

**Bible
Teachings
Series**



*A self-study
course about
the Ten
Commandments*

The Law of God

The Law of God

A self-study course about
the Ten Commandments

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Level 1, Book 12



Table of Contents

Getting Started	1
Chapter 1: The Really Long Arm of the Law	3
Chapter 2: The First Table of the Law	21
Chapter 3: The Second Table of the Law - Part One...	45
Chapter 4: The Second Table of the Law - Part Two...	67
Chapter 5: Obeying the Ten Commandments.....	85
Glossary.....	99
Answers to Chapter Tests	105
Final Test.....	107



Getting Started

This book is about the Ten Commandments, God's law for all people everywhere. In it, you will learn what kind of life God demands from us and what to do about it.

Each of the five chapters begins with a list of goals marked by a small star (*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. Within each chapter there are some questions for you to answer. At the end of the chapter there is a test.

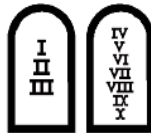
If you read the lesson carefully, you will be able to answer the questions on the test. If you go back to the beginning of the chapter and check the goals (*), you will see what you learned about those goals in the chapter. After each set of questions and after each chapter test, you will see a page number where you can find the correct answers to those questions. Check each of your answers and correct them if necessary. Make sure you understand each answer before you read any further.

At the end of the book is a final test. Before you take the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you complete the final test, you can either give it to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover.

May God help you as you learn more about his holy law, the Ten Commandments.



God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.



Chapter One

THE REALLY LONG ARM OF THE LAW

You may have seen an old motion picture titled *The Ten Commandments*. Maybe you remember some of the great scenes: the Nile River turning to blood, the parting of the Red Sea. That was a wonderful movie!

But the Ten Commandments are more than just something you saw in a motion picture or

on television. The Ten Commandments are actually and truly the law of God. A man named Moses really did go up onto a mountain called Mount Sinai. He really did bring down two thick stone tablets. On those tablets God himself carved his commands for the way people are supposed to live their lives.

In this chapter, we are going to talk about how people learn about God's law, his Ten Commandments. We will discuss how and why God gave us his law in the first place. At the end of this chapter you will be able to

- * tell in what two places God has written his law;
- * tell why he had to write his law twice; and
- * tell the three purposes God has for his law.

When we think of the Ten Commandments, we often think of them written on two tablets of stone. But God wrote them in another place.

He first wrote the commandments in human hearts.

In other words, when God made Adam and Eve, they already knew what his commandments were. They knew them naturally. God's law was like an instinct. They began life with the knowledge of how God wanted them to behave.

We call this in-born law "the natural law." It is still in human hearts. That is why people all over the world agree that certain things are right and certain things are wrong. Almost everyone in the world agrees that it is wrong to steal, or to kill just anyone you feel like killing. This agreement is because of the natural law.

1. The first place God wrote the commandments is in the human _____.
2. We were born with the _____ of how God wants us to behave.

3. We call this in-born law _____ .
_____ . (Three words)

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

Something went wrong with the natural law, though. Actually, the people in whose hearts it was written went wrong. We became sinful. When we became sinful, our sinfulness began to do something to that natural law in our hearts.

Think of it in this way. Suppose you owned a building, and on the side of that building you wrote the words of the Ten Commandments. Now, suppose you began throwing mud at the building. The more mud you threw, the harder it would be to read the words of the commandments, right?

With our sins, we are doing the same thing to the natural law in our hearts. When we sin against any of the commandments, it is like throwing mud at them. Soon you cannot read any of the commandments.

Have you ever had that happen in your life? You knew something was wrong. You knew what you did wrong was against God's commandments. But you did it anyway. The first time, you felt really guilty about it. Your conscience really made you suffer over it. The second and third time you committed the sin, you still felt sick about sinning.

But what about the fourth, fifth and sixth times? You did not feel quite so guilty any more. By the tenth time, you were beginning to wonder why anyone should think that what you did is a sin. You began to think of it as no more than a little weakness on your part. By the twentieth time you did wrong, you did not even think of it as a weakness any more. You threw enough sinful mud at the commandment that it no longer bothered you.

4. People's sinfulness does something to the _____ law in our hearts.

5. When we sin against a commandment, it is like throwing _____ at it.
6. After a while, we do not even think of the wrong we are doing as a _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

God did not want the whole human race to lose the meaning of his commands. Very soon wickedness would ruin the world! If our sins kept on muddying up the natural law in our hearts, no one would think anything was sinful any more.

So God wrote the law again. This time, he did not write it in human hearts. He wrote the law on two big tablets of stone.

We read about this in the Bible, in the second book of the Bible called Exodus. This book tells the story of Moses, the man who led God's people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. In Egypt, they were slaves for hundreds of years.

God saved them from slavery. He sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt and lead them to a high mountain in the desert.

The mountain was known by two names: Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai. It was on this mountain that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, inscribed on two tablets of stone by God himself.

Moses brought these stone tablets down from the mountain, and they were kept safe and secure. He copied the Ten Commandments into the book he wrote: the book of Exodus. That is how we came to have what is called “the written law.”

7. God wrote the law a second time, this time on two tablets of _____.
8. The name of the mountain where God wrote the law was called either Horeb or _____.

9. The man who brought the stone tablets down from the mountain and wrote them in the Bible was named _____.
10. The Ten Commandments in the Bible are called the _____ law.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

The written law now can take the place of the natural law. The natural law is all muddled over by our sins. It is not a good guide for us any more. But the written law is right there in the Bible, and we can read it clearly.

Think of the difference between the natural and the written law like this. Suppose you have a map. It is old and it is all torn and faded and muddy and dirty. You can hardly read it any more.

You need to take a trip to another city. You open your road map, and you find it is too dirty and worn to help you find the way. What can you do? Well, you go to the store and buy a

new road map, one that is not all torn and worn and muddied. It will show you the way clearly.

The natural law in our hearts is like that old map. The written law in the Bible is like the new one. Which one will you depend on to show you the way? The new map will show you the way to live, not the old one. You will use the written law in the Bible, not the natural law in your heart.

11. The written law can take the place of the _____ law.

12. We can depend on the _____ law to show us the way of God clearly.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

Now we know how God gave us the law, and why he had to give it to us twice. Now let us see why God gave us the Ten Commandments in the first place.

