



The Ten Commandments: Conclusion

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Are the ten commandments valid for life today? It seems that most people in America would answer in the negative. The idea that moral norms are a creation of culture which continually evolve has super-ceded the old idea of divinely revealed norms. But whether or not people acknowledge the truth of the ten commandments, the consequences of obedience and disobedience remain the same. The Bible says “Let God be true and every man a liar” (Rom 3:4), which is to say that God’s truth is not affected in the least by man’s opinion of it. If people cast away the commandments of God to

follow the wisdom of men, they will fare no better than the many in history who have destroyed themselves by the same foolish delusion. The moral law of God is woven into the fabric of creation itself. We cannot fight against the commandments and expect to win. Those who go that route usually “rediscover” the truth of the law, which is not hard to do since God wrote it on our hearts at birth. The book of Judges in the Old Testament shows the common cycle of forgetting and remembering again. Some people have argued that the book of Judges cannot be true because people simply could not be that stupid to fall into the same trap over and over again. O yeah?



Rembrandt, *Moses With the Ten Commandments*. 1659. Oil on canvas, 168.5 cm x 136.5 cm. Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

The children of Israel considered themselves richly blessed to have such wisdom from God. Moses wrote, “Observe them (the laws) carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and

u n d e r s t a n d i n g people” (Deut 4:6). We may think that this is no longer true today because so many people mock the commandments and laugh at us for believing them. They think that we are foolish to strive against the fleshly lusts by refusing to indulge in the pleasures of sin, or by refusing to take the shortcuts to a rich and prosperous life. But just wait a while. The pleasures of sin taste like sweet bread in the mouth, but turn quickly to gravel (Prov 20:17). The “shortcut” doesn’t make you rich and prosperous, but poor and miserable. The “deception” may have won a sale, but lost a customer permanently. The escape from marital responsibilities did not give you the freedom you anticipated, but wrecked your whole life. Putting God on the back burner turned out to be a strategy for defeat rather than victory in your life. Betraying friends in order to get in with the popular group left you lonely and friendless instead. Following the law of God is not always easy, but it is always RIGHT. The law shows us the right path to take – even if it is the one less travelled. And God promises that we will never regret those kinds of decisions.

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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 20:31

Ten Commandments: Conclusion, cont.

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of
the wicked
Nor stands in the way of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of scoffers,
But his delight is in the
law of the Lord
And on his law he meditates
day and night.
He is like a tree planted by
streams of water
That yields its fruit in its season
and its leaf does not wither
In all that he does, he prospers.
(Psalm 1:1-3)

We Christians have divine insight that leads us into the way of blessing. The Law teaches us the good and perfect will of God. Luther was right in affirming that the

one who is familiar with the ten commandments “*is able in all affairs and emergencies to counsel, to help, to comfort and to come to an understanding and decision, whether the subject is temporal or spiritual.*” (Luther’s *Large Catechism*, preface).

In this series, I have focused upon the third use of the Law (a guide), but we must always remember that the highest wisdom we receive from the commandments comes from the primary use of the Law, that of a mirror. It enables us to see that we cannot fulfill it, and that we therefore fall under the wrath and judgment of God. This knowledge drives us to the cross where we gain the highest wisdom of all. At the cross of Jesus we are made wise to

salvation through faith, for He alone is our righteousness and our peace. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law for all people, and the end of the Law for all who believe (Rom 10:4). Through faith in Christ the law is placed within us, written by the Spirit of God upon our new hearts created in God’s image (Jer 31:33). Only through faith in Christ are we, God’s people, able to say,

“Come, let us go up to the
mountain of the Lord,
To the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may teach us his ways
And that we may walk in his paths”
(Isaiah 2:3)

Blessings,
Pastor Huebel

The Reformation and the Bible

On October 31 we celebrate the anniversary of Luther’s nailing the 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, the spark of the Reformation which changed Western history. It is no accident that the Reformation occurred at basically the same time as the invention of the printing press and the mass publication of the Bible. The following words were written by a 19th century American Lutheran Confessor, Charles Porterfield Krauth.

In all lands in which the battle of the Reformation was fought, the Bible furnished banner, armor, and shield, more than sword, for “the Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The Word of God opened the eyes of the Reformers to the existing corruptions; it called them forth from Babylon; it revealed to them the only source of healing for the sick and

wounded Church; it inspired them with ardor for their holy work; it lifted them above the desire for man’s favor, and the fear of man’s face. The Bible made them confessors, and prepared them to be martyrs.

The Reformers knew where their strength lay. They felt that what had redeemed them could alone redeem the Church. They saw that, under God, their ability to sustain their cause depended on His Word. The supreme and absolute authority of

God’s Word in determining all questions of doctrine and of duty, is a fundamental principle of the Reformation – a principle so fundamental, that without it, there would have been no Reformation – and so vital, that a Reformation without it, could such a Reformation be supposed, would have been at best, a glittering delusion and failure.

