32

*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.
"Misery loves company."*

What does Paul say people just know from their conscience?

Why do those who act against their conscience deserve death?

So what do our consciences tell us about God?

Illustration: Our conscience tells us there is a God. It also tells us we have done things that God would not like. Because of this, men and women have come up with all sorts of religions which all try to make God happy by doing all kinds of different man-made works.

Conscience's and Nature's Limitations

Illustration: Nature and conscience only can say so much. You can't perfectly know the artist by a painting. Similarly, although you may hear someone speaking a different language and be able to tell if they're angry or sad or happy, you still wouldn't understand everything they were saying unless someone told you. In the same way, God had to tell us the rest of what He wanted us to know. He had to fill in the things that nature and our consciences left out.

The Only Revelation of God's Saving Plan

2 Timothy 3:15

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

It's a blessing to have parents who bring us up with God's Word.

What are the Holy Scriptures able to do?

How do the Scriptures make us wise for salvation?

So where alone can we learn about God's saving plan?

Review and Application

Agree or disagree: There is really no such thing as an atheist.

Agree or Disagree: Our consciences are always right.

Evaluate: There is truth in heathen religions.

Lesson 3

Verbal Inspiration

What is Verbal Inspiration?

When you receive a check in the mail, which do you trust more, one from a sweepstakes, or one from your employer? Why?

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

What is the Word of God?

What does that mean?

What comfort does a Christian draw from this?

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed (θεόπνευστος, divinitus inspirata) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

What is all Scripture?

Put that in your own words.

What does this passage mean for the assurance of your faith?

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

How did the Bible's writers speak?

Explain that.

Were the men merely taking dictation from God, that is, were they just the pens for God's hand, writing exactly how and what God wanted word for word?

Illustration: Newspaper reports.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Put this passage in your own words.

Illustration: Trumpet needs a trumpeter.

How does this compare to what happens when we read the Bible?

Why Is It Important We Know the Bible Is Inspired?

John 10:35

The Scripture cannot be broken.

How would someone try to break the Bible?

Who are some people who try to break the Scriptures? What should we do when we encounter them?

What does the fact that the Scriptures cannot be broken mean for us and our faith?

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Consequently, what is everything that contradicts God's Word?

Compare this passage to John 8:44-47. Any insights?

Illustration: Imagine you had an expensive gold chain and you noticed one link was giving way. Would you ignore it and say, "Oh, well, it's only one link."

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Why do you believe what I or another pastor says? What should you do when you hear a person speak about religious things?

See 1 Thessalonians 5:21 and 1 John 4:1 for help.

Think of a time you broke a promise or someone broke one with you. God is not like that. He has never broken a promise. Where we have a promise of God, there we have a sure and certain faith!

How Does Verbal Inspiration Affect How We Use the Bible?

Open your Bibles to where it gives the author's name.

2 Peter 3:16

He [Paul] writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

What were people changing?

How is this different from adding or subtracting to/from God's Word?

Why is it just as serious and dangerous as adding or subtracting to/from God's Word?

Revelation 22:18,19

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

What does this mean for us?

Why is false teaching so dangerous then?

How does this affect your view of your confirmation vow?

Illustration: Einstein discovered how to split the atom. He wanted this discovery to be used for the good of mankind, for instance, by supplying more efficient energy. However, he feared sinful mankind would misuse this technology, and they have, by ignoring the purpose Einstein intended for this new invention. When people misquote or falsely teach Scripture, they do the same thing as those people who have misused nuclear power. They ignore the purpose for which God gave us the Scriptures. See 2 Timothy 3:15.

Review and Application

Evaluate this statement: I believe the Bible is God's Word because it makes so much sense.

A friend says to you, "I go to Schwaermer Community Church because it teaches the Bible." What would you reply? (Hint: What does the Devil use to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4 or see James 2:19)

Agree or Disagree: We should only teach the Bible using the exact terms or words that it uses.

Lesson 4

The Two Main Teachings of the Bible

Most books' titles give their purpose away. The Bible's title is less informative. What does it mean? Who named it? What is the purpose of it?

Unless we realize why the Bible was written, we cannot understand it, no matter how much we may read.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

What was given through Moses?

What are some laws in our society?

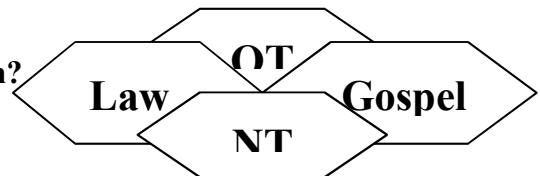
Where is the Law summed up?

Galatians 1:11-12

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

What did Paul preach?

Who was it from?



What Does the Law Teach Me?

Think again about some laws our government has. What is the purpose of these laws? How do they benefit and/or harm us?

Matthew 19:17-19

“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.” “Which ones?” the man inquired. Jesus replied, “‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’” What do these things tell us?

What are sins of omission? Commission?

Romans 3:22b-23

There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

(Hint: Never forget what verse comes next!)

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:23a; Matthew 25:41

- "**Cursed** is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."
- For the wages of sin is **death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are **cursed**, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the **devil** and his angels.'

What Does the Gospel Teach Me?

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

(Sound familiar: see the Agnus Dei in the Service of Word and Sacrament and the Common Service!)

What did the Lamb of God do? How?

What was the Passover Lamb? How is Jesus like it?

With your parents, come up with an analogy (similar situation) from something that might happen today that you could use to share the Gospel with a friend (e.g. paying a bill for a person in debt). Write it out and hand it in next class period.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Put it in your own words.

Romans 5:15

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

What Is The Main Purpose of the Bible?

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(Sound familiar? We sing these words in the Service of Word and Sacrament as we prepare to hear Christ as the Gospel is read.)

Why are the words of Scripture written?

How do they do this?

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Hope for what?

What kind of hope? How is it different than other kinds of hope?

Illustration: A car or truck doesn't run without gas. A Christian doesn't run without hope. You take a car or truck to the gas station for gas. A Christian goes to fill up at the "hope station," that is, the Means of Grace.

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: Every passage of Scripture is either Law or Gospel.

Evaluate: The Bible was written to show me how to be a good person.

Evaluate: The most important thing about a sermon is that it addresses my needs.

Lesson 4

Where We Find God's Law

Where is One Place We Find God's Law?

Think about where your house is. How many different ways are there to get there? There are probably several routes that can take you to the same location. Think of how you all got to church. You all came different ways. Similarly, there are different ways, or routes we take, to find out about the Law. This lesson is going to look more closely at those ways.

Romans 2:14-15

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

Where is the law written?

What also bears witness?

How does conscience accuse and defend us?

Give me an example of something most people know is wrong without being told?

Some customs vary from culture to culture, for example, gestures, etiquette, and styles of dressing. Other things, however, are common in almost every culture, like laws against murder, theft, rape, and false testimony. Conscience testifies against these things. Paul points to this as proof that the part of the law is written on our hearts.

Why Can't We Always Rely on What Our Conscience Says?

My wife and I recently bought a used Ford Focus. One reason we bought a car was that the truck we had before this was slowly dying. One problem it had was that its gauges were not reliable. Suppose then, I had gotten pulled over for speeding. I could claim my odometer was broken, but, even if it were, I would still get a ticket for speeding. Whether my odometer was wrong or not, I would be held responsible for breaking the law. Like my truck's gauges, our consciences also no longer are as reliable as they once were when God first created Adam and Eve perfect and without sin. We cannot always rely on what they tell us. Let's see why.

Ephesians 4:18-19

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they

have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Why are they darkened and separated from God?

Put it in your own words.

How does someone end up becoming hardened like this?

How do we avoid becoming like this? (see also Hebrews 10:25)

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Compare this to Ephesians 4:18-19.

Romans 14:14

As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.

(see also 1 Corinthians 8:7 for a similar situation)

Some Christians at Paul's time felt guilty eating meat sacrificed in the temple, as most was before it was sold, and so Paul says that they should not eat it if it bothers their conscience.

What are some situations in our day and age that would compare to this?

Is it wrong for others to eat meat if their conscience is not bothered?

Do any of you hunt? If you do, and you use a gun, you know that before you get into your tree stand for deer season, you need to go to the range and sight your gun. That's where you go shoot at a target and adjust your scope or sight until it is accurate enough for you to hit your target consistently. Just like a gun's scope or sight, our conscience can be off and cause us to "misfire" as well, either by commending us when we do something contrary to Scripture or accusing us when we do something that isn't actually condemned by Scripture. That's what was happening in Romans 14:14 and 1 Corinthians 8:7.

What should we do, then, when our conscience condemns or commends us?

Where Do We Find a Reliable Record of God's Law?

Luke 10:25-26

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law (הַתּוֹרָה in Hebrew, νόμος in Greek)?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*

**The Jews often used these words for all of Scripture, as in James 1:25.*

The "expert" in the Law was testing Jesus. Showing his misunderstanding of the Scriptures right away, the man asked what he must "DO" to inherit eternal life. Since the man wanted a rule or law, Jesus pointed him to God's Law revealed in Scripture. Jesus then showed

how the man had not kept this Law by telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan, exposing the “expert’s” lack of concern for his neighbors of different races or cultures.

What can we learn from Jesus’ answer about where to find a reliable record of God’s Law?

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

(Sound familiar? This a common refrain in the Psalms we sing from the Hymnal.)

What does this mean?

In light of this, what should we do in times of uncertainty in our lives?

How Is God’s Law Summarized for Us in the Bible?

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Think of a Bible story where someone showed love for God?

Think of a Bible story where someone showed love for his or her neighbor?

Explain how the two, that is, love for God and love for neighbor, are really one and the same thing.

Review and Application

Explain: No one believes what an effort is required again to comfort and raise up a despondent, fearful conscience, and, on the other hand, what an effort is required to terrify and frighten a stubborn, hardened conscience. Both seem impossible, and God Himself must perform the task. (Luther, WLS, 334)

A common saying in our day and age is, “How can it be wrong if it feels so right?” Evaluate this statement.

A lot of people in our world excuse any behavior as acceptable so long as it doesn’t seem to hurt anyone. Examples that you will encounter or have encountered would be someone getting drunk or having sex outside of marriage. What would you say to someone who used this excuse to try to defend their sinning?

A Catholic friend of yours tells you that he or she is a better Christian than you because he or she does not eat fish on Fridays in Lent and always fasts before Holy Communion. How would you respond?

Lesson 5

Summary of God's Law

Where Is God's Law Summarized?

A lot of times, when students in college are assigned a book to read, they will read the Cliff Notes to get a good summary of the book. God has given us a good summary of the Law, somewhat like a Cliff Notes version.

Deuteronomy 5:22

These are the commandments the LORD proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

What is going on in this section of Deuteronomy?

What are the commandments mentioned here?

How do they summarize God's Law?

What Is The Simplest Summary of God's Law?

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

What is Jesus summary of the Law?

Obeying God's Law

I would love to speed everywhere I go. Imagine all the time I could save. However, I cannot afford a ticket and higher insurance rates. Therefore, I do not speed. This attitude views the laws about speed limits as a burden and as something I submit to out of fear of punishment. This is not how a Christian views God's Law. We freely keep God's Law and want to live God-pleasing lives because of all Christ has done for us.

Who Gives Us The Law?

Psalm 95:6,7

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

1 John 4:8,9

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

**Your friend says to you, I don't believe in the Ten Commandments because those rules just make slaves out of us and make life boring!
Break up into groups, read the following passages and come up with an answer.
Have someone write it down.**

Psalm 19: 7, 8, 11

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:14,35,45

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

Matthew 5:3-10

Read the Beatitudes. God's will is the true way to happiness.

Genesis 3:1-6

Notice how the snake tricked Eve. What did he convince her happiness was? What really is happiness?

John 8:34

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

Why is your friend's statement wrong?

How Are We to Obey God's Law?

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

How Do We Fail to Obey the Law Perfectly?

James 4:17

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

This describes a sin of omission. What is a sin of omission?

Leviticus 5:17

"If a person sins and does what is forbidden in any of the LORD's commands, even though he does not know it, he is guilty and will be held responsible."

This describes a sin of commission. What is a sin of commission?

Who Alone Has Obeyed God's Commands Perfectly?

Romans 3:12

All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Hebrews 4:14,15

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin.

The Purpose of the Law

Imagine if there were no regulations for restaurants. Imagine if there were no health codes.

How many of you would want to go out to eat? Would you be willing to take the chance that someone had incorrectly prepared your food or had tampered with it? Why do you think health codes are set? What is their purpose? Similarly, God's Law has a purpose.

What is its purpose?

What's the Purpose of God's Law in All People's Outward Lives?

1 Timothy 1:9,10

We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

What does this mean?

Psalm 119:120

My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.

What does the Law do?

Why do many people keep the Law?

What's the Purpose Of God's Law In The Hearts Of All People?

Romans 3:19,20

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Explain this to me.

How does the Law act like a mirror then?

How do we look in the Law's mirror?

Romans 7:7

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

Give an example of how the Law still does this in our lives?

What Purpose Does God's Law Serve for Christians as They Live in a Sinful World?

2 Corinthians 5:15

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Who do Christians live for?

What implications does this have for our lives?