God has three purposes behind his law. One of them we all know very well. It is there to keep people from being lawless. It is to make us behave ourselves.

Think of it like this. In years gone by, when travelers went around on horseback, you really did not want the horses getting up onto the places where the people had to walk. (Horses have this bad habit of dropping their manure wherever and whenever they feel like it. Who would want to step into that?) So they would build a big, high curb to keep the horses in the street where they belonged.

You might think of the law as a curb. Like a curb, God's law keeps the human race where it belongs. His law keeps us where we should be. It keeps us out of trouble.

Think what the world would be like, for example, if God had no laws about stealing. Nothing you owned would be safe. Anyone who wanted something you had would take it

from you - if they could. You would be getting into fights over your possessions all the time.

But there is a law that says, "Do not steal!" (Exodus 20:15). And there are punishments for those who do steal.

Someone you know might be in prison right now for breaking that law by stealing. The law is there to keep us from stealing - to keep us where we should be, like a curb.

13. One purpose of the law is to make us _____ ourselves.

14. The law is like a high _____ to keep us where we should be and out of trouble.

(Check your answers on page 16)

There is a second purpose behind God's law. He wants us to use it like a mirror. In the morning, before going out to face the world, many people like to stop and look in a mirror first. That way, they can see how they look and

fix any problems. If a girl looks into the mirror and sees her hair is all out of place, she will grab a comb and fix the problem.

The Ten Commandments are like a mirror for our souls. When we check ourselves in that mirror, God wants us to see there are many things wrong with us. We ought to see how sinful we are. We ought to see how often we have broken God's commandments.

When we see how sinful we are, we should, like the girl with the mirror, find out what we can do about it. The Bible tells us we can never clean our sins off of ourselves. Only Jesus could do that by dying for them on the cross. So the law, as a mirror, shows us how sinful we are and how much we need a Savior.

15. We also use God's law like a _____
for our souls.

16. When we see how _____ we are, we
ought to find out what we can do about it.

17. The law, as a mirror, shows us how much we need a _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

When a person begins to trust Jesus as his Savior from sin and death, the law has one more use. It serves as a guide to tell that person how to live a thankful Christian life.

Think of it like this. Suppose you move to a different country - Germany, Japan, or Ethiopia. When you get there, you do not know the language. You do not understand the money they use. You do not know the way people behave in your new country.

What you need is something like a guidebook to teach you all these things. With such a guidebook you can learn how to act like all the other people around you. You can learn to act like a citizen of your new country.

In a way, because of Jesus our Savior, Christians are citizens of a new country. The

Bible says we are citizens of God's kingdom of heaven. But, since we have been sinners for so long, we may not know how a citizen of heaven should live and act. What should we do, as citizens of heaven, about such things as illegal drugs, sex, or hundreds of other things? That is where the Ten Commandments come in. They are our guide, to teach us the way God wants a Christian to live his life in this world.

18. The law is also a _____
to tell us how to live a Christian life.

19. The law tells us how God wants a citizen of
_____ to act.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 16)

Answers to questions within Chapter One:

1. heart; 2. knowledge; 3. the natural law; 4. natural; 5. mud; 6. sin;
7. stone; 8. Sinai; 9. Moses; 10. written; 11. natural; 12. written;
13. behave; 14. curb; 15. mirror; 16. sinful; 17. Savior; 18. guide;
19. heaven.

Chapter Review

God created the human race and gave us his law in our hearts. We call that law the natural law. This law teaches us how God wants us to behave. It is born into us like an instinct.

But all people have sinned against God, and our sins muddied up that natural law. The more we sinned against it, the muddier it got. Very soon no one knew clearly what God's laws were.

So God wrote his Ten Commandments on something else. He wrote his law on the two tablets of stone he gave to Moses many hundreds of years ago.

Moses copied the Ten Commandments into the Bible. Now we also have what is called the written law.

Using God's written law, now, we can know how he wants us to behave and live our lives.

This law acts like a curb to keep the human race from running wild and to keep us from sinning all the time. It acts like a mirror to show us how much we have sinned against God and how much we need Jesus as our Savior. For Christians, the law acts as a guide for living a life that thanks Jesus for his forgiveness.

Chapter Test

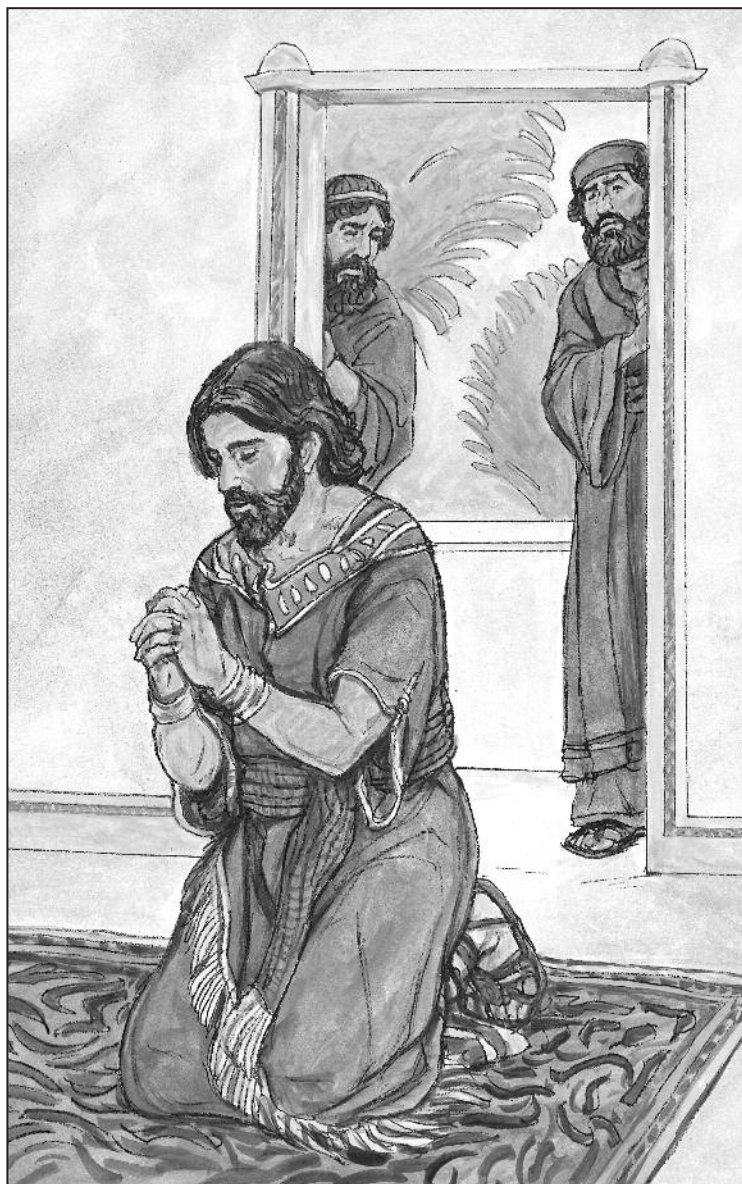
1. God created human beings with the _____ law written in their hearts.
2. Our _____ muddled up the law so that we did not know how to follow it.
3. God wrote the law on two tablets of stone that he gave to a man named _____.
4. This man copied the Ten Commandments into the Bible, giving us what is called the _____ law.

