**Catechesis Corner … From the Desk of Pastor A. C. Gless**

Eat your vegetables; it is for your good. Get your exercise in; it is for your good. Do your homework; it is for your good. Get a good night’s rest; it is for your good.

It is true that there are a lot of things that are for our good in life, but it is also true that we don’t always see it that way. When we don’t like broccoli, eating our vegetables is not good to us. When we wake up tired in the morning, getting any exercise accomplished is far from being good in our minds. When we have had a long day at school, we don’t think that getting our homework done is good. And when that movie we love comes on late at night, we don’t necessarily think that getting a good night’s rest is good for us either.

So, the question that may arise out of all of this is, “Who determines what is good for us?” Now if we were completely honest, I don’t think we could say that vegetables, exercise, doing homework, and getting enough sleep are somehow not good for us. It’s just that all too often our wants distort what is actually good for us.

So it can be with the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were given to us by God Himself as a gift so that we would be shown our sin and our desperate need for a Savior. They were given to us to serve as a curb, a mirror, and a guide. Being that they are from God, I don’t think that we could in any way say that they are not good for us. Or could we?

It just so happens that whenever we want to say, think, or do something outside of the boundary of the commandments of God, we have in some way concluded that they are not good for us. It’s how we justify our sinfulness. What is in fact good, we call bad because it suits our wants at the present time. We disregard what God says or what God gave to us. In our sin, we become the ones who determine what is good for us.

The catechism tells us that the summary of the first three commandments is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” The summary of commandments four through ten is “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The summary of all the commandments is simply one word: “Love”.

God gives us the commandments because He loves us. He knows exactly what is for our good, and so He lovingly tells us plainly. He tells us what to do and what not to do so there will be no question as to what is good for us.

It is in love for us, that God sent His Son Jesus to perfectly obey the commandments and lay down His perfect life because that is what was good for us. Had He not done so, we would have died eternally. Instead, because of God’s gift of sacrificing His perfect Son, we will live eternally. And I don’t think anyone would disagree that this is most certainly good for us. Thanks be to God who is so good to us!

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 106:1)*