What question do we ask when faced with a decision of what to do in a certain situation?

Romans 12:1,2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Point out some key points in this verse.

How do we test and approve what God's will is?

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Explain this familiar passage.

Review And Application

Evaluate: You can judge someone's faith by how well they keep the Law.

Evaluate: A Christian always wants to keep God's Law.

Agree or Disagree: The primary purpose of God's Law is to make good people.

Read and explain the following passage. Paraphrase what Paul is saying. This is taken from Romans, chapter 7.

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

The Ten Commandments

Lesson 6

The First Commandment

You shall have no other Gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

What Does God Teach Us about His Glory in the First Commandment?

Isaiah 42:8

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Matthew 4:10

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

When the Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup in 1998, the stores were flooded with Wings merchandise. It turned out that much of it was imitation, unofficial, bootlegged material. To ensure the products authenticity, the team began to place a hologram on licensed merchandise. There was only one real product. In the same way, there is only one real, true God. There can be no others. We are to glorify Him alone and value Him above everything else.

How Do We Give Glory to God Above Things?

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Daniel 3:1-18

Three men and a furnace.

Genesis 39:1-9

Joseph and Potiphar's wife.

What do these passages teach us about how we give glory to God above all things? What do they have in common?

Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin

for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

What did Moses consider most important in his life?

Who did Moses' actions display love for?

Genesis 22:1-19-group A

Read as a group. Discuss what we learn from Abraham.

Who/what did Abraham show he loved most?

Matthew 4:1-11-group B

Read as a group. Discuss what each of Jesus' answers showed was most important to him.

Who/what did he love most?

Matthew 22:37

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Illustration: I am a die-hard fan of Detroit sports. This year, the Detroit Lions are moving into a new stadium. I would love to go see a game there. Imagine if I got tickets to go and it turned out that the game was the same day and time as my parents 50th anniversary party or my wedding anniversary with my wife. How would my decision reflect who/what I really loved?

Daniel 6:1-23-group A

Read in groups. Discuss how Daniel gave glory to God.

Note v. 23.

1 Samuel 17:32-50-group B

Read in groups. Discuss. Note v. 37 and v. 45.

Isaiah 50:10

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Philippians 1:20-21

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Describe Paul's attitude in your own terms.

What do all these passages have in common? What do they teach us?

Illustration: When we get sick, we oftentimes remember to thank the doctor who treats us. How often, however, do we forget who really healed us by blessing the doctor's work, providing the medicines used, and enabling us to live another day. Think of a time when you were placed between a rock and a hard place. No matter what you did, you were going to have unwanted consequences. Unfortunately, we often view situations where we can either speak God's Word or simply let someone go on sinning and living without knowing their Savior, as being stuck between a rock and a hard place. Daniel and his three friends did not think this way. Neither should we. As Christians, we can trust that, when we suffer for hearing, learning, or sharing God's Word (in other words, for giving glory to God), God will not abandon us, but will work all things out for our good. (Romans 8:28). What are some ways God brings good from these situations.

How Do People Sin Openly against God's Will?

Exodus 32-group A
Read and discuss.

1 Kings 18:17-39-group B
Read and discuss.

Romans 1:32

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

What is Paul saying?

Why is this so astonishing?

How is this a warning to us?

1 John 5:21

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

What are some idols we may encounter from other religions in our day?

Your friend, who is a practicing Jew or Muslim, says to you, "We all believe in the same one God, so why can't we just worship together?" How would you respond in light of what we've looked at?

John 8:42

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.

John 14:6, 7

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 5:22, 23

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Who do these passages teach we must glorify also in order to glorify the Father? Why is that?

How Do People Secretly Sin against God's Will?

Luke 12:15-21-group A

Read and discuss.

Matthew 19:16-22-group B

Read and discuss.

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Matthew 10:37

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me..."

Jeremiah 17:5

This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD."

What do these passages say about how we secretly sin against God's will?

How are some ways we today might sin against God's will in this way?

How can we avoid this?

Review and Application

Describe how the First Commandment acts as a mirror and how it acts as a guide.

Who has obeyed the First Commandment perfectly?

Read Colossians 2:13-15. What happens to our sins against the First Commandment?

Lesson 7

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

We all have names. Some of them we were given because our parents liked how they sounded. Others we were given because of what they mean (Mt 16:18). My daughter is named Magdalen, like Mary Magdalen. Her name means fortress. Her mother and I wanted her to remember what a mighty fortress her God is. Think about your names. Why were you named what you were? Maybe asks your parents to tell you why they chose your name.

God has names as well. We call Him Savior, Lord, King, etc. Just as you do not want someone using your name for bad things, for example, forging your name to a document, so also God wants His name used correctly as well. How do we do that?

What is God's name?

Exodus 3:14

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Exodus 34:5-7

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not

leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

This is oftentimes called “the sermon on God’s name.” Why do you think it is called that?

Genesis 32:29

Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

Why did God respond to Jacob like that? Look in your Bibles for the context.

Why Does God Tell Us His Name?

Exodus 20:24b

Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Romans 10:13

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Why Is Cursing Therefore a Sinful Misuse of God’s Name?

Numbers 22:6-12

Look up and read this account.

What was wrong with Balaak’s intentions.

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Why?

Luke 6:28

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

When I was little, my parents gave my brother and I little horn alarms to use if a stranger ever tried to grab us. They meant for the alarm to be used for good. Instead, my brother and I used them to try to surprise each other and to make each other lose our hearing. We obviously misused them. Because of this, what was meant to be a blessing for our safety became a tool for misbehavior. You can guess how our parents reacted.

God’s name has been given to us for our good and the good of others. We use it, contrary to its purpose, in an evil way when we curse. It is like my brother and I misusing the alarm.

That is why God does not want us to misuse his name.

What Is Swearing by God's Name?

Hebrews 16:16

Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

“Cross my heart and hope to die, stick a needle in my eye.”

“I swear on my mother's grave.”

“I swear on our friendship.”

“Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

These are all oaths of a sort. We've all heard one or more of them. Someone says these things to ensure that the truth will follow. It is a way of reassuring one's honesty. That's why the last oath is used in court, because when someone's life is on the line, we don't want to have a witness lying about anything.

When Is Swearing a Sinful Misuse of God's Name?

Matthew 26:69-75

Read this passage.

Why was swearing wrong in this instance?

Leviticus 19:12

Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

James 5:12

Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned. (see also Matthew 5:33-37)

What is James' point?

Is it wrong to be sworn under oath in court?

Mark 6:21-28

Read this passage.

How did Herod's oath turn out to be sinful, besides just plain stupid?

How might we do the same thing sometimes?

How Do People Use God's Name to Lie?

Jeremiah 14:14

Then the LORD said to me, “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.

Jeremiah 23:31

Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The LORD declares.’”

How Do People Use God’s Name to Deceive?

Acts 5:1-11

Read this passage.

How did Ananias and Sapphira deceive in God’s name. In whose name was their gift offered?

Matthew 15:7-8

“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’”

Explain how they did this?

Isaiah 58:3-7

‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit you’re your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

Why is God angry with Israel in this passage?

They were doing what He commanded. What was the problem?

Apply this to yourselves nowadays. What about our attitudes concerning worship--what does this say to us? Was the worship God prescribed for the Old Testament Church bad, or was it a lack of appreciation on their part? Is God’s “prescribed” New Testament worship at fault when we fail to appreciate it (in the New Testament Word and Sacrament is prescribed in the sense of a prescription for sickness, rather than a commanded form as in the Old Testament)? Is New Testament worship too boring?

How Do People Misuse God’s Name in Using Witchcraft?

Acts 13:6-12

Read the passage.

How was Elymas “using” the Lord?

Who was Elymas really serving?

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.

Matthew 7:22, 23

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

How does this fit in with witchcraft?

Read 1 Samuel 28.

Saul's life had become pathetic. Here the king of Israel is visiting the "Miss Cleo" of his day in a desperate attempt to gain hope. Why is this so sad? What do we learn from it?

Leviticus 19:31

Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

How Does God Want Us to Use His Name?

Psalm 50:15

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

Jeremiah 14:7

Although our sins testify against us, O LORD, do something for the sake of your name.

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Joel 2:32

And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Acts 4:20

For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

When my wife had Magdalen, we couldn't wait to tell the world. I called everyone I knew and put the phone up close so they could hear Maggie. Tricia's family came to the hospital and we told them everything that happened. I still tell people today how amazing that day was. There was a new life.

God's Gospel message is even more amazing than a baby being born. How much more should we want to share that story! New life is created through it.

Luke 17:11-19

Read this passage.

Why did Jesus commend the leper?

Can you guess what holiday this often serves as the Gospel for?

Psalm 118:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Ephesians 5:19, 20

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For what do we thank the Lord?

How do we thank Him?

Look in Christian Worship at the Service of Word and Sacrament. What song do we sing after Holy Communion? How will this song be appropriate for your first time receiving the Sacrament of the Altar? Why would the editors of Christian Worship have placed this song where it is? Look also at the Common Service. What do you notice about the post-Communion song and prayers there? How are they fitting?

Notice also the words of the post-Absolution songs in both services (*Gloria in Excelsis*; O Lord, Our Lord). How do they express our response to God's mercy? Ask your parents why they think things are arranged like this in the hymnal we us.

How Does the Second Commandment Serve as a Mirror for Us?

James 3:9

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

James 5:12

Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

Skim Luke 17:11-19 again.

Matthew 10:32, 33

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”

What do we notice as we read these passages?

Did only the people in the Bible have trouble keeping this commandment?

How are we convicted by these passages?

How Does the Second Commandment Serve as a Guideline for Us?

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Psalm 39:1

I said, “I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.”

Psalm 145:1, 2

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

How do these passages apply to us as Christians in the modern world?

Review And Application

Agree or Disagree: A Christian will always feel grateful for what happens in his or her life.

Evaluate: It’s wrong to yell God’s name when something happens to us and we’re upset.

Evaluate: Sometimes worship is just plain boring!

Agree or Disagree: A good Christian is always excited to tell people about Jesus!

Agree or Disagree: Some witchcraft is worse than other witchcraft.

Evaluate: I know this is true because Pastor Johnston told me that it is what God says.

Speaking of God’s name, when was God’s name placed on you? Why? What does this mean for your life?

Lesson 8

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Something To Think About

(Break up into groups of 4-5 and discuss these things.)

- 1) Why do we worship on Sunday? Find in the Bible where it tells us to worship on that day?
- 2) The early Christians called Sunday the eighth day. Can you guess why? What is every Sunday a commemoration/celebration of?

Luther says the third commandment deals with God's word. I don't see God's Word mentioned in the commandment. Where is Luther coming from (besides Wittenberg 😊)?

How Does the Sabbath Involve God's Word

Leviticus 23:3

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD.

What are the two reasons given for the Sabbath in this verse?

What was the Seventh Day?

What part still applies to us?

Luke 13:10

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues.

What do you think Jesus was teaching: Physics, geography, speech?

What does that mean for us?

Prescriptive=Gives a command.

Descriptive=Gives a good example, not commanded.

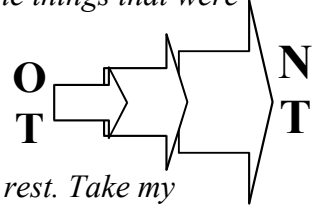
Which one of these two is this passage?

What Is the Purpose of the Sabbath

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

These things were a shadow. What does that mean?



Matthew 11:28, 29

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Jesus fulfills the Sabbath rest. How?

Acts 2:37-47

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

God’s Old Testament worship was given for a purpose, to foreshadow the Christ. What does our worship do? Do the two have anything in common? How did the early Christians view the connection between the two? (The holy “aha!”)

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. **What part of the third commandment has been fulfilled? What part remains in effect for us today?**

How does this verse reflect in our Sunday worship community?

How Does God Want Us to Hear His Word?

Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

How did Mary approach/view God's revelation of His saving plan?

What do we learn from her?

Luke 10:28-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

How did Mary and Martha's approach differ?

What did Mary do that Martha did not?

Are we ever distracted in worship/Bible class/personal devotions?

How does our worship seek to limit distractions?

Luke 8:1-3

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others.

These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Not everyone is a pastor. Everyone Christian, however, has a responsibility in the Church for the support of God's Word. What do these women teach us about that?

How did they "gladly hear and learn" God's Word?

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

How do we honor the purpose of God's Word?

Who enables us to do that?

Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Luke 11:28

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

How Do People Sin against this Commandment?

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Why do we gather together?

Why is it dangerous not to gather together?

How are we, as the Church, like a rope or book?

What is one way, as this passage shows, that people sin against the third commandment?

Evaluate: I can worship God wherever I am at.

Evaluate: I don't have to go to church to be a Christian.

Luke 14:15-24

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' " "Sir," the servant said, "what you ordered has been done, but there is still room." "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

What is Jesus' parable saying?

What are some things that draw people away from "the banquet" today?

How do people sin against the third commandment, according to this parable?

Hebrews 4:2

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Why was it of no value to them?

How have we combined it with faith?

How did these people sin against the third commandment?

James 1:22-24

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Put this in your own words?

Compare this to Luke 11:28.