5. The law acts as a _____
to keep the human race from running wild.

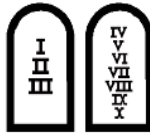
6. The law acts as a _____
to show us how much we have sinned and
need a Savior.

7. The law acts as a _____ for
Christians to live a life that thanks Jesus.

(Check your answers on page 105)



Daniel broke the king's rule and prayed to God.



Chapter Two

THE FIRST TABLE OF THE LAW

When God wrote the law on stone, he used two big pieces, called tables (or tablets). No one knows how much he wrote on one table or tablet and how much on the other. But the fact that there are two tables of the law causes us to divide the commandments into two parts. We say that the First Table of the law has the commandments that tell us how to love God.

The commandments on the Second Table tell us how to love people.

When we speak of the First Table of the law, we are thinking of the first three commandments. The first three commandments tell us how to love God. How should we think of him? How should we use his name? How should we think of his Word, the Bible?

We will study the first three commandments in this chapter. At the end of the chapter you will be able to:

- * tell how to avoid the sin of idolatry;
- * tell how to keep God's name holy; and
- * tell how to use God's Word.

The First Commandment is, "Do not put any other gods in place of me" (Exodus 20:3). With these words, God forbids a sin called idolatry.

An idol is a false god that someone worships. To worship a false god, whether you have a statue of the god or not, is the sin of idolatry.

There are two kinds of idolatry: open idolatry and secret idolatry. Open idolatry happens when someone worships any god who is not the God of the Bible, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This type of idolatry was widely spread in ancient times. Some nations, like the Greeks and the Egyptians, had dozens, even hundreds of gods. They would make idol-statues of those gods in the forms of men and women or animals or birds. They would worship these statues and bring them offerings and pray to them.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, God describes the foolishness of an idol worshipper. Here is what he says in Isaiah 44:14-19: "He cuts down a cedar tree. Or perhaps he takes a cypress or an oak tree. It might be a tree that

grew in the forest. Or it might be a pine tree he planted. And the rain made it grow. Man gets wood from trees for fuel. He uses some of it to warm himself. He starts a fire and bakes bread. But he also uses some of it [the wood] to make a god and worship it. He makes a statue of a god and bows down to it. He burns half of the wood in the fire. He prepares a meal over it. He eats until he is full. He also warms himself. He says, "Good! I'm getting warm. The fire is nice and hot." From the rest of the wood he makes a statue. It becomes his god. He bows down and worships it. He prays to it. He says, "Save me. You are my god." People like that don't even know what they are doing. Their eyes are shut so that they can't see the truth. Their minds are closed so that they can't understand it [the truth]. No one even stops to think about what he's doing. He doesn't have any sense or understanding. If he did, he would say, "I used half of the wood for fuel. I even baked bread over the fire. I cooked meat. Then I ate it. Should I now make a statue of a god out of the wood that's left over? Should I

bow down to a block of wood? The LORD would hate that."

Sad to say, many people in the world still worship such false gods. There are religions that have nothing but wooden idols for people to worship.

There are other religions that do not make wooden statues, but still worship false gods. These religions are doubly sad, because they get many of their ideas from the Bible, but they do not worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They do not worship Jesus as the Son of God.

Some people might think that not worshiping Jesus is all right. After all, at least they are following some of the Bible. But the Bible tells us, "Those who do not honor the Son do not honor the Father, who sent him" (John 5:23). If you do not worship Jesus as the Son of God, you are guilty of open idolatry.

1. Worshiping a false god is the sin of _____.
2. _____ idolatry is worshiping any god who is not the God of the Bible.
3. A person who does not worship Jesus as the _____ of God, is guilty of open idolatry.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

There is another kind of idolatry, though, that is hard for us to avoid. It is called secret idolatry. Even Christians can fall into the sin of secret idolatry. We fall into this sin when we give the highest place in our hearts to anyone or anything but God.

One of Jesus' followers, John, warned us in a letter, "Do not love the world or anything in it. If you love the world, love for the Father is not in you" (1 John 1:15). But how easy it is to love the things found in the world! How easy it is to

love money, drugs, or sex more than we love God! Then those things become our god.

As a matter of fact, you might say that any sin we commit is a sin of idolatry. After all, if we let God have first place in our hearts all the time, there is no way we would ever sin against him. But when we decide to sin, we are pushing God out of his place and taking that place for ourselves. We are making ourselves into our own god.

4. We commit secret idolatry when we give the highest place in our _____ to anything or anyone but God.
5. When we love things more than God they become our _____.
6. Every sin we commit is like idolatry, since we are making _____ into our own god.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Even though the Ten Commandments usually tell us what we should not do, there is always another side to them. The other part tells us what we should do instead of sinning. Martin Luther, a great teacher of the Christian religion who lived many years ago, wrote some simple explanations for the Ten Commandments. His explanation for the First Commandment is this: "We should fear (that is, respect), love and trust in God above all things."

First of all, God wants our respect. We should think of him as the greatest of all, the wisest of all, and the best of all. We should show our respect in the way we talk about him and in the way we obey him.