Charles Porterfield Krauth, [The Conservative Reformation and Its Theology](#)

Sing a New Song by Vicki Main, Kantor

This month we will start learning *Preach You the Word* LSB 586. The hymn tune name is “O Heiland, Reiss Die Himmel Auf” and was a German choral melody published anonymously in *Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch* (1666 ed.). Dale Grotenhuis, *Psalter Hymnal* Revision Committee member, prepared the harmonization in 1985. The setting in our hymnal was written by Paul G. Bunjes (1914-1998).

The text was written by Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976). He was a theologian, professor, poet, and composer of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod .

586 Preach You the Word

- 1 Preach you the Word and plant it home
To men who like or like it not,
The Word that shall endure and stand
When flow’rs and men shall be forgot.
- 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task
Your servant bade us undertake:
To preach Your Word and never ask
What prideful profit it may make.
- 3 The sower sows; his reckless love
Scatters abroad the goodly seed,
Intent alone that all may have
The wholesome loaves that all men need.

- 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched
And some be choked and matted flat,
The sower sows; his heart cries out,
“Oh, what of that, and what of that?”
- 5 Of all his scattered plenteousness
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,
And bears a harvest hundredfold:
“Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!”
- 6 Preach you the Word and plant it home
And never faint; the Harvest Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow
Will watch and tend His planted Word.

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The scriptural references offer further insight to the hymn’s foundation. . . . Luke 8:4-15, 1 Peter 1:24-25, 1 Timothy 4:15-16, and 2 Timothy 2:3, 10.

Having learned this tune, we will be able to sing *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide* LSB 355 in the upcoming season of Advent as well.

May God bless our joy in learning and singing!

The Elders’ Corner by Neil Gessling

Change. Some embrace it, others fight it tooth and nail. Whichever side you fall on doesn’t really matter, change is inevitable. Change may not be so evident in our daily lives, but spread out over decades or centuries and it becomes more obvious.

From starting out in a Keller storefront to making the transition to our present location, Messiah has changed by leaps and bounds over the decades. One thing that has remained constant is Pastor Huebel and his consistent preaching of sound doctrine.

Messiah is in the process of adapting to Pastor Kitzmann’s retirement and in the coming years will have to do the same when Pastor Huebel retires. So what can we all do as a congregation when faced with big changes such as these? First and foremost we all need to pray for God to bless Messiah with more faithful called and ordained servants. Secondly we need for all members to faithfully contribute their time, talents, and tithes to the mission these pastors have begun for us. Beyond that though, we all need to remember that it’s not about the Man but about the Word. Our future

preachers, whom God has already picked, won’t be the same in style or personality, and we should not expect them to be! Messiah has been blessed to have Pastor Huebel for 30 + years and the transition to his retirement will be a big change. As the bible tells us, we should “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Mrs. Ellen Malzahn, Principal, Academy

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mrs. Shirleen Simek, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

Lutheran Hymn Festival

On Sunday, September 29, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center had a sold out crowd for its evening performance. Unusual? No, but the audience was entirely Lutheran. Onstage was a 120 member choir representing 300+ Lutheran congregations along with a 50+ member children's choir from 14 different churches. The mass choir was under the direction of Samuel J. Eatherton, Minister of Music at Zion Lutheran Church in Dallas. The children's choir was directed by Cynthia Nott, *Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas*. Dr. Steve Wentz, a nationally recognized church organist from Concordia University Chicago, served as guest organist for the festival.



Messiah had four members onstage – Larry Goedecke, Sandy McDougall, and Ray & Vicki Main adding their voices to the Festival Choir.

This was the ninth Lutheran Hymn Festival to be held in Dallas since 1993. The purpose of the festivals is to glorify God, encourage one another in the faith by singing hymns, proclaim the Gospel, and to **encourage and support the training of young church musicians**. The Lutheran Hymn Festival has been blessed over the past eight festivals to make financial gifts to mission and ministry agencies totaling \$96,500. From the past four festivals, \$49,000 has been given to the Lutheran Music Program, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform lives and connect people through faith and music. Lutheran Music Program provides quality training for young people who are considering careers in worship as organists, at their annual four-week Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival.

It was an event celebrating Jesus Christ, the Mighty Savior and Light of All Creation, led by a world-class organ, an assembled choir and instrumentalists of the finest quality, in one of the most acoustically-perfect concert halls built in the twentieth century. All glory be to God - *Soli Deo Gloria!*

MLCA Third Grade Art

These gourd still lifes were drawn with white glue, then finished with pastels.

Art from all of the 1st—8th grades is on display in the 2nd floor hallway. Go, take a look and enjoy!



William Johnstone



Preston Pekowski



Ryder McCormack