“You’re hearing me, but you’re not listening!” My mother used to say that to me. What did she mean? How is that like what James is saying here.

You may buy a computer some day, or maybe you have already. What good would that computer be, however, if you didn’t learn how to use it correctly?

Backtracking, then, how do we sin against the third commandment according to this passage?

The Christian Attitude toward Worship

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.

Psalm 42:1-4

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

What are the Psalmists talking about?

What are their attitudes toward worship?

Galatians 4:9-11

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

What is Paul saying? What had the Galatians begun to do?

In Roman Catholicism, there are what’s called “holy days of obligation.” In everyday terms, that means, “extra days you have to go to church. How is that like what Paul is condemning? Why don’t Lutherans have “holy days of obligation?” How do such things make church more like work than a blessing?

What Is the First Major Part of Worship?

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

How does this apply to our worship?

Jeremiah 15:16

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

This gives new meaning to “fed by God’s Word.” Explain.

How do we bear God’s name?

2 Corinthians 2:10

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Why is important that we hear God’s words of forgiveness repeatedly?

Where do we hear these words in worship?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

What do we receive?

Why do we want to receive this?

What Is the Second Part of Worship?

Luke 17:11-16

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

How is this like what we do in worship?

What is part of the second part of worship.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

What is the other part of the second part of worship?

Food for Thought

The English word “worship” means “to ascribe worth.” The German word for worship means “God’s (or divine) service.” That is often why we call our worship order a “service.”

Both words are perfectly appropriate. However:

What do these words say about what worship is and why it’s important?

Why does the German word express the two parts of worship well?

Where do we see both parts in Acts 2:37-47?

Why is worship lopsided and flat if either part is removed?

For Home

Go through the Common Service or the Service of Word and Sacrament and mark what parts are receiving and what parts are thanking, praising, and encouraging.

Lesson 9

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

Who Are the People God Wants Us to Honor?

Ephesians 6:1,2

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise.

Obey who?

What is the promise?

Hebrews 13:7,17

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

How do you "imitate their faith?"

Why wouldn't you want their work to be a burden?

How do you avoid this?

Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

How can this be? I thought we elected our own leaders?

How does this effect how we view/speak of our leaders?

Why Do these People Have Authority over Us?

Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Who established the authorities?

Why would we need these authorities?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What is an ambassador?

How does this fit with our teaching about a pastor's call?

Is a pastor's sermon inspired?

Why has God set up His ambassador's

What Blessing Does God Convey through His Ambassadors in the Church?

Hebrews 13:7

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

What did they speak? What example did they set?

1 Timothy 4:16

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

How will life and doctrine save? I thought faith saved.

What responsibility do pastor's have? Why are their words/conduct especially important?

Explain: The public ministry is the most comprehensive form of service.

Illustration: People view the president as a role model. When he acts improperly, we fear that others will feel encouraged, or justified, in doing the same. As the old saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words."

What Blessing Does God Give Us through His Representatives in Our Government?

Romans 13:3

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

How does the government reward/punish? Give some examples.

How does this benefit us?

Illustration: Why do people feel nervous when they pass a cop while they're speeding. How could they avoid that fear?

Why Does God Call Special Attention in this Commandment to Our Parents as His Representatives?

1 Timothy 5:8

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Put this in your own words.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

How are parents to bring up their children?

Psalms 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

How does the Lord compare Himself to a human father?

Proverbs 1:3-9

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

What does this mean?

Matthew 7:9-11

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

What do parents know how to do for their children?

How does this explain what parents do for children?

Illustration: Children, how many of you pay your own tuition? How many of you bought your own meals this week? How many bought all their clothes and drive themselves around? How many of you decided on your own to come to a Lutheran day school? How many of you asked to be baptized. God, through your parents, provided all these rich blessings. Because of this, they deserve our respect and honor, not necessarily in and of

themselves (that is, not because they are perfect or always do their job correctly), but because God works through them and tells us to honor them as His representatives.

How Does God Emphasize that He Wants to Bless Us through His Representatives?

Ephesians 6:2, 3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”— which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

What is this the first commandment to have?

How does this commandment correlate with all going well?

Illustration: Sociologists talk about dangerous “cycles” in society. These cycles, for instance, occur when someone comes from a bad family situation and then creates another bad family situation when they have children. The fourth commandment seeks to stop/prevent those cycles by ensuring structured homes. Just like the government, school, and Church need a “chain of command” to a certain extent, so also a “chain of command” is necessary in the home.

How Does God Want Us to Honor His Representatives?

1 Samuel 19:4-6; 24:1-7

Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?” Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: “As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death.”

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.” So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.” With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

David was anointed before Saul died. Why didn’t he start a revolution or kill Saul?

What do we learn from David, especially in regard to serving God’s representatives who may work against us?

Romans 13:7

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

What is respect and honor?

1 Timothy 5:4

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

How long should we honor them?

1 Thessalonians 5:12,13

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Hold them in high regard why? How?

Illustration: Have you ever watched a little child begrudgingly, and only after a fight, do what his or her parents said. The mumble, kick, scream, and generally make their dissatisfaction know. God does not want us to follow instructions this way. He wants us to joyfully and gladly do what the authorities advise us because we know it is His will that we do so.

What Does God Forbid in this Commandment?

2 Kings 2:23,24

From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. "Go on up, you baldhead!" they said. "Go on up, you baldhead!" He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

What were these children doing?

Why should they have respected Elisha?

How is this a warning for you to be careful in how you treat your Pastor? (☺)

Proverbs 30:11,17

*"There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers..."
"The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures."*

What does this verse tell us the 4th Commandment forbids?

2 Timothy 3:1,2

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy.

How does this passage relate to the 4th Commandment?

How and Why Does God Tell His Representatives to Handle Sins against this Commandment?

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

What! How can this be? I should thank my parents for disciplining me?

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage— with great patience and careful instruction.

Romans 13:2-4

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Explain.

Hebrews 12:5b-11

“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

What is the difference between discipline and punishment?

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Hebrews 10:31

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Illustration: When I was young and misbehaved, my Dad would shake his hand. If I still misbehaved, the belt came off. If I still missed the message, the belt got snapped against itself (a trick it seemed my father mastered). If I still acted up, then I heard the words, “Son, this is going to hurt me more than it hurts you. Believe it or not, you’ll thank me for

it some day. I always really wondered if either of those things were true. Now I know they were. My Dad did not want to hurt me, but he knew I had to learn my lesson. Now, many years and a few whoopings later, I truly am grateful he was man enough to discipline, not punish, me. Without his watchful eye, I can only imagine where I would be now. Our parents discipline us out of love, to keep us from harm, and to keep us on the right path. When they are disciplining, they are acting as God's very agents to bless us, whether we realize it or not at the time.

When Is the Only Time We Are Told to Disobey the Authorities?

Acts 5:29

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"
Isn't it ironic that this is oftentimes the one time people are hesitant to disobey the authorities?

Matthew 10:37

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."
What does Jesus mean?

1 Samuel 19

Skim this chapter.

Jonathan protected David here and in other places rather than obeying Saul, his father and king. Why was this appropriate? What do we learn from Jonathan? Did Jonathan disobey Saul in every other matter, or just in matters contradicting God's commands?

Come up with modern day situations like these that could arise in your lifetime? What will you do?

Review and Application

A/D: We should obey those in authority only when we agree with their views/commands.

Evaluate: I obey my parents because they are good to me.

Evaluate: Respect the office, not the man.

Evaluate: I just can't respect that politician after he sinned like that.

Agree/Disagree: Part of discipline is making the person suffer for what they did.

Evaluate: I am glad when my parents discipline me.

Lesson 10

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.
What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

What Is God Protecting in the Fifth Commandment?

Genesis 2:7

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 9:5,6

And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

Why Is the Time We Have in this Life So Important?

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'" "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'" "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.'"

2 Corinthians 6:2b

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Who May Take Life?

Job 1:21

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

Psalm 90:3

You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.”

Romans 13:4

For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

How Does God Want Us to Treat Our Bodies?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

1 Corinthians 6:19

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Why, then, is suicide wrong?

1. How Does this Commandment Affect Our Relationships with Others?

Genesis 4:12-15

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. (v. 8)

2 Samuel 11:2-17

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, “Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.” So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. (vs. 14-17)

Deut. 22:8

When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.

Apply this to abortion, euthanasia, drunk driving, etc.

2. How Does this Commandment Affect Our Relationships with Others?

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

1 John 3:15

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1. What Will We Do as We Follow the Guidance of this Commandment?

1 Thessalonians 5:14,15

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Ephesians 4:31,32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Genesis 45:3-15; 50:15-21

Read and discuss how Joseph dealt with his brothers who had been so cruel to him.

2. What Will We Do as We Follow the Guidance of this Commandment?

Matthew 25:34-36

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I

was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'”

Review and Application

“To hate a man is to kill a man.” Why?

What’s the difference between suicide and binge drinking and chain smoking?

Agree or Disagree. A soldier is justified in killing.

Is it wrong to kill in self-defense?

Lesson 11

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

When Was Marriage Instituted?

Genesis 2:21-24

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Why Was Marriage Instituted?

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Reason #1

1 Corinthians 7:9

But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Reason #2

How does this show that premarital sex (fornication) is sinful?

Genesis 1:27,28

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

Reason #3

Hopefully you're noticing a trend by now. Every sin is not necessarily doing something that in and of itself is wrong but rather doing something contrary to its purpose. Apply that to sex. What are some ways our society exploits sex and uses it contrary to its purpose? What

challenges do we as Christians face? How do we reconcile this sinful world's distorted and perverted view of sex with the biblical truth that sex is a blessing from God?

For How Long Is Marriage?

Matthew 19:6

So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.

Romans 7:2,3

For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

In conclusion, let it be said that this commandment requires that everyone not only should live his life, particularly also his married life, in chastity of thought, word, and deed but also should love and treasure the wife or husband given by God. For maintaining marital chastity, husband and wife must above all things live together in love and harmony, each loving the other with the whole heart and with totally committed faithfulness.

(Large Catechism, 6th Commandment)

Explain Luther's statement in your own words.

How Does One Fail to Live a Pure and Decent Life?

Matthew 5:28

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Jesus describes what sin here?

Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

How do people sin against Paul's instructions for marriage?

Does the Church love Christ? Does Christ love the Church?

On a successful sports team, players have roles. Football has linemen, running backs, receivers, quarterbacks, etc. Volleyball has passers, setters, and hitters. We also have roles in marriage. What are they? Why are these roles necessary?

Explain: Submission doesn't equal inferiority.

Matthew 5:31,32

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."

Jesus describes what sin here?

**How has our world made a mockery of God's teachings/commands concerning divorce?
How can we seek to avoid divorce in our own lives? What should we look for in a spouse?
How will we maintain marital happiness and peace? How will we learn from the strengths
AND weaknesses of our parents?**

How Will We Keep Marriage Pure?

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Compare this to the previous passages.

1 Timothy 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

How does fleeing something imply more than just resisting something?

2 Peter 2:22

Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

Here Peter is speaking of unbelievers and false teachers. What is he saying here? How is this a warning to us? What are we to do if we fall into sin?

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Compare this to Matthew 5:28.

How does this effect the movies, music, and internet sites we choose to make use of?

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

How is the marriage bed kept pure?

1 Peter 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

What does God want us to DO to keep marriage pure?

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: In a good marriage, husband and wife always love each other.

Evaluate: "It's not my fault if people lust after me."

Agree/Disagree: Thinking about sex is sinful.

Evaluate: Love is the most important thing in deciding if two people should get married.

For Home

Come up with a list of qualities that you think are important for your spouse to have, or, if you are married, qualities of your spouse that you appreciate

Make a list of the blessings that God bestows upon marriage.

Consider (with your spouse if married) what the word love means. Is it a feeling? Is it a verb? Is it a quality? How does it fit into marriage? How do spouses "love and honor" each other?

Lesson 12

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

How Do We Receive Our Possessions?

Luke 12:27,28

“Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!”

What does God promise?

1 Timothy 5:8

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

What does God expect of us?

Deuteronomy 8:17,18

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

What does the Lord remind us about the fruit of our labors?

How Do We Use Our Possessions?

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

1 Timothy 5:8

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Matthew 22:21

*Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."
(see also Acts 2:42-47; Luke 8:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:9-11)*

Luke 12:33-34

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What Does God Prohibit Us to Do with Our Possessions?

Luke 6:12

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

Luke 10:33

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

Proverbs 21:6

A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

Psalms 37:2

*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.
What does this say about credit cards, etc.?*

Money is not sinful. Wanting money is not sinful. The love of money, however, can become sinful. Why?

1 Timothy 6:6-10

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Hebrews 13:4-6

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

My pastor picked this text for the sermon at my wedding. Why is this an appropriate wedding text, keeping in mind the sixth and the seventh commandment. When we consider that money is the #1 cause of divorce in America, how will we approach finances in our married lives?

Does being content with what you have mean that you will not see things that you would like to have or that it is wrong to work towards purchasing something you would like to have but may not need?

One day, you may be selling a used car. What does the seventh commandment have to say concerning how you are to deal with those you sell your vehicle to?

In light of this commandment, how will we live our lives?