Secondly, God wants us to love him more than anything or anyone else - even more than ourselves! After all, he is our Maker. He not only gave us life but also a beautiful world in which to live. Think of how good it is to be out in the world, breathing the air and being able to go wherever you want. Everything in nature

is a gift of God. And God is our Savior. He has forgiven all of our sins because of Jesus. No wonder we should love him and show that love by doing what he wants us to do.

Finally, God wants us to trust him more than anything or anyone else. We show that trust by obeying him. Think of it in this way. Suppose you are exercising. Along comes someone who has always been friendly to you, and who knows how to exercise. He tells you that you are doing your exercises wrong and shows you how to do them right. What will you do? Well, since you know you can trust him, you will do what he tells you. That shows how much you trust him.

So when God our Savior gives us his commandments, we know we can trust him. Whatever he says to do must be the right thing, the thing that will be the best for us.

7. We should show _____ for God in the way we talk about him and the way we obey him.

8. Since everything is a gift from God, we ought to _____ him and show it by doing what he wants.

9. We show our _____ in God by thinking that whatever he says to do must be the right thing.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

The Second Commandment

The Second Commandment says, "Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God" (Exodus 20:7). God has a very good reason for giving us this commandment. His name means something very important, and careless use of his name will not get that meaning across.

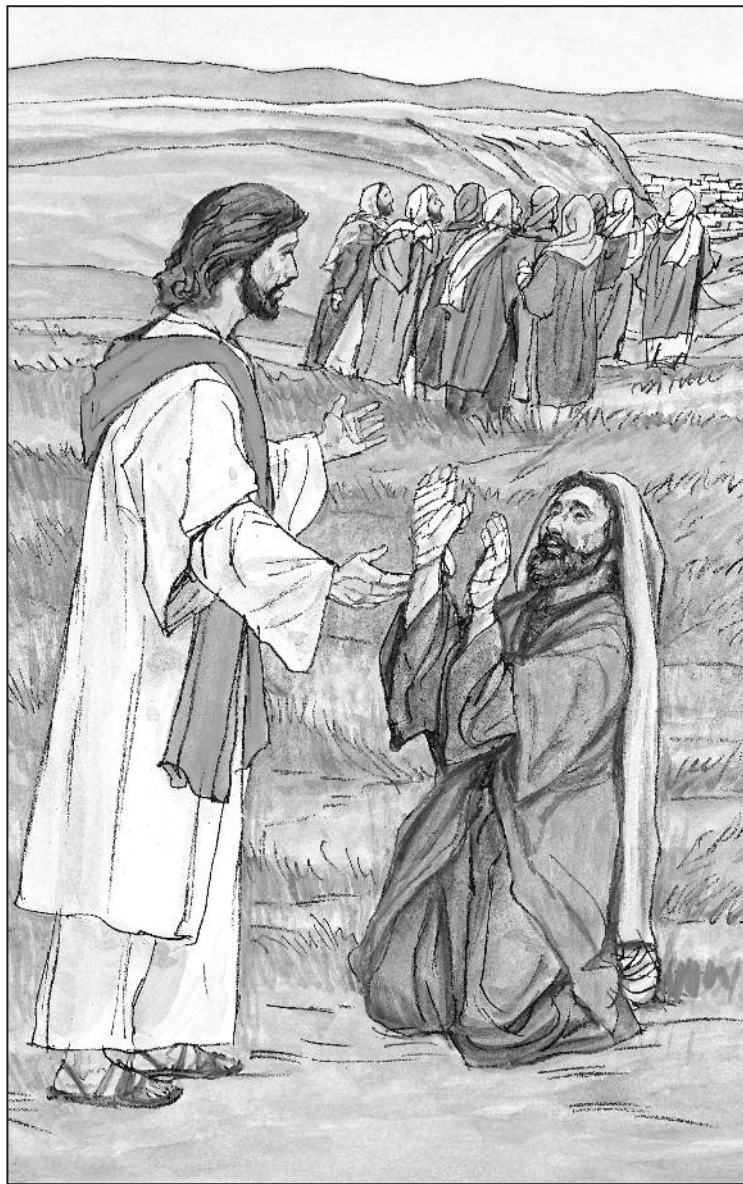
There are some people whose names say everything about them to us. The name Hitler, is an example. Hitler was the German leader

who started the Second World War and tried to kill all the Jews. His reputation is tied together with his name.

God's reputation is tied together with his name, too. When someone says, "God," or "The Lord," God wants everyone to think about who he is and what he is like.

If we don't know much about God, he has done us a favor. In the book of Exodus, he tells us who he is, and what his name means:

"I am the LORD, the LORD. I am a God who is tender and kind. I am gracious. I am slow to get angry. I am faithful and full of love. I continue to show my love to thousands of people. I forgive those who do evil. I forgive those who refuse to obey. And I forgive those who sin. But I do not let guilty people go without punishing them. I punish the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for the sin of their parents" (Exodus 34:6-7).



One man came back to thank Jesus.

These words tell us what his name means. He is a kind God who forgives sin and an angry God who punishes sin. It is that simple. Every sinner will be forgiven. Every sinner will be condemned.

You might have noticed that this sounds impossible. How can he forgive and punish at the same time? If you are angry with someone, you can either forgive him, or you can punish him. You cannot do both at the same time.

But God could and did. All his punishing anger was suffered by Jesus when he died on the cross for our sins. The punishment we deserve fell on Jesus instead of us. Therefore, God has forgiven our sins.

To put this simply, then, God wants his name to mean, "Savior."

10. God's reputation is tied together with his

11. God explained his name. He is the God who forgives and punishes _____.

12. God's name means, "_____."

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Many times we are tempted to curse and swear and use God's name in all kinds of angry ways. We would do ourselves a favor by stopping to think about what we are saying. If you get angry with someone and say, "God damn you!" what are you saying?

Remember the meaning of God's name! You are saying, "May our Savior send you to hell!" Well, that isn't something a Christian ought to say. Jesus came to save everyone from going to hell!

Some people swear foolishly, "By God (I swear that) I saw so-and-so yesterday!" What does that mean? "God our Savior strike me dead if I am lying about seeing so-and-so!" What a

foolish thing to say! Did God's Son come into the world to convince people that you saw so-and-so?

