

Christ Church

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Reformed Teaching † Re-forming People

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: Psalm 32:11

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;

And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 34

Q. What does the Lord say in his law?

A. God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Q. How are these commandments divided?

A. Into two tables. The first has four commandments, teaching us what our relation to God should be. The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.

Q. What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

A. That I, not wanting to endanger my very salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures. That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God, trust him alone, look to him for every good thing humbly and patiently, love him, fear him, and honor him with all my heart. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against his will in any way.

Q. What is idolatry?

A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word.

Call to Confession: Psalm 143:7-8

Answer me speedily, O LORD; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.

Prayer of Confession: Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we have loved idols in that we have trusted in things other than You for salvation or satisfaction in life. We have not loved, feared or

honored You with our whole heart. When our faith in You as the only true God has been tested, we have failed. In fact, we have broken all ten of your commandments through our thoughts and words and actions. Forgive us and renew us in the image of our Savior Jesus. We pray in His Name. Amen.

Kyrie: (recited, not sung)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God sent a reply to Josiah, the repenting king of Judah which said, "because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words . . . and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you." (excerpted from 2 Chronicles 34:26-27)

C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri: (recited, not sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Collect of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God. You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray. You are apt to give more than we either desire or deserve. Teach us to desire all that Christ has purchased for us, including the new life of service in Your kingdom. We pray through our Mediator Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

***New Testament Lesson: Romans 12:1-20**

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

² **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

⁴ **For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,**

⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶ **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;**

⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

⁸ **he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

¹⁰ **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;**

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

¹² **rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;**

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ **Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.**

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰ **Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."**

***Old Testament Lesson: Nehemiah 5:1-19**

¹And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren.

²**For there were those who said, “We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live.”**

³There were also some who said, “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine.”

⁴**There were also those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our lands and vineyards.**

⁵Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards.”

⁶**And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.**

⁷After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, “Each of you is exacting usury from his brother.” So I called a great assembly against them.

⁸**And I said to them, “According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?” Then they were silenced and found nothing to say.**

⁹Then I said, “What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?”

¹⁰**I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury!**

¹¹Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.”

¹²**So they said, “We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say.” Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise.**

¹³Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, “So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied.”

And all the assembly said, “Amen!” and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

¹⁴**Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor’s provisions.**

¹⁵But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

¹⁶**Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work.**

¹⁷And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us.

¹⁸**Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor’s provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.**

¹⁹Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: “What We Do or Who We Are?”

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer (unison): Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**