1 Timothy 6:6-8

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Colossians 3:22,2

-Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: It's ok to try to avoid paying as many taxes as possible.

Evaluate: The cashier gives you too much change. Is it stealing to not say anything?

Evaluate: Finders keepers, losers weepers.

Agree/Disagree: A good father will want to give his family as many things as possible.

Agree/Disagree: It's ok to steal from the rich to give to the poor.

Evaluate: It's not a big deal to take something from work because I need it more than some.

Evaluate: Its ok to live off of the government.

Evaluate: I don't owe anyone anything.

Evaluate: I am entitled to certain things.

Lesson 13

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

What Is God Protecting with this Commandment?

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth.

1 Timothy 3:7

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Why Is a Good Name Important?

1 Timothy 3:7

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Proverbs 25:10

He who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.

What Does this Commandment Prohibit?

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.

Proverbs 25:9

If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence.

Proverbs 11:13

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

James 4:11

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

1 Timothy 5:13

Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Genesis 3:1-5 & Matthew 22:15-18

Compare these two passages.

What did the devil and the Pharisees intend to do in what they were saying.

John 12:1-6

Read this passage.

What was Judas' reason for speaking against Mary.

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

What Does God Want Us to Do According to this Commandment?

Proverbs 31:8,9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

David always treated Saul with respect, spoke well of him as God's anointed, and even defended him.

How does this serve as an example for us? Do we only speak well of and defend those who are nice to us?

1 Corinthians 13:5-7

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Luke 6:37

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

What should we do when we see someone sin?

Matthew 18:15-18

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

In Short

1 Peter 3:8-10

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: The best way to keep this commandment is just to keep your

A/D: When we someone sinning, we should bring it to the attention of the pastors.

A/D: It’s wrong to talk about what is going on in other people’s lives.

Evaluate: Sometimes its wrong to speak the truth.

Lesson 14

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

You should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What is coveting?

Romans 7:7,8

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire.

James 4:2

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

What does this commandment deal with primarily?

Hebrews 4:12,13

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Matthew 15:19,20

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

Why are sinful thoughts, desires, and attitudes so dangerous?

James 1:14,15

But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, **it gives birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth to death**.

James 5:5,6

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

How are we to act/think/desire according to this commandment?

Philippians 4:8,9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:1,2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

1 Peter 4:1,2

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: A Christian's thoughts focus on wholesome, pious things.

Agree/Disagree: It is wrong to want a car like my neighbor's.

Agree/Disagree: Christians do not want possessions.

Evaluate: A Christian will not sue or make use of the court system to gain possessions.

Explain the difference between needs and wants. How do we often confuse the two?

The Conclusion

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third or fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

I should think that we would have our hands full trying to keep these commandments and to practice gentleness, patience, and love toward enemies, chastity, kindness, and so on, together with everything else connected with these virtues. In the eyes of the world, however, works of this kind do not count for much and make little impression. For they lack novelty and pomp and are bound to special times, places, rites, and ceremonies. They are rather the common, everyday domestic duties that one neighbor can render for another; for this reason they are given no recognition.

Break into groups. Explain this quote from the Large Catechism .

The Creed

Lesson 14

The Creed

Large Catechism, page 67: *So far we have heard the first part of Christian teaching and seen in it everything God wants us to do and not to do. What properly follows is the Creed, which sets before us everything for which we must look to God and which we must receive as His gift.*

What is Luther saying? Put it in your own words.

**You're hanging out at your friend's house, watching television. Your friend asks you what you believe about religion. You say, "I believe in God." He or she asks, "Who is God?"
Break up into groups, take a few minutes, and give me your answer.**

Why must we know the creed to keep the Ten Commandments?

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Why and how were the creeds written and organized?

Large Catechism, page 68: *But in order to organize them in as clear and simple a way as possible for the instruction of children, we shall summarize the entire Christian faith in three chief articles, according to the three persons in the Godhead, on whom everything we believe is focused.*

How many articles could we write about the Christian faith?

John 21:25

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

What are the three "ecumenical creeds" we confess?

1. nucleus, 1st C. AD (based on Great Commission?); present form 6th C. AD or earlier
2. at Council of Chalcedon, 451AD
3. late 5th/early 6th Century (*quicumque vult*)

When and why were they written?

What is the focus and purpose of each?

When we speak the creed are we praying, praising, thanking, confessing, etc.?

Why have the creeds traditionally been included in worship?

How are they like hymns?

The creed teaches a Triune God. Where does the Bible teach that?

Matthew 3:16,17

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

John 15:26

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

John 10:30

I and the Father are one.

1 Corinthians 8:4

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.

Fourth and Fifth Century Version

I believe in God the Father Almighty
And in Christ Jesus, his only son, our Lord
Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
Who was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was buried
And the third day rose from the dead
Who ascended into heaven
And sitteth on the right hand of the Father
Whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead
And in the Holy Ghost
The holy church
The remission of sins
The resurrection of the flesh
The life eternal

Sixth Century Version

I believe in God the Father almighty.
I also believe in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord,
conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell,
rose again the third day,
ascended into heaven,
sat down on the right hand of the Father,
thence he is to come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The Holy Catholic Church, the communion of the saints,
The remission of sins,
The resurrection of the flesh and life eternal

Eighth Century to Present

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic [*apostolic or universal*] church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Review

What are the two main teachings of the Bible?

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Where do we find them?

First:

Romans 2:14,15

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

John 1:17a

For the law was given through Moses...

Second:

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What do they tell us?

First:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Second:

Romans 6:23b

...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

What emotions/feelings does each (Law and Gospel) stir within us?

What teaching did the Ten Commandments fall under?

Why do we keep the Ten Commandments?

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

How can we keep the Ten Commandments?

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Why is it logical that the Creed comes at this point in catechism class?

Lesson 15

The First Article

(Creation)

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this

God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

Creation

How does the Bible say the world was created?

How does science say the world was created?

Who is the burden of proof on, a sinful human scientist or the almighty and omniscient God of the universe? Read the following from *The Foolishness of God*, Siegbert Becker, page 166:

Christians should be concerned with only one question, namely, "Is it God's word?" Beyond this they are not to engage in subtle disputations. They should not ask whether it is possible. If God has said it, then we should be sure that he will not lie, even if we do not understand the "how" or "when."

Whoever therefore wants to be a Christian should tear out the eyes of his reason, listen only to what God says, render himself captive to God and say, "although these things which I hear are to me incomprehensible and incredible, nevertheless because God has said it and has confirmed it with powerful miracles, therefore I believe it."

It is not Christianity that needs to be made reasonable. It is reason that needs to be made Christian.

Put in your own words and comment.

A German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, who contested the existence of moral absolutes once arrogantly declared, "God is dead." A popular comic, showing Nietzsche's gravestone, has "God is dead—Nietzsche" written in one frame and in the frame has Nietzsche's gravestone. On the gravestone is written, "Nietzsche is dead—God." What's the point?

Preservation

What does preservation mean?

Psalm 145:15,16

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

How does God preserve us?

First:

Genesis 8:22

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Matthew 5:45b

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Second:

1 Kings 17:1-16

Read the passage and comment.

Look at the list of blessings Luther supplies in his explanation to this article. Few of us own cattle. Some do not own land. Make a list of the way God preserves and blesses us still today. How are we particularly blessed in America?

Protection

How does God protect us?

Acts 5:17-21

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin-- the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

How does Romans 8:28 fit with Hebrews 12:10?

Hebrews 1:14

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

How does God protect us according to this passage?

Does he keep us from trouble altogether?

Why do we face problems?

Look at James 1:13-15. Where do our problems come from?

How should we deal with temptation?

Give examples of when God has used evil for good.

Make a list of ways God has protected us.

Why does God do all these things for us? What in us prompts this?

Romans 11:35

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

Matthew 8:8

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Romans 7:24

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Thanksgiving

Look at the liturgy. The Liturgy is 1. receiving from God and 2. thanking God. What is what? Why do we sing *Thank the Lord* after Holy Communion?

In the same way, we respond with a life of thanks for the blessings of life we receive. How do we thank God?

Psalm 106:1

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

List the ways we thank our Lord.

***Large Catechism, page 70:** We should therefore daily work at this article and impress it on ourselves. We should remind ourselves of it by means of everything good we see or experience. And every time we escape from distress or danger, we should realize that this is a gift and act of God. He does all this for us so that we may look into his fatherly heart and sense how boundlessly he loves us. That would warm our hearts, setting them aglow with thankfulness toward God and with the will to use all these good things to His praise and glory.*

Explain this passage in your own words. What does it mean?

How did we fall into sin and what are the consequences?

Genesis 3

Read and answer the following questions.

How did Adam and Eve sin?

How has that changed our status with God?

With Creation?

With each other (Read on through chapter 4)?

Romans 8:5-8

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Luther says the devil succeeded by turning Adam and Eve from the external Word of God to “spirituality” and their own presumption (SA 322.5). Explain.

What is Sin?

“Sin, however, is everything that opposes God’s Law” (FC SD 589.13)

Agree or Disagree?

2 Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 7:7-12

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Explain.

“Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin” (Apology 126.35)

Agree or Disagree?

Romans 14:23

But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Explain.

Is sin who we are or what we do?

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Psalms 51:5

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Compared with:

Matthew 15:1-20

Read and discuss.

James 1:15

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1 John 5:17

All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 Peter 2:22

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

Why should we not be shocked by the evil things people do if we understand the above passages.

Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

“Further we believe that in this Christian community we have the forgiveness of sins, which takes place through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire gospel. This encompasses everything that is to be preached and about the sacraments and, in short, the entire gospel and all the official responsibilities of the Christian community. *Forgiveness is constantly needed, for although God's grace has been acquired by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet we are never without sin because we carry our flesh around our neck*” (LC 438.54).

What is Luther saying?

How does this affect our idea of why we go to church on Sunday and other days?

The Devil

Who?

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...

Jude 6

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Matthew 25:41.

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

When?

You tell me.

What?

Matthew 13:36-43

Read and discuss.

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Why?

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Revelation 12:10-12

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

2 Timothy 2:25,26

Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

“Then comes the devil, who baits and badgers us on all sides, but especially exerts himself where the conscience and spiritual matters are concerned. His purpose is to make us scorn and despise both the Word and the works of God, to tear us away from the faith, hope, and love, to draw us into unbelief, false security, and stubbornness, or, on the contrary, to drive us to despair, denial of God, blasphemy, and countless other abominable sins. These are the snares and nets; indeed, they are the real “flaming darts” that are venomously shot into our hearts, not by flesh and blood but by the devil” (LC 454.104).

Explain the above quote from the Large Catechism.

“The best thing the devil can do is convince us he does not exist.”

Why?

“The white [masquerading as angel of light as in 2 Corinthians 11:14], good-looking devil is the one who does the most harm, the devil who eggs people on to commit spiritual sins, which are not regarded as sins at all but as pure righteousness and are defended as such. He cause far more harm than the black [black as in darkness] devil, who only eggs people on to commit gross, carnal sin, which as so obviously sins that even the Turks and heathen can recognize them as such” (Plass 395).

What is Luther saying above?

“A serpent slithers through small openings” (Plass 400).

Explain.

James 1:13-15

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

The devil attacks each generation differently.

Explain.

“Wherever God erects a church, the devil builds his chapel or tavern next to it”; ⁵³ that is, wherever God’s Word springs up in its purity, the devil ushers in sects, factions, and many false spirits, who also deck themselves with the glory and the name of Christ and His church” (LW AE 24.27 commentary on John 16:1).

Romans 5:20,21

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How is this a comfort?

The Solution

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Lesson 16

The Second Article

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from the death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

“The entire Gospel that we preach depends on our thorough grasp of this article. Upon it rests our entire salvation and joy, and it is so rich and inclusive that it will keep challenging our efforts to learn it” (Large Catechism, p. 72).

Put this in your own words. Explain why Luther says this. When have we studied this article enough?

His only Son, our Lord

Philippians 2:6-11

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“What is it to ‘become my Lord’? This means He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil” (Large Catechism, p. 71).

“the little word ‘Lord’ simply means as much as Redeemer, that is, the One who rescued us from the devil (Rev. 12:9ff.) to bring us to God, from death (Col. 2:13) to bring us to life, from sin (2 Cor. 5:21) to bring us to righteousness, and now keeps us safe (1 Cor. 1:8,9) where He has brought us” (Large Catechism, p. 71).

Conceived by the Holy Spirit (true God)

John 1:1-18

Read and comment.

Who was the Word? What was the Word?

How did the Word become man?

Luke 1:26-38

Read and comment.

Matthew 1:18-25 (esp. 23)

Read and comment.

How do we know Jesus is true God?

First:

John 20:28

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Romans 9:5

Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

Colossians 2:9

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

Second:

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son,

who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 9:6

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.... Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

Luke 7:22-23

So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

Third:

John 21:17

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Fourth:

John 14:6,7

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

Why did Jesus have to be God?

Psalms 89:48

What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?

Psalms 146:3,4

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Ezekiel 14:14

Even if these three men-- Noah, Daniel and Job-- were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Born of the virgin Mary (true man)

“What He has not assumed (i.e. become), He has not redeemed.”
Break up. Here’s the challenge. Think about what Gregory of Nazianzus means. Explain it to me. Why is it important?