The same is true with every misuse of God's name. Lying under oath means you are asking God our Savior to fool everyone into thinking you are telling the truth. Even saying something like, "God, I am tired!" makes it sound as if God came into the world but forgot to bring you a pillow or something!

What are some ways of using God's name in a right way and getting his true reputation understood? We can tell other people about him and the Bible. We can pray to him at all times. We can praise him when things go well. When something good happens to you, especially on a day you are specially blessed, a good, loud "Thank God!" is surely in order! "Thank you, Savior! Look what he has done for me!

13. Before we use God's name in an angry or foolish way, we should _____ about what we are saying.
14. We can tell other _____ about God.
15. We can pray to him and _____ him when things go well.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

The Third Commandment

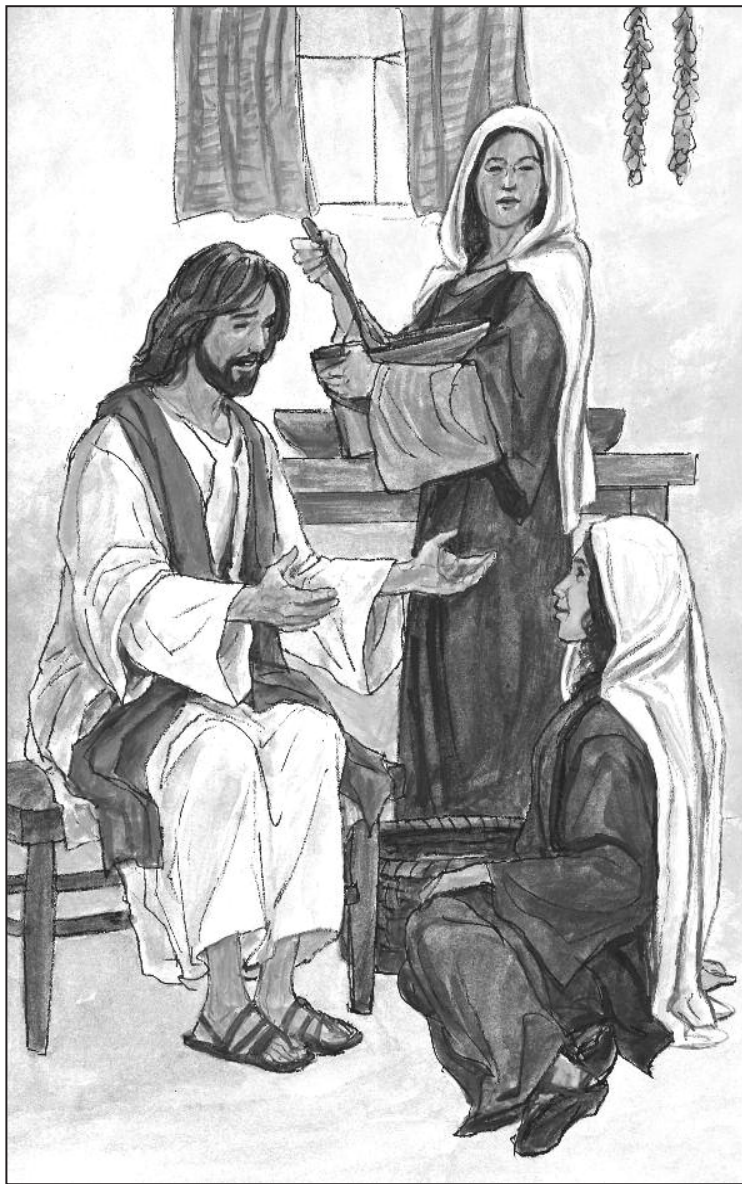
The Third Commandment says, "Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy" (Exodus 20:8). The people who lived at the time of Moses worshiped on Saturday. Saturday was known as the "Sabbath," or the day of "rest," because they were to do no work at all on that day. They were to do no cooking, no building, no gardening, nothing! They were to rest.

There were two reasons they were to rest on that day. First, it was to remember how God had rested on the seventh day when he

created the world. The Bible explains, "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He rested on it. After he had created everything, he rested from all the work he had done" (Genesis 2:1 and 2).

But there was something more to remember about the day of rest. It not only looked back in time, but it also looked forward. It looked forward to a different kind of rest. It promised people that their Savior Jesus Christ would bring rest for their souls. If Jesus had not come to save all people, we would never have any rest. We would have to try to earn our way into heaven. We would have to struggle and worry and try to obey the Ten Commandments perfectly. And we would always be fearful that we were not doing it well enough.

Jesus came to die for all our sins. We will get into heaven, not because of our efforts, but



Mary listened to Jesus. Martha got things ready.

because of Jesus' work. We can rest, because he did all the work.

In the years before he came to earth, people looked forward to this rest by not working on Saturday, their day of worship.

16. For people in Moses' day the day of worship was _____, not Sunday.

17. On the Sabbath Day they were supposed to _____ from their jobs in order to worship God.

18. This looked forward to the rest Jesus would bring for our _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Most people do not observe Saturday as the day of worship any more. Sunday is the day most Christians go to church. It was only a short time after Jesus' resurrection that Christians started worshiping on Sunday. Christians felt Sunday was a good day to

worship, because it was the day Jesus rose from the dead.

So, remember that the Third Commandment means more than taking a day off from work. It has to do with the rest Jesus won for us and everything included in the rest Jesus gives us. The day of worship is the day we hear the Bible read and preached. The Bible is the book which tells us all about what Jesus did to win rest for our souls.

You might say the Third Commandment is the Bible Commandment. Whether we worship on Sunday, Saturday, or any day of the week, the Bible ought to be part of each day. When the Bible tells us what Jesus did to save us, then our souls are at rest. That is what the Third Commandment is all about. Our souls are at rest because of what Jesus did for us. We love and respect the Bible, because it is God's book that tells us all about this rest. It is a book we gladly read, hear, and learn.

19. Christians chose Sunday as the day of worship since it is the day Jesus _____ from the dead.
20. You might say the Third Commandment is the _____ Commandment.
21. The Bible is a book we will _____ read, hear, and learn.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Chapter Review

When we speak of the two tables of the law, we mean that some of the Ten Commandments speak of how we are to love God, and the rest of how we are to love our fellow man. The First Table of the law brings us the first three commandments. These three commandments talk about how we love God.