How do we know Jesus is true man?

First:

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second:

Galatians 4:4

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law...

Luke 24:39

“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

John 19:28-30

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 11:35

Jesus wept.

How did he become man?

Luke 1:26-38

Read again.

Why did Jesus have to be man?

Galatians 4:4,5

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Hebrews 4:15

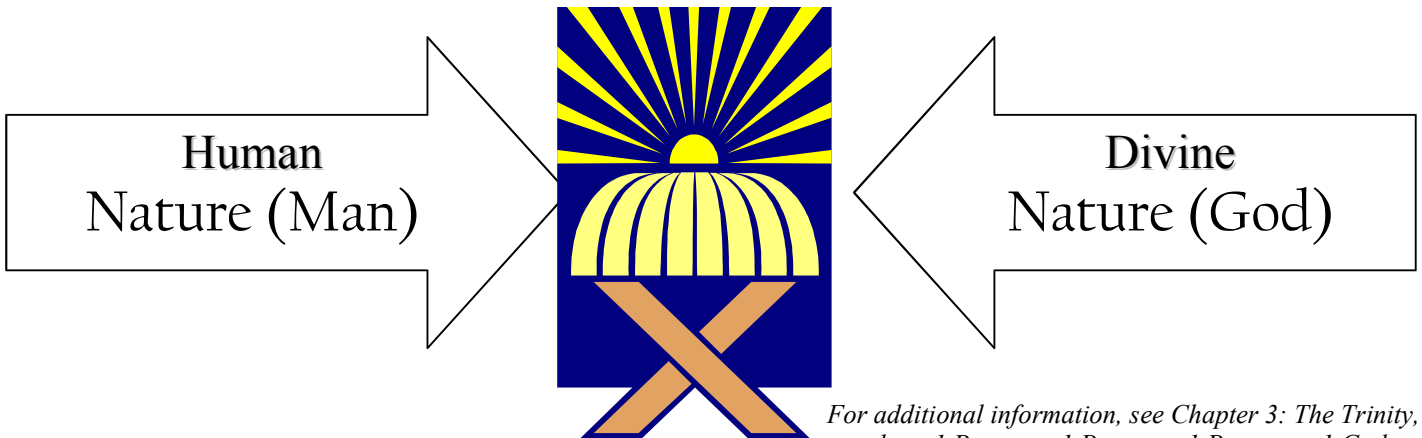
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Romans 5:19

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Math God's Way

1 Human Nature (Man) + 1 Divine Nature (God) = 1 Person (Christ)



For additional information, see Chapter 3: The Trinity, where 1 Person + 1 Person + 1 Person. = 1 God

So, now that we know all this, let's answer a few simple questions:

Agree or Disagree: Christ's divine nature is in the Lord's Supper.

A/D: The divine nature of Christ can be somewhere without the human nature.

Evaluate: Since Jesus is "seated at the right hand of God," He cannot be in the Lord's Supper according to His human nature. (Will our resurrected bodies be the same as our earthly bodies in every way?)

A/D: What you can say of one nature, you can say of the entire person.

A/D: What you can say of one nature, you can say of the other nature.

Presented with the possibility of their being a Christ (or God) who was not at the same time always both God and man, Luther exclaimed, "No God like that for me!" Why would he say that?

What does it mean for you as you bear your cross that Christ was God and man? (See Hebrews 4:14-16.)

Lesson 17

The Second Article

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.
*He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.***

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from the death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

For the next few lessons, we will be looking the Bible passages up, rather than providing them on the sheet, in order to get us familiar with finding things in the Bible.

Christ's Office

Christ = "anointed" as:

Luke 24:19 _____ so that He (Isaiah 61:1) _____.

Heb. 7:26-28; 1 Tim. 2:5 _____ so that He (Heb. 7:27) _____.

Revelation 17:14 _____ so that He (Ephesians 1:22) _____.

He has redeemed me

Redeemed = “buy back.”

Hebrews 9:15

Galatians 4:7

Galatians 5:1

a lost and condemned creature

Romans 5:12-14

Romans 7:18

purchased and won me

Leviticus 17:10-14

Isaiah 53:5

Matthew 20:28

from all sins

Sin is:

Romans 8:7; Psalm 51:5

1 John 5:17

Romans 14:23

Christ defeated sin by:

2 Corinthians 5:21

from death

Death is:

Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 15:21,22; Isaiah 59:2

and from the power of the devil

The Devil seeks to:

1 Peter 5:8

Jesus:

Acts 10:38; Jesus 12:10-11

not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood

Jesus blood is holy and precious because it:

Psalm 49:7,8

1 Peter 1:18,19

and with his innocent suffering and death.

Jesus suffering and death was innocent because it:

Exodus 12:21-28; Leviticus 16:6-10; Isaiah 53:5,6

1 Peter 2:18-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Think about It!

Agree or Disagree: We can see Christ's kingdom (Luke 17:21).

Evaluate: The high priests of the Old Testament we "types" of Christ.

Evaluate: "If I were there, I would have told them not to crucify Jesus."

Explain what it means that Christ "freed us from death and the devil." Do these still affect us?

A/D: Jesus suffered hell for our sins.

A/D: Jesus had no sin.

Lesson 18

The Second Article

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from the death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Humiliation and Exaltation

Humiliation:

Philippians 2:6-8

2 Corinthians 8:9

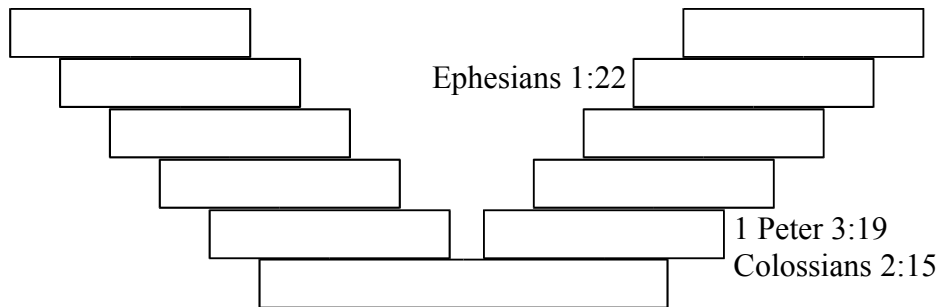
Mark 10:45

Exaltation:

Philippians 2:9-11

Hebrews 2:9

How is this expressed in the Te Deum in CW.



All this he did that I should be his own

Why did I become His own?

Acts 20:28

2 Peter 2:1

What does this mean for my life?

1 Corinthians 6:23

1 Corinthians 7:20

Romans 6:22

and live under him in his kingdom

Where is the kingdom of God?

Philippians 3:20

Luke 17:20,21

How do I live in it?

Mark 10:15

and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and
blessedness

How am I innocent?

Revelation 7:14

Isaiah 1:10

How do I live in this way?

Romans 7:21-23

Titus 2:11-13

What is my motivation?

Ephesians 5:2

When will we live in this way perfectly?

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Colossians 3:4

Ephesians 1:11-14

“Fifth, this inherited effect [original sin] is so huge and abominable that it can be covered and forgiven in God’s sight in those who are baptized and believe only for the sake of the Lord Christ. Only the new birth and renewal of the Holy Spirit can and must heal this deranged, corrupted human nature. This renewal only begins in this life; it is finally completed in the life to come” (FC SD 534.14).

just as he has risen from the death and lives and rules eternally

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Revelation 11:15

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead

When?

Matthew 24:36

What is the basis of Christ's judgment?

Mark 16:15,16

John 12:48

How does this fit with the following?

Matthew 25:31-46

Chew on This!

Evaluate: Because Jesus has removed the guilt of our sin, we should never feel guilty for our sins. *See Romans 6:1-4.*

Explain: What does it mean that Jesus has conquered death? Do we see this in this life?

Evaluate: Because Christ has defeated Satan, we have nothing to fear from him.

Explain: Why is the descent into hell part of Christ's exaltation?

Evaluate: Christ suffered hell for us.

Evaluate: Jesus humbled Himself by becoming "fully human."

Evaluate: Jesus humbled Himself by giving up his divine powers. See John 17:5.

Explain: What should a Christian's attitude toward the Second Coming be?

How is it different than an unbeliever's attitude toward the Second Coming?

Lesson 19

The Third Article

(Sanctification)

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Acts 5:3,4

*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the **Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to **God**."*

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Genesis 1:1,2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Titus 3:5

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

How does the Holy Spirit call us to faith?

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 26:26-28

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."
Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Why is coming to faith called "conversion"?

1 Peter 2:25

For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Why is coming to faith called “regeneration” (i.e. rebirth)?

John 3:3-6

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Why is coming to faith called “resurrection”?

Ephesians 2:1-5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit has “enlightened me with His gifts.”

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus

Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

What is the result of this enlightenment?

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:7-10

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

What does "sanctify" mean?

1 Corinthians 6:11

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So if we explain justification as "Christ for us," we could explain sanctification as "Christ ___ us."

What is the result of this sanctification?

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Why do we do good works?

2 Corinthians 5:14,15

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

How do we know what works are good?

Psalms 119:9,105

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Luke 11:28

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

So a work is only good if:

See again Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 119:9; Colossians 3:17; 1 Cor 10:31

Who seeks to destroy our faith?

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Romans 8:6-8

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

How does the Holy Spirit keep us in the faith?

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever [as often as] you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

How does this fit with the next section? (i.e. the Holy Christian Church and the Communion of Saints)

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: Some people are more willing to believe than others.

Evaluate: I do not do good works. Christ does good works.

A/D: Unbelievers can do good works in God's eyes.

Evaluate: I don't need the Church to for the Holy Spirit to convert me or keep me in the faith.

A/D: Justification is a process. Sanctification is instantaneous.

Evaluate: Once someone is saved, they are always saved because the Holy Spirit keeps them in the faith.

A/D: Good works are necessary for salvation.

Evaluate: After scoring a touchdown, a player kneels, does the sign of the cross, and runs to the sideline.

Is this good or bad?

Why?

Lesson 20

The Third Article

(Sanctification)

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

What is the Holy Christian Church? (God knows...)

“Simple folk, however, do not understand “church’ to mean a gathering of people but a consecrated building or structure. Yet this building ought to be called a church only because of the group of people that gathers there” (LC 74).

Luke 20:20,21

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”

Ephesians 5:23b

Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.

Ephesians 4:4,5

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Why “holy”?

“I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy as His name indicates” (LC 73).

“How does He do this? In what manner? By what means? Answer: “Through the holy Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (LC 73).

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Why “Christian”?

Ephesians 2:19,20

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Acts 11:26

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Why “communion of saints”?

Ephesians 4:3-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

How does the Holy Spirit call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep the Church in the faith?

“We further believe that in this Christian community we have forgiveness of sins, which is given to us through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting passages of the entire Gospel. Therefore everything that is to be

taught concerning the sacraments, in fact all the Gospel preaching and all the functions of the Christian community focus on the forgiveness of sins. There is continuous need for this forgiveness” (LC 75).

“It is on this account that everything in the Christian church is so arranged that we may daily come here and get total forgiveness through the Word and Sacraments to comfort our consciences and lift our spirits as long as we live” (LC 75).

“Meanwhile, since holiness has begun and is daily growing, we are waiting for the day when our flesh will be executed and buried with all its uncleanness, only to come forth and arise in glory to a complete and perfect holiness in a new and everlasting life. For the present we are only partially pure and holy. The Holy Spirit must continue to do His work in us through His Word, daily applying forgiveness until we reach that life where forgiveness will no more be needed.

There people will be completely pure and holy, full of goodness and righteousness. In their new immortal, glorified bodies, they will be rescued and totally free from sin, death, and every evil.

All this, then, is the office and function of the Holy Spirit to begin holiness on earth and to increase it daily through the Christian church and the forgiveness of sins, these two” (LC 76).

The Visible Christian Church is (Man knows...)

Hebrews 10:24,25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

The Church has traditionally distinguished between the Church Triumphant (heavenly Church of the elect confirmed in righteousness) and the Church Militant (the earthly Church still engaged in battle with its enemies). The Church Militant is the earthly Church and contains unbelievers and hypocrites, which are mixed in with believers (the elect). Read the Parable of the Weeds in Matthew 13:24-30.

Why do we call a group of people gathered around the Gospel a church?

Acts 13:1; 14:23; 15:41; 16:5

*In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

*Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

*He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

*So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

“For the word “ecclesia” properly means “assembly,” for which meaning we are accustomed to use the term church; simple folk, however, do not understand “church” to mean a gathering of people but a consecrated building or structure. Yet this building ought to be called a church only because of the group of people that gathers there” (LC 74).

What does the Visible Church (Church Militant) gather around?

The term “I tell you the truth” is spoken 78 times by Jesus in the Gospels. Why is this phrase so important in relation to the question asked above?

Ephesians 2:19,20

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

3 John 8

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

If the church is the pillar and foundation of the truth, as stated above, it is a given that it must teach the truth. If it does not teach the truth, "has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8-Although this passage I am alluding to deals specifically with not caring for one's family, the point is that the person is acting contrary to the truth of the Word of God and the implications of that truth).

Why is doctrine important and how are we to handle it?

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

1 Timothy 4:16

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 1:3-11

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great

number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Titus 1:9

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 2:1

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

1 Timothy 6:3-10

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Doctrine is important because of its source: and because of its purpose: and because the denial of one doctrine leads to:
. These teachings are not “ours,” but: and so they deserve our utmost respect and faithfulness. When dealing with doctrine, remember the following:

Matthew 5:11,12

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

John 15:20,21

“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.”

It is not our job to make God’s Word (doctrine): but to simply:

So how do we judge a visible church?

1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Revelation 2:12-17

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

What do we call a church’s teachings?

Romans 10:9,10

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

What are the Lutheran Church’s Confessions?

Confessions

1. *The Small Catechism (1529)*

Luther

4. *The Apology (1530)*

Melanchthon

2. *The Large Catechism (1529)*

Luther

5. *The Smalcald Articles (1537)*

Luther

3. *The Augsburg Confession (1530)*

Melanchthon

6. *The Formula of Concord (1577)*

a committee of theologians

Creeds

1. Apostles’ Creed

2. Nicene Creed

3. Athanasian Creed

What do we do with people who teach correctly?

3 John 8

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

1 John 1:3

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.

John 17:20,21

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

What does fellowship include?

First:

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 10:24,25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Second:

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Third:

Psalm 78:4-7

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Fourth:

Mark 16:15,16

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

What if a church teaches false doctrine?

Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Ezekiel 33:7-9

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself."

Titus 3:10

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

James 5:19,20

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Why?

2 Corinthians 13:8

For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

Because:

2 Timothy 2:17

Their teaching will spread like gangrene.

Galatians 5:9

“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.”

Does that mean that people from “false visible churches” are not saved?

Isaiah 55:10,11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 42:3

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: Some doctrines are more important than others.

Evaluate: Joe Baptist is my Christian brother.

A/D: We can tell who the true believers are in the visible church.

Evaluate: Eddie Ecumenical says, “Jesus wants us to be unified.”

Evaluate: The main purpose of the Church is to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments.

Evaluate: Some doctrines are just not important for my life.

Evaluate: Doctrine is taught by what you teach and what you do.

Lesson 21

Justification and Forgiveness

How does God forgive sins?

Romans 8:33-35

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Job 16:19-21

Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.

Matthew 25:31-46

Read in your own Bible.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 51

Read in your own Bible.

On account of what does God do this?

Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Who has been declared righteous?

1 Timothy 2:3-4

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 4:9-10

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

1 John 2:2

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Then why are some lost?

Luke 14:16-24

Read in your own Bibles.

Romans 10:3

Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Galatians 5:4

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

How is the forgiveness won for the whole world (objective justification) applied to me personally (subjective justification)?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Galatians 3:26:27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Ephesians 3:12

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Romans 4:16

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

How can I be sure this forgiveness is mine?

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:23

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

I can be sure forgiveness is mine because I hear, read, taste, feel, and smell it in:

What happens when someone dies?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Luke 16:22-23

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Luke 24:42-43

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

What will happen on the Last Day (the Second Resurrection)?

John 5:28,29

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”

Job 19:25-27

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Daniel 12:1b-3

“But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

John 6:35-40

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

What will happen to the unbeliever?

Mark 16:15-16

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Matthew 25:41,46

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’”

Matthew 22:1-14

Read in your own Bibles.

Luke 16:19-31

Read in your own Bibles.

In these parables, what cause the condemned men to be rejected?

Isaiah 66:24

“And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

What will happen to believers?

Matthew 25:34,46

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world... Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’”

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 14:2

In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

What will heaven be like?

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Hebrews 4:9-10

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Revelation 19:9

Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Psalm 16:11

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

What will happen to my body?

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-54

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

What is our attitude toward the Last Day?

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Review and Application

A/D Believers aren't scared of dying.

A/D Only believers are forgiven.

Evaluate: I can be sure forgiveness is mine because I can feel it.

A/D Jesus' death was insufficient because some people still die without their sins forgiven.

Lesson 22

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

What is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Institution of Baptism

Matthew 28:18,19

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

The Word "Baptism"

Mark 1:8

I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 7:3,4

(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

What is involved in "baptizing" something? What method may we use in "baptizing" something?

The Power Behind the Water

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Why do we baptize?

In whose name do we baptize?

Ephesians 5:25,26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...

What is connected with the water?

What's in a Name?

Ephesians 2:19

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household...

Galatians 4:5

to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Proverbs 18:20

From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied.

Jeremiah 15:16

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

What is the importance of a name? What is it to bear someone's name?

All Nations

Acts 2:38-39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 16:29-34

*The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-- you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—*he and his whole family.**

Who does "all nations" include?

The Need for Baptism

Psalm 51:5

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

John 3:5,6

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit..."

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Who needs it?

The Capacity for Faith

Matthew 18:6

But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Luke 18:15-17

People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

Who has the capacity for faith?

Baptism has been given to the Church. Through Baptism we enter the Church. It is only logical that Baptism be performed by the Church. The Church has entrusted this task to its pastor to ensure both good order and the proper decorum and instruction. Baptism is between the child/adult and his or her God. It is not primarily a show or empty custom for friends and relatives. It is God's Sacrament and it would seem only appropriate it take place in God's house, with the exception of emergencies.

Sponsors were originally witnesses that the candidate for Baptism was not a spy seeking to turn over Christians to the state. As infant Baptism increase, sponsor also assumed more of a role as the men and women responsible to ensuring the child was brought up in the faith. This is their primary role in our day and should be taken seriously. (*Luther's Catechism*, page 228-229)

Lesson 23

The Blessings of Baptism

What does Baptism do for us?

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

What are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

From last time...

Read, Consider, and Explain

“Without the sacraments no one can be a Christian” (LC 98).

“To be baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by man but by God Himself” (LC 99).

“What is Baptism? It is not simple, ordinary water, but water comprehended in God’s Word and thus made holy. It is nothing else than a divine water, not because the water in itself is something more special than other water, but because God’s Word and commandment are added to it.” (LC 99).

“When the word is joined to the element or natural substance, the outcome is a sacrament” (LC 100).

“Whoever believes and is baptized **will be saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

“In which [the ark] a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹ There is also an antitype which now **saves us**—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the *answer* of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:20b,21—NKJV).

“Stated most simply, the power, effect, benefit, fruit, and purpose of Baptism is to save...To become saved is, as we know, nothing else than to be **delivered from sins**, from **death**, and from **the devil**, and to **come into Christ’s kingdom** and **live with Him forever**.” (LC 101).

Blessing #1

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Blessing #2

Romans 6:3

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Blessing #3

Hebrews 2:14,15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Blessing #4

Titus 3:5-7

...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

John 3:3-5

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

To put it simply:

Galatians 3:26,27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Romans 6:3

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Colossians 2:12

...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Lesson 24

The Power of Baptism

How can water do such great things?

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "[God] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

Who gives these blessings in Baptism?

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Titus 3:5

...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

What does the Holy Spirit work through in Baptism?

Ephesians 5:25,26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...

How are the blessings of Baptism applied to us?

Mark 16:16a

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...

Colossians 2:12

...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Acts 2:38,39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Romans 4:16a

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring-- not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Why is it important that the words of Baptism be spoken in view of Romans 10:17?

The very faith, which Baptism creates and strengthens, clings to the promises of God!

In conclusion, Baptism, because it is connected with the Word, and because the Holy Spirit works through it, is:

1 Peter 3:21

...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

Titus 3:5-7

...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Review and Application

When you take a shower, you put on clean clothes. So also, when we are washed in Baptism, we are clothed in the white robe of Christ's of righteousness. What, then, does Baptism mean for your daily life?

I am terrified of heights and so I avoid mountains, roller coasters, ladders, etc. This is for a good reason. I do not want to get hurt. We had good reason to fear death and the devil. They intended harm for us. Now we do not need to fear them. Why?

We bathe in order to be presentable to our friends, classmates, etc. Covered with the filth of our sin, we were not presentable to God. We needed to bathe. Unfortunately, we were paralyzed by sin and could not wash ourselves. God needed to wash us. He washed us in Baptism.

How is our new birth in Baptism like our first birth to our parents?

When you get a computer, you get more than a plastic box with pieces in it. You get more. You get its services. How is this like Baptism?

A/D. We have sponsors to make sure the child's Baptism stays effective.

Evaluate: If someone believes, they don't need Baptism, since they are already forgiven.

Evaluate: We can look to our Baptism for assurance we're going to heaven no matter what.

A/D. Once parents have their child baptized, their job is done.

A/D. Baptism is the Gospel.

Evaluate: We relive our Baptism daily.

How do we sometimes overshadow the real meaning of Baptism?

How is Baptism a daily comfort for us?

Lesson 25

The Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life

What does baptizing with water mean?

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Saint Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, “We were...buried with [Christ] through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

What change occurs in us in Baptism?

Romans 6:3-7

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Ephesians 4:20-24

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Colossians 3:8-10

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

What conflict exists within me after my Baptism?

Galatians 5:17-21

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 7:21-25

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

How should the Old Adam in us be drowned daily?

2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Psalms 51

Read and comment.

Luke 15:21

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-- robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

How “does a new person daily arise”?

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:1,2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Why does my new man want to serve God?

James 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Review and Application

Where am I reminded of my Baptism in the liturgy?

What can I do to help me remember my Baptism more frequently?

What will remembering my Baptism mean for my daily life?

**What's hanging in your room? Posters? Pictures? What about a Baptismal certificate?
Why not?**

Where do you think the font should be located in church? Why?

Who are your sponsors? Take the time to talk to them about your Baptism and faith.

Lesson 26

Holy Communion

What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

It is **the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ** under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and drink.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul tells us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

List some names for Holy Communion what each stresses?

When was the Lord's Supper instituted?

Luke 22:14-16

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

What actions are included in the institution of the Lord's Supper?

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

What do we receive in the Lord's Supper

Luke 22:19,20

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me" In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

1 Corinthians 10:16

*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?
And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*

1 Corinthians 11:27

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

How do we know this is true?

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Lesson 27

The Blessings of this Holy Supper

What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?
That is shown us by these words: “Given” and “poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

What is the significance of Jesus’ body and blood?

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Ephesians 1:7,8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

1 Peter 1:17-19

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

What is the significance of receiving His body and blood in the Sacrament?

Luke 22:19,20

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’

Romans 5:9

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

John 6:54

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 Corinthians 10:16

*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?
And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is especially comforting to the believer. Why?

Lesson 28

The Power of Holy Communion

How can eating and drinking do such great things?

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words “Given” and “poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

These words are the main thin in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever plainly believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

What is the Power of a Promise?

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Think of all the things we aren’t promised in life that we take for granted: health, wealth, security, family, transportation, the future! How much more can we take comfort in what God has promised to give us in this blessed meal!

John 6:25-59

Read in your own Bibles.

Does this relate to the Sacrament of the Altar? If so, how?

Whether or not Jesus is talking about Holy Communion, how does the principle of faith still apply in this Sacrament and its power?

Leviticus 17:11

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”

This verse shows God's high view of blood? Why this high view of what Red Cross draws by the gallons? What is Leviticus getting at? What is the substitutionary nature of blood and life? Does this apply to the Sacrament? What about verse 12? Doesn't that forbid eating blood? Look at Hebrews 7-10, especially 9, for insight.

Discuss the following in groups:

Some thoughts from our Confessions...

“Thus we have briefly dealt with the first point, concerning the essence of this sacrament. We come now to the power and the benefit of the Sacrament, the real purpose for which it was instituted. It is most necessary to grasp what its power and its benefit are in order to know what to look for and what to get out of the Sacrament. This is clearly evident from the words just quoted: ‘This is My body and blood given and poured out *for you* for the forgiveness of sins.’ In other words, we go to the Sacrament because there we receive a great treasure through which and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins. Why is that? Because there are the words, and it is they that give us this forgiveness. This is why Christ bids me to eat and to drink: He wants the Sacrament to be mine and to be a blessing to me as a sure pledge and sign of the treasure—yes, to be the very treasure itself which is my security against sin, death, and all evils

Therefore it is fitting to call it the food of the soul that nourishes and strengthens the new man. It is of course through Baptism that we are first born anew. But it must be said here, as before, that human flesh and blood still retain their old skin. We often grown faint and weary and sometimes even stumble as the devil and the world confront us with their many obstacles and temptations. That is why the Lord's Supper is given us for daily food and sustenance to refresh and strengthen us, so that our faith may not become weary in battle but go forth from strength to strength. For the new life should be a constant forward progress. It must, meanwhile, suffer much opposition” (LC, 112-113)

For those who deny Christ's real presence still today...

“But here again the clever spirits, contorted with their great learning and wisdom, come blustering and bellowing, “How can bread and wine forgive sin and strengthen faith?” Yet they know well enough that we do not attribute this power to the bread and the wine—in itself bread is but bread—but to the bread and wine that are Christ's body and blood and with which the words are connected” (LC, 113).

And...