Answers to questions within Chapter Two:

1. idolatry; 2. Open; 3. Son; 4. heart; 5. god; 6. ourselves; 7. respect (or fear); 8. love; 9. trust; 10. name; 11. sin; 12. Savior; 13. think; 14. people; 15. praise; 16. Saturday; 17. rest; 18. souls; 19. rose; 20. Bible; 21. gladly.

The First Commandment forbids the sin of idolatry. Idolatry means having another god besides the true God. Some people commit this sin by worshiping an idol, a false god. Some commit idolatry by saying they worship the God of the Bible, but they do not worship Jesus. We all sin against this commandment when we give God's place in our heart to someone or something else including ourselves. Instead of serving false gods, we ought to respect God and his Word. God our Savior wants us to love him more than anything or anyone else, and trust him with all our hearts. We will show this by obeying his commandments.

The Second Commandment teaches us how we are to use the name of God. Every use of his name should show that we believe he is our holy, loving Savior. When we use his name carelessly, or for bad reasons, we are not giving him the honor he deserves. But when we use it to tell others what the Bible says about him, or to thank him or worship him, then we are using God's name correctly.

The Third Commandment guides our respect for God's Word. The Bible tells us how Jesus came to win rest for our souls. Before Jesus lived on earth, people were told to do no work on Saturday so they could look forward to that rest. Now that Jesus has finished his work of saving all people, we obey this commandment by loving God's Word and reading and hearing and learning it gladly.

When we look at our behavior, we have many reasons to ask God for his forgiveness. And he gives it to us freely because of Jesus. How can we thank him for this gift? By loving him and living in ways that please him.

Chapter Test

1. The First Table of the law is the first _____ commandments.
2. The First Table of the law tells us how to love _____.

3. _____ is the sin of giving God's place in our hearts to anyone or anything else.

4. We will show our respect, love, and trust for God by _____ his commandments.

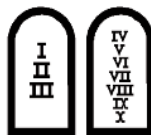
5. Our use of God's name ought to show that we believe he is our _____.

6. When we use God's name carelessly or wrongly, we are not giving him the _____ he deserves.

7. The Bible teaches that Jesus came to bring _____ for our souls.

8. We obey the Third Commandment by reading, hearing, and learning God's _____.

(Check your answers on page 105)



Chapter Three

THE SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW PART ONE

The Second Table of the law teaches us about the way God wants us to love other people. God did not put us on this earth to be all alone. There are all kinds of people around us. We must live and work with them every day. Some people get put into prison because they acted the wrong way toward other people or toward their property.

We might divide the Second Table of the law like this: some of the commandments speak of other people, and the rest with the things those people own. In this chapter, we will look at the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments. They tell us how to love people themselves. At the end of the chapter, you will be able to:

- * tell who is in authority over us and how we are to act toward them;
- * tell what the Bible means by the word murder;
- * tell what we are to do about the life and health of other people; and
- * tell the right and wrong uses of sex.

The Fourth Commandment

The Fourth Commandment reads, "Honor your father and mother" (Exodus 20:12). This commandment speaks about your parents, but it also includes anyone whom God has put in

authority over you. We are to obey them and show them honor and respect.

God puts people in authority over you in three areas of your life. The first area is your home when you are a child. The second is out in the world where the government is over you. The third is in your church where pastors and teachers are in authority.

Actually, God shares his authority with these people. He, of course, is the one who makes the rules and commandments. But he is also the one who put these people in authority over you. Consider the work of teachers. Parents tell their children, "Now, do what your teacher says." Likewise, God wants you to obey the people he has put over you. When you obey these people, you are obeying God.

1. One area where God puts people over us is in our _____ when we are children.



Jesus swept the floor for Mary and Joseph.

2. Out in the world, God has placed the _____ over us.
3. In the _____ God has placed pastors and teachers over us.
4. When we obey the people God has placed over us, we are obeying _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

It is a sad fact that many people come from families where a father or mother is not at home. Some people think this is what led to their ruined lives. This is often true, because it is in the home where we are to learn to honor those over us.

Of course, parents are not only there to make rules. God wants them to care for us while we are children. Small children cannot care for themselves very well. Father and mother are to feed and clothe their children. They are to give them a home, and teach them to be good people. Parents are to give them love.

The government also is there to protect us and help us. It makes and enforces the laws that make life safe. Think, for example, of how unsafe the roads and streets would be if the government did not have speed limit laws for cars and trucks. Fast drivers would be hurting or even killing many people. But there are speed limits and traffic police to enforce them so that you can be safe walking alongside the road or street.

In the church pastors and teachers have authority over us, a different kind of authority. They usually do not tell us what to eat or wear as our parents do in the home. They cannot control how fast we drive as the government can. But they tell us what the Bible says we are to do. They do this out of love for us, since we all agree that we should know what God wants us to do.

5. In the home, father and mother are to feed and _____ their children, and teach them to be _____.

6. The government makes and enforces
_____ to make life safe.
7. Pastors and teachers are there to tell us to
obey _____ .

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

It is sinful and harmful to disobey these authorities. God, after all, put them over us. To disobey them is like saying, "God, you are wrong! Why did you put these people in authority over me?" This, of course, is not a smart or respectful thing to do! God, in his wisdom, gave us the authorities who are over us.

In fact, we should obey them all the time - with one exception. If they misuse their authority and tell us to do something God forbids, we are to obey God and not them. Or if they forbid us to do something that God commands, then also we should obey God rather than them.

The authorities once told Jesus' followers that

they must stop preaching and teaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus. They replied, "Which is right from God's point of view? Should we obey you? Or God?" (Acts 4:19).

We are to obey those whom God has placed over us, as we would obey God himself. We are to give them respect and honor. Even if we do not think much of them personally, or we think they could be doing better than they are doing, we are still to remember that God put them over us. We should respect them for being the people God placed in authority.

8. We must respectfully disobey the authorities if they tell us to do something God _____, or forbid us to do something God _____.

9. Generally speaking, we are to give the authorities _____ and _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

The Fifth Commandment

The Fifth Commandment simply says, "Do not commit murder" (Exodus 20:13). Some people think this means that no one is ever to kill anyone else. That is not true. God gives life, and he takes it away. And God gives some people the right to take the lives of other people. In a war soldiers are to kill the enemy. Police are given guns to kill criminals who are threatening to kill innocent people. Innocent people are allowed to kill in self-defense, if someone is trying to kill them. Even executioners in prisons do their work in agreement with the Bible verse that says, "Anyone who murders a man will be killed by man. That is because I [God] have made man in my own likeness" (Genesis 9:6).

But other than that, we are not allowed to take the life of another human being. Sinful killing is murder. God gives us life as a gift and wants us to spend our time on earth learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ. We do not have any right to shorten that period of time for

someone else unless it is a situation described in the paragraph before this one.

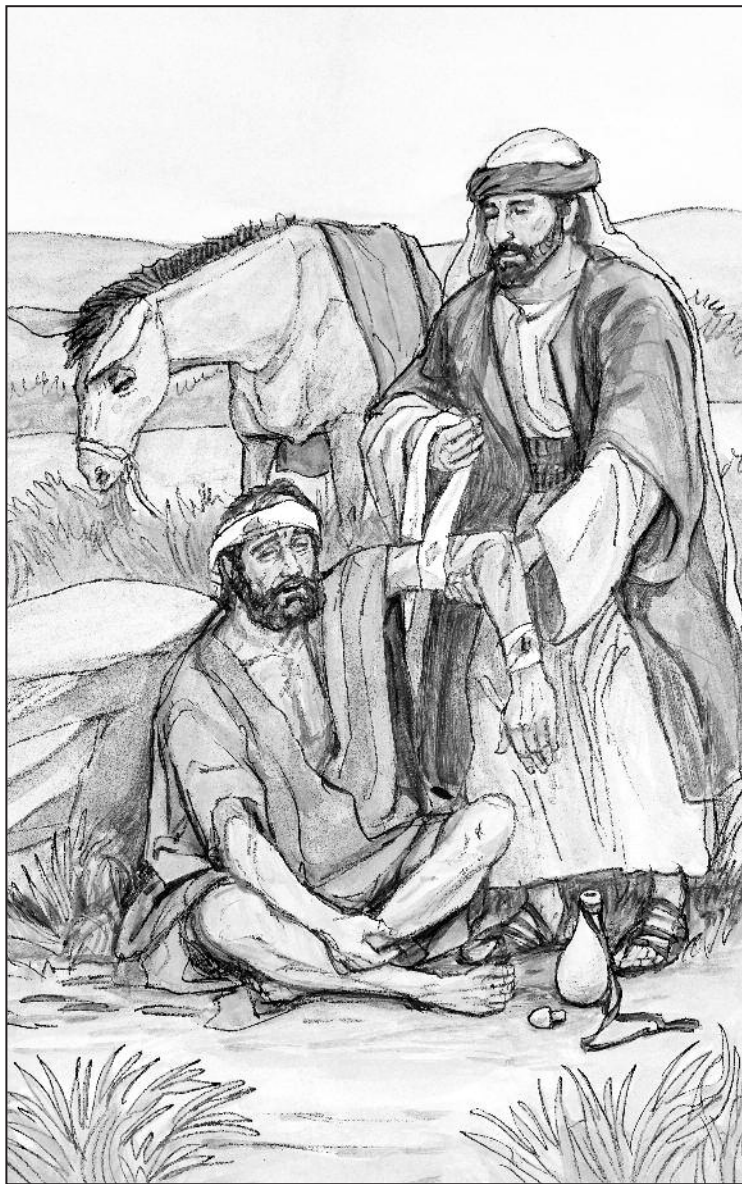
10. God gives some people the right to kill others, for example, _____ or _____.

11. Innocent people are allowed to kill in _____ - _____.

12. God wants us to spend our time on earth learning about _____
_____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

There is more to the Fifth Commandment, though, than just making sure we do not murder anyone. We are not to hurt or harm them, either. Beating up someone, or doing any physical harm to him or her, is not allowed. Jesus even said we should not be quick to hit someone who hit us first. He said, "Suppose someone hits you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to him also" (Matthew 5:39).



The Samaritan helped a man who was beaten by robbers.

We even disobey this commandment without touching another person. Jesus said that if you are angry with someone without a good cause, or you say insulting things to him, that is also a sin against the Fifth Commandment.

What should we do instead? We should do all we can to make other people's lives good for them. We should praise them, not insult them. We should care about them, not hate them (not even our enemies!). We should do all we can to help them with whatever bodily needs they have.

13. We are not to do any _____ to others.

14. It is even wrong to be _____ with someone without a good cause.

15. We should do all we can to help others in their _____ needs.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

The Sixth Commandment

The Sixth Commandment says, "Do not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Adultery is the sin of having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife. Adultery is a sin against all kinds of people. First of all, it is a sin against the person you join with sexually. Secondly, it is a sin against the person you marry. Thirdly, it is a sin against the person that your partner in adultery marries.

After all, no person in bed with their spouse should have to wonder whether the sex is as good for him or her as it was when they were committing adultery with someone else!

Some people think sex itself is a sin, but it is not. Back when God created the human race, he gave Eve to Adam and said, "Have children and increase your numbers" (Genesis 1:28). We all know how you do that, and it is called sex.

The sin is having sex with the wrong person.

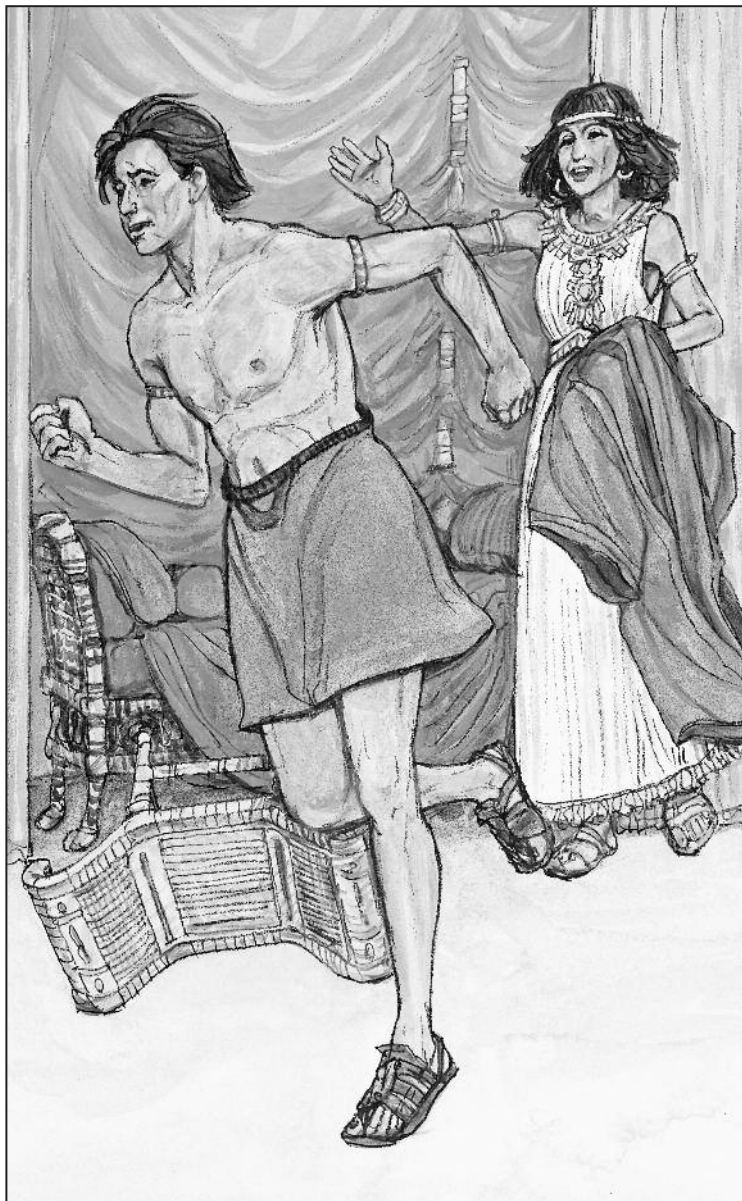
God created sex to be only between husband and wife. The people in the world around us do not think that way anymore. They think you should be allowed to have sex with anyone you want even if they are the same sex as you are! But God's Word says that is wrong.

16. Adultery is the sin of having _____ with someone who is not your husband or wife.

17. God created sex to be only between _____ and _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

It is not only sex, of course, that the Sixth Commandment speaks about. It is our whole way of thinking about the opposite sex. Even thinking about having sex with someone else is wrong (unless, of course, you are married to that someone else!). Jesus said, "Do not even look at a woman in the wrong way. Anyone who does has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Well, that is exactly what dirty magazines are all about! No



Joseph ran away from temptation and sin.

Christian should have those magazines around or watch the movies and television shows that deal only with sinful desires. No Christian should enjoy those jokes that make fun of sex. No Christian should take part in sex with anything but respect for God's will.

Here is what God wants. He wants each of us to find someone to marry and to remain true and faithful to our spouse as long as we are both alive. He wants us to love each other and be helpful to each other. He wants us to raise the children he gives us. He has given sex as a gift to people in such a marriage.

18. Even having _____ about sex with someone you are not married to is a sin.

19. God wants us to be _____ and _____ to the person we marry.

20. God has given sex as a _____ to married people.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 62)

Chapter Review

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments tell us how we are to love other people. God has placed some people in authority over us in our homes, in our government, and in the church. The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor and obey them as we would honor and obey God himself. The only time we are not to obey them is when they order us to go against the laws of God.

The Fifth Commandment forbids murder. Sometimes God allows us to take human life, in self-defense, or as a soldier or policeman or executioner. But only God may determine when to end a person's time on earth. A person is to use that time to learn about their Savior. In fact, we should do nothing to hurt or harm others during that time, but we should do all we can to help them in their bodily needs.

The Sixth Commandment talks about sex, and how it is only permitted with the person to

whom we are married. Even thinking about having sex with someone else is a sin. God gave the gift of sex only to married people. We should honor marriage and married people, by never committing adultery. We keep this commandment by loving and honoring the person to whom we are married.

Again, when we look at our behavior, we have many reasons to ask God for his forgiveness. And he gives it to us freely because of Jesus. How can we thank him? By loving the people he has placed around us, treating them in ways that please him.

Answers to questions within Chapter Three:

1. home (or family); 2. government; 3. church; 4. God; 5. clothe, good people; 6. laws; 7. God's Word; 8. forbids, commands; 9. respect, honor; 10. soldiers, police (or executioners); 11. self-defense; 12. our Savior (or Jesus Christ); 13. harm; 14. angry; 15. bodily; 16. sex; 17. husband, wife; 18. thoughts; 19. true, faithful; 20. gift.

Chapter Test

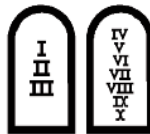
1. When we obey the people God has placed over us, we are obeying _____.
2. In the home, _____ and _____ are to feed and clothe their children, and teach them to be good people.
3. The _____ makes and enforces laws to make life safe.
4. _____ and teachers are there to tell us to obey God's Word.
5. We must respectfully _____ the authorities if they tell us to do something God forbids or forbid us to do something God commands.
6. God gives some people the right to _____ others, for example, soldiers or policemen.

7. God wants us to spend our time on earth learning about _____.
8. We are not to do any _____ to others.
9. It is even wrong to be angry with someone without a good _____.
10. We should do all we can to _____ others in their bodily needs.
11. Adultery is the sin of having sex outside of _____.
12. Even having thoughts about sex with someone you are not married to is a _____.
13. God wants us to be _____ and _____ to the person we marry.
14. God has given sex as a gift to _____ people.

(Check your answers on page 105)



King Ahab coveted the garden of Naboth.



Chapter Four

THE SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW PART TWO

In the last chapter we learned how God wants us to love other people. We learn more about that in this chapter with a little difference. The last four commandments tell us how we are to love other people by respecting and protecting the things God has given to them.

The Seventh through the Tenth Commandments talk about the things that belong to our neighbor. These things include his property, his good name, and the like. In this chapter you will learn about helping others keep what God has given them. By the end of