Therefore it is absurd for them to say that one cannot have the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament because the body and blood of Christ were given and shed for us elsewhere than in the Lord's Supper. For although the work was accomplished and forgiveness of sins acquired for us on the cross, yet the only way it can come to us is through the Word...Our opponents must agree after all that here in the Sacrament is the very message we hear everywhere in the Gospel. As little as they dare say that the whole Gospel or Word of God outside the Sacrament is valueless, so little can they say that the words in the Sacrament are valueless” (LC, 114).

Lesson 29

The Reception of Holy Communion

Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this Sacrament?

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: “Given” and “poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words “for you” require nothing but hearts that believe.

What about fasting?

Matthew 6:16-18

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

What does Jesus say about fasting?

Is it a church policy?

Are there set rules Jesus gives?

Is fasting anywhere in Scripture connected with Holy Communion?

What, however, may be some benefits of fasting? Consider the following passages.

Leviticus 23:26-32

The LORD said to Moses, “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves [fast], and present an offering made to the LORD by fire.

Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God. Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath.”

1 Corinthians 11:20-22

When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

1 Corinthians 10:21

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Exodus 19:10

And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes"

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Psalm 35:13

Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered...

Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 14:23

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

What is required then?

1 Corinthians 11:27,28

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

Why is this really no requirement at all for a sincere Christian?

How is this the very nature of a Christian? Consider the following passages?

1 John 1:8,9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 18:15-18

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he

refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Luke 18:9-14

Read again and comment.

In addition to receiving forgiveness from God, the Lord's Supper is also an act of confession. How so?

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

How do we "do" the Sacrament of the Altar?

Why does this require instruction?

What is the Christian's attitude toward such instruction? Consider Hebrews 5:13; 6:1.

1 Corinthians 10:17

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

2 John 10,11

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

How can refusing to give them this treasure be an act of love?!

1 Corinthians 11:27-30

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

How does the unbeliever receive the Sacrament?

If you had to pick between the following two doctors, whom would you choose: Doctor #1 doesn't like telling people they are sick or dying, so he simply doesn't mention it to them. He thinks it is better to let them go on living "happily" unaware of their serious condition. Doctor #1 is also a rather lazy man. He has a few medications he knows have

cured people in the past and just prescribes them haphazardly irregardless of the individual's illness, which has caused many of his patients to get sick, which he of course never informs them that they are.

Doctor #2 also does not like telling people they are sick or dying, but he does want to heal them to the best of his ability, and that requires telling them the truth. Only when his patients realize what condition they are in, will they realize their dire need for help.

Doctor #2 always attempts to prescribe the right medicine for the right situation. Sometimes this medicine makes the patient feel even sicker before they can get better (chemotherapy), but in the long run it is for their best. Sometimes the medicine cures the disease right away.

So, who's the doctor going to be? How does this apply to the Sacrament and a good pastor/congregation? How is closed communion actually the most loving practice a church can have?

An old German word for a pastor was "Seelsorge." It literally means "soul-carer." A pastor is a doctor of souls. It is hard for a pastor to be a "carer of souls" today as the world has confused tolerance and love, discipline and hatred. Explain.

How often should we go to Communion?

Nix "should" and rephrase:

How often will a Christian desire Communion?

Mark 9:24

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and

sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Put it this way: If I put a \$10 bill every ten feet for an infinite distance, how far do you think most people would walk picking up \$10 bills. If Jesus was appearing at the local Borders for a book signing and meet and greet every Sunday, how often do you think most people would come to see him “in the flesh and blood”? If a doctor had a medicine that would make you stronger, healthier, and more immortal—as if that were possible—every time you took it, and he offered it every day, how many times would most people go? In this Sacrament we have Jesus in the flesh and blood and he promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. The amazing thing is not that people would run to it, but that so many would run away!

Review and Application

Evaluate: I receive Communion five times a year. That’s enough, isn’t it!

A/D: The Lord’s Supper is less valuable than the sermon.

A/D: Shorter sermons with the Lord’s Supper are better than longer sermons without it.

Evaluate: It’s too Catholic to have Communion every week!

A/D: Kneeling is better than standing for the Lord’s Supper.

Evaluate: Common cup better represents the nature of Holy Communion and shows more respect to the blood of Christ present in the wine.

Why do people who deny the real presence usually get confused when it comes to the human/divine natures of Christ and what He did for the human race?

How is a denial of the Sacraments a denial of “by grace through faith.”

What is more important: Word, Baptism, Lord’s Supper?

Lesson 30

The Keys

First: *What is the use of the keys?*

The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sins but to refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelist John writes in chapter 20, “[Jesus] breathed on [his disciples] and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”

What are these keys?

Matthew 16:19

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

John 20:23

“If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

What makes these keys “special”?

John 20:21-23

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Matthew 18:18-20

“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

How do we use these keys?

Binding

1 John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men-- robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

John 20:23

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

Why?

Matthew 18:15

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

1 Corinthians 5:5

...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

James 5:19, 20

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Loosing

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...

John 20:23

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

Why?

2 Corinthians 2:7

Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

Psalm 51:8, 9

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-15.

How does it apply to the keys and our use of them. What do we learn from this example?

The Public Use of the Keys

Second: *How does a Christian congregation use the keys?*

A Christian congregations with its called servant of Christ uses the key in accordance with Christ's command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend, and by excluding from the congregation those who are plainly impenitent that they may repent. I believe that when this is done, it is as valid and certain in heaven also, as if Christ, our deal Lord, dealt with us himself.

Where is this written?

Jesus says in Matthew, chapter 18, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Who publicly administers the keys?

Acts 20:28

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

2 Corinthians 2:10

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake...

Who forgives also? For whose sake?

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Why?

Ephesians 4:11-16

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers...

Titus 1:5-9

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless-- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

1 Peter 5:2,3

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Ephesians 3:1-7

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

1 Corinthians 14:33a

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

1 Corinthians 14:40

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Who can serve as a pastor?

First:

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Second:

1 Timothy 2:11-13

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

Paul does say "I permit," but then he gives his reason, which is based upon the order of creation.

What is the significance of this?

Is it still binding for the modern church?

1 Corinthians 14:33-37

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

Third:

Acts 20:28

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 14:23

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

"No one should be allowed to administer the Word and the sacraments unless they are duly called" (Apology 222.1 K/W)

What does the ministry include?

1 John 5:8

For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

Matthew 28:19,20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

How is the binding key to be employed in a case of impenitent sin?

Matthew 18:17

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5:4,5,13

When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

And the loosing key?

2 Corinthians 2:6-10

The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake...

How effective is the congregation's use of its keys?

Matthew 18:18-20

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

1 Corinthians 5:4,5

When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Review and Application

Why do human beings need to hear that they are forgiven?

Agree or Disagree: The pastor really forgives your sins in God's service on Sunday.

Evaluate: "I don't need anyone to forgive me my sins. That's between me and God!"

Evaluate: No man or woman can forgive sins.

A/D: The pastor has more right to loose and bind than the congregation.

A/D: In binding and loosing, the Church simply announces what God already has declared.

Evaluate: We are all ministers.

Who calls a pastor, the Holy Spirit or the church?

If someone who used to be a pastor, but no longer has a call to be a pastor, still a pastor?

Evaluate: There are some jobs only the pastor can do.

Consider the following and discuss:

"But suppose you say, "What if I feel unfit?" Answer: I am tempted the same way, which is a carry-over from our former situation under the pope. There we tortured

ourselves with efforts to become so totally pure that God might not find the least flaw in us; as a result we all became so timid that we easily took fright and would say, “O how unfit I am.” At that point human nature and reason begin to measure our unworthiness against the greatness of the Sacrament’s priceless treasure, in comparison with which our unrighteousness seems like a smoke-darkened lantern in the brightness of the sun, or like junk in comparison with jewelry. Nature and reason, seeing this contrast, keep people from going to the Sacrament until they feel more prepared. But one week becomes another, and one half-year leads to the next. If you insist on weighing how good and pure you are and if you wait until you feel no stings of conscience, you will never approach the Lord’s Table” (LC, 117).

“People who are worried about this [their own sinfulness] should learn that the highest wisdom is the realization that this sacrament does not depend on our worthiness. We do not come to be baptized because we are worthy or holy, nor do we come to confession because we are pure and without sin. On the contrary, we come as poor, miserable human precisely because we are unworthy, unless there be someone who desires no grace and absolution nor intends to amend his life” (LC, 118).

“But suppose you say, ‘What shall I do if I do not feel this need nor experience hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?’ Answer: To those of you whose state of mind is such that you do not feel your need, I can give no better counsel than to tell you to pinch yourselves and see if you still are flesh and blood. If you find that you are, then for your own good, turn to St. Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians (5:19,20) and hear of what sort are the fruits of the flesh: ‘The works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like.’

So, if you cannot feel your need, at least believe the Scripture. Scripture will not lie to you. It knows you better than you do yourself. Yes, Saint Paul also concludes in Romans 7:18: ‘I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh.’ If Saint Paul can say that about his flesh, let us not make ourselves out to be any better or holier than he. But the fact that we do not feel our sinfulness shows that our condition is much worse than his. For it is a sign that our flesh is leprous and does not feel anything even though the disease is raging in us and eating our life away. If sin has deadened you so completely, you better believe the Scripture as it pronounces God’s verdict against you. In short, the less you feel your sins and flaws, the more reason you have to go to the Sacrament to seek a remedy” (LC, 120).

Lesson 31

Public and Private Confession

First: *What is confession?*

Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.

Second: *What sins should we confess?*

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer.

But before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Third: *How can we recognize these sins?*

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, or employee? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you hurt anyone by word or deed? Have you been dishonest, careless, wasteful, or done other wrong?

Fourth: *How will the pastor assure a penitent sinner of forgiveness?*

He will say, "By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

What is the public, daily, and necessary confession?

First:

Ezra 10:11

Now make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples around you and from your foreign wives.

Psalms 51:3,4

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

What do we confess?

Psalms 51:5

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Psalm 32:5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Luke 15:21

The son said to him, Father, "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 51:4

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Why?

Joshua 7:19

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

2 Samuel 12:1-15

Read and discuss.

1 John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Second:

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

What do we confess?

Matthew 5:23,24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Why?

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

“Confession of this sort should and must continue without letup as long as we live” (LC 123).

What is indivisibly joined with confession?

2 Samuel 12:1-15

Read again.

Psalms 32:5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2 Corinthians 2:7

Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

Matthew 9:2

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Where do we see this most prominently in God’s service, worship? Why do we have it there? How does it fit with what we have studied thus far?

What about private confession (absolution)?

“Besides this public, daily, and necessary confession, there is also the confidential confession that is only made before a single brother. If something particular weighs upon us or troubles us, something with which we keep torturing ourselves and can find no rest, and we do not find our faith to be strong enough to cope with it, then this private form of confession gives us the opportunity of laying the matter before some brother and receiving counsel, comfort, and strength when and however we wish. That we should do this is not included in any divine command, as the other two kinds of confession” (LC 124).

Why do it?

Psalm 38:4

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

1 Thessalonians 2:11,12

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

Titus 1:9

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Psalm 32

Read, consider, and discuss.

What is the certainty of the pastor's absolution?

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Consider and discuss:

“Therefore as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority...”

“In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ...”

“So notice, then, that confession, as I have often said, consists of two parts. The first is my own work and action, when I lament my sin and desire comfort and

refreshment for my soul. The other part is a work that God does when He declares me free of my sin through His Word placed in the mouth of a man” (LC 124).

“Moreover, we strongly urge people not to despise a blessing which in view of our great need is so priceless. Now, if you are a Christian, then you do not need either my pressuring or the pope’s orders, but you will undoubtedly compel yourself to come to confession and will beg me for a share in it...If you were a Christian, then you ought to be happy to run more than a hundred miles to confession and not let yourself be urged to come; you should rather come and compel us to give you the opportunity...When I therefore urge you to go to confession, I am doing nothing else than urging you to be a Christian. If I have brought you to the point of being a Christian, I have thereby also brought you to confession” (LC 126).

Review pages 154, 155 in *Christian Worship*.
What would be a better title than “Private Confession”?

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: A Christian needs to go to private confession.

A/D: A Christian should only confess the sins they “commit.”

A/D: The pastor has a power to forgive that the average member does not.

Evaluate: The pastor’s forgiveness is God’s forgiveness.

Evaluate: Confession leads to the communion rail.

Evaluate: A good Christian should never have sins worthy of private confession.

How is the Lutheran Church’s practice of confession different than that of the Roman Catholic Church? The Reformed Churches?

How is private confession kind of like our need to hear that our friends forgive us when we sin against them?

Why is the sign of the cross connected with absolution in our worship service?

How is everything we do in connection with the Gospel a form of absolution?

Evaluate: The Christian’s willingness to confess his sin is evidence of his repentance AND faith in the promise of forgiveness.

Lesson 32

Prayer

Whose prayer does God hear?

Isaiah 1:15
Hebrews 11:6
John 16:23
1 Peter 3:12

What are we supposed to pray?

A

Psalm 34:1

C

1 John 1:8-10

T

1 Timothy 2:1
Philippians 4:6

S

1 Timothy 2:1
Philippians 4:6

“The need that should concern us, both our own need and that of others, is indicated amply enough in the Lord’s Prayer” (LC 83).

How often and where do we pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:17
Ephesians 6:18
1 Timothy 2:8
Romans 8:26

Should we pray spontaneously or have prepared prayers?

First:

Luke 11:1

Hosea 14:2

Matthew 26:26

Second:

1 Samuel 1:10-16

Jonah 2:1

Third:

Matthew 6:9-15

“We should be all the more encouraged and induced to pray by the fact that, in addition to giving us His command and promise, God Himself takes the first step by supplying and putting into our mouths the words and pattern for the how and the what of our prayer life. He wants us to see how genuinely He is concerned about our needs, so that we may never question whether our prayers please Him or are really answered. This gives the Lord’s Prayer a great advantage over all other prayers that we ourselves might devise. For in their case the conscience might constantly be in doubt and say, ‘I have prayed, but who knows if it pleases Him or whether I have hit upon the right measure or manner of praying?’ Nowhere on earth, therefore, can a nobler prayer be found than the Lord’s Prayer, since it gives such splendid testimony that God delights in hearing us pray. We should not wish to trade this assurance for all the world’s riches” (LC 81,82).

When Luther’s puppy happened to be at the table, looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes, he [Martin Luther] said, “Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish, or hope.” Behold, the heart of the pious dog was also lacking in this, that he could not pray without thoughts. (LW 54, pg. 37)

Lesson 33

The Address

Our Father in heaven

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.

How is God “Our Father”?

Galatians 4:4-7

1 John 3:1

Why is “our” so important?

Romans 8:15

Matthew 7:9-11

Ephesians 3:12

“You can hold Him to His promises and say, “I come to you, dear father, and pray not of my own accord or in my own worthiness, but because of Your command and Your promises, which cannot fail me or mislead me” (LC 80).

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: God hears all people’s prayers.

Agree or Disagree: A Christian prays because God commands him or her to pray.

Agree or Disagree: God always answers His children’s prayers.

Evaluate: In prayer, you’re telling God what He already knows.

-Explain: “A Christian is always praying, whether he is sleeping or waking” (WLS #3471).

Agree or Disagree: Bold and confident prayer means we know we’ll get what we want.

What is the comfort in calling God our Father?

Why will the fact that God is our Father inspire earthly fathers to be good parents?

How do we avoid a rosary-like praying of the Lord’s Prayer?

Lesson 34

Hallowed be your name

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But whoever teaches and lives contrary to God's Word dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, dear Father in heaven!

What is God's name?

Exodus 34:5-7

Isaiah 9:6,7

Compare/Contrast how we name our children to the importance of names in the Scriptures.

Is God's name holy without us?

Revelation 3:7

Hosea 6:6

How do we keep God's name holy?

First:

John 17:17

1 Timothy 6:20

Jeremiah 23:28

1 Timothy 4:16

Hosea 6:6

Second:

Ephesians 4:1

1 Timothy 4:16

Matthew 5:14-16

1 Peter 3:15-17

Romans 12:1

How is God's name not kept holy?

Matthew 9:35-38

Malachi 1:6-8 & 2:7,8

2 Peter 2:1,2

Matthew 23:13-36

Second:

2 Samuel 12:7-14

Romans 2:23,24

Review and Application

What's more important: a good life or good doctrine?

What's easier: a good life or good doctrine?

What's more important in God's eyes: a good life or good doctrine?

A/D: A Christian must have the right answer for every teaching at every time.

A/D: Pastors are the most important people in keeping a church's teaching right.

How does a wicked life effect how people view your teaching?

What honors God's name more when we pray: kneeling, standing, or sitting?

Evaluate: In worship, fancy vestments and decorations and buildings honor God's name best.

Lesson 35

Your kingdom come

What does this mean?

God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.

What is the kingdom of God?

Luke 17:20,21

John 18:36,37

Colossians 3:15,16

How does the kingdom of God come?

1 Corinthians 12:3

Romans 14:17

Romans 9:16

Why pray for it?

First:

Matthew 11:28

John 8:31,32

Romans 14:7

Second:

2 Corinthians 5:15-1

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 3:3,4

Why do believers pray for something that already exists in their hearts?

First:

Mark 9:24

2 Peter 3:17,18

Second:

John 10:16

Acts 26:24-29

Review and Application

Agree or Disagree: We can establish the kingdom of God on earth.

Agree or Disagree: We can make America more godly by passing good laws.

Evaluate: Our praying for people will bring them to faith.

Evaluate: God's rule in our hearts grows stronger through our prayers.

Evaluate: "The blame for all this rests on shameful unbelief, which does not even trust God for enough to fill the belly, let alone expect, without doubting, to receive the eternal treasures from Him" (LC 87)

Evaluate: "Suppose that the richest and mightiest emperor on earth were to order a poor beggar to ask for whatever his heart might desire and were prepared to give him great imperial gifts. And suppose that the fool of a beggar would ask for no more than a ladle of beggar's soup. For having treated his imperial majesty's command with mockery and contempt, he would rightly be regarded as a rogue and a scoundrel and as one who was not worthy ever again to come into the emperor's presence" (LC 87)

Lesson 36

Your will be done on earth as in heaven

What does this mean?

God's good and gracious will certainly is done without prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when he breaks and defeats every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh, which try to prevent us from keeping God's name holy and letting his kingdom come. And God's will is done when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and in the faith as long as we live. This is his good and gracious will.

What is God's will?

First:

2 Timothy 4:2

Titus 1:9

Jeremiah 23:28

Second:

1 Timothy 2:3,4

Third:

1 Timothy 4:16

1 Peter 2:15

In heaven

Psalm 103:20

On earth

Psalm 115:3

Ephesians 1:11

Romans 8:28

Who opposes God's will?

First:

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Peter 5:8

2 Corinthians 4:4

Second:

Matthew 18:7

James 4:4

Mark 8:36

1 John 2:15,16

Luke 8:14

Matthew 19:16-26

Third:

Galatians 5:17

Romans 8:8

Romans 7:24,25

So how is God's will accomplished among us?

First:

1 John 3:8

John 16:33

Romans 6:6

Second:

2 Peter 2:20

Galatians 6:14

Ephesians 6:10-18

1 Peter 1:5

Review and Application

What should we fear the most: devil, world, or sinful nature? How do we over come them?

Agree/Disagree: Praying the third petition is praying for trouble to come to our neighbors.

If God's will is done, and He wants all saved, why aren't all saved?

How did Jesus model praying this petition in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Mt. 26:36-46)

Lesson 37

Give us today our daily bread

What does this mean?

God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What, then, is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

What is “our daily bread”?

Psalm 37:25,26

Psalm 145:15,16

James 2:15,16

Philippians 4:19

Who receives daily bread from God?

Psalm 145:15,16

Matthew 5:45

Matthew 6:8

What does this petition teach us?

First:

James 1:17

1 Peter 5:7

Romans 8:32

Second:

Philippians 4:6

Psalm 118:1

Why “daily” bread?

Matthew 6:25-34

Luke 11:11-13

James 4:13-15

Proverbs 27:1

Review and Application

How is this petition different from all the others?

Agree/Disagree: Worry is a sin.

A/D: God promises that Christians will never be poor.

Evaluate: It’s harder to see daily bread as a gift of God in the modern world.

Evaluate: A Christian should live paycheck to paycheck.

Evaluate: More faith means more blessings.

Lesson 38

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

The Principle

Matthew 6:14,15

Luke 11:4

What do our sins do to our relationship with God?

Our condition

Isaiah 59:2

Romans 7:24

Romans 3:10,12

Luke 17:10

What we do deserve

Romans 6:23

Colossians 3:25

Illustration: Imagine trying to score on Yao Ming, Shaq, and Ben Wallace all at the same time. What are your chances? Imagine trying to run through Warren Sapp, Hugh Douglas, and Simeon Rice at the same time. Are the odds behind you? Our sins block our prayers from getting through to God. We need something to clear the way. Forgiveness does that.

What is forgiveness?

Psalm 51

How is forgiveness described?

Our model of forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32

Forgiveness and Prayer

Psalm 66:20

Psalm 69:16

Isaiah 30:19

Cause and Effect forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Luke 6:32-36

Ephesians 4:32

Review and Application

Evaluate: “I can forgive you, but I can’t forget.”

Agree/Disagree: Sometimes people sin so much, you can’t forgive them again (Mt. 18:21,22).

A/D: Sinning is doing what God has forbidden.

Evaluate: Sometimes the hardest person to forgive is the one you care most about.

Evaluate: For our old man, “I forgive you” are some of the hardest words to say.

A/D: ‘Sorry doesn’t count it.’

A/D: Forgiveness means erasing the consequences of what the person did.

Lesson 39

Lead us not into temptation

What does this mean?

God surely tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and though we are tempted by them, we pray that we may overcome and win the victory.

What is temptation?

First:

1 Thessalonians 3:5

Genesis 3:1-6

Galatians 1:6-9

Second:

Matthew 27:3-5

2 Corinthians 2:7

Third:

1 Timothy 1:6-9

Romans 1:18-32

James 1:14,15

Who tempts us?

First:

James 1:13

Second:

Revelation 12:9

1 John 2:16

2 Peter 2:18

If God tempts no one, why pray that He does not lead us into temptation?

First:

Matthew 26:41

Romans 7:18-25

1 Corinthians 10:12,13

Second:

Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 2:18

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: “I was born that way” is a valid excuse for sin.

A/D: Saying “I was born that way” to excuse sin is blaspheming God.

Evaluate: Tempting is not the same as testing.

Evaluate: As we get older, it gets easier to avoid sins.

What are some ways we can avoid temptation?

Luther says that part of being a good pastor is experiencing temptation. Why?

A/D: It is a sin to think about sinning.

Explain: “As the saying goes: ‘Wherever God erects a church, the devil builds his chapel or tavern next to it’; that is, wherever God’s Word springs up in its purity, the devil ushers in sects, factions, and many false spirits, who also deck themselves with the glory and the name of Christ and His church” (Luther, AE, 24).

Lesson 40

But deliver us from evil

What does this mean?

In conclusion, we pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to him himself.

What is evil?

Genesis 3

Read this chapter.

What changed in our condition? In our relationship with God?

Psalm 51:5

Romans 8:7,8

Romans 3:23

How does evil affect Christians?

Consider Job. How was his life impacted by evil?

Psalm 31:9-13

Acts 14:22

2 Timothy 2:3

Romans 8:18

Matthew 13:1-23

“How shameful it will be for us, therefore, to be present in that most august convention of the world and to be seen without the adornment of the cross and suffering!”

(Sacred Meditations, Johann Gerhard, my translation)

How does God deliver us from evil?

First:

Psalm 121

Second:
Romans 8:28
2 Corinthians 4:17

How did God use evil for good in Joseph's life? In the apostle's lives? In Jesus' life?

What is the Christian's view of suffering?

1 Peter 5:10
Revelation 2:10
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

When will we ultimately be delivered from evil?

2 Timothy 4:18
Philippians 1:23
Revelation 21:3,4
Psalm 73:23-26

Review and Application

Agree/Disagree: Sickness and trouble is a punishment from God.

A/D: Adults are more aware of death and evil than teens.

A/D: It is better to die quick.

Evaluate: "I prayed for God to deliver us from evil, but healing my loved one, but she died.

God must not have answered my prayer."

A/D: The best way for us to be delivered from evil is not to experience it at all.

Explain: "Life is full of burdens. Therefore, the alleviation of them is good. The miseries of the Christian man, not the Christian man [himself], dies. That kind of departure of the soul, which we suppose to be death, is not an exit, but a transition. We don't lose our loved ones, but send them before us. They do not die, but arise. They precede, not leave, us. They depart. It is not death, but departure. The migration of the pious is to renewal. The funerals of the pious are a kind of collection of interest, [cashing in this life, on loan, for the real benefits in eternity]. Our [loved ones] die. See in this, that they cease sinning, cease being tossed about, cease being miserable. They die in the faith. See in this, that they depart from the shadow of life, so that they pass through to true life, out of darkness, and into light, from men, and to God" (*Sacred Meditations*).

Lesson 41

The Doxology

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now
and forever. Amen.

What does this mean?

We can be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Therefore we say, "Amen. Yes, it shall be so."

Why are these petitions acceptable to God?

First:

Matthew 6:9

Second:

Matthew 6:33

Third:

1 Chronicles 29:11

How do we know God hears these petitions?

First:

Romans 8:32

Matthew 7:7,8

John 14:13,14

Second:

Ephesians 3:20

Luke 1:37

Why end with "Amen"? ("Yes, it shall be so.")

James 1:6,7

Review and Application

“Amen” is simply the expression of an unquestioning faith that prayer is not a gamble and that God certainly is not lying when He promises to grant what we pray for” (*LC*, 97).

“It is therefore a hurtful delusion when people so pray that they dare not wholeheartedly add their ‘Yes, it shall be so’ nor conclude with certainty that God hears their prayer, but instead remain doubtful and say, ‘How dare I have the audacity to boast that God heard my prayer? After all, I am only a poor sinner,’ etc. This shows that they are fastening their gaze not on God’s promise but on their own works and their own worthiness, this despising God and calling Him a liar” (*LC*, 97).

“Like a child, I still suckle at it, and, like an old person, who cannot be satisfied, I drink from it and eat of it” (*A Simple Way to Pray*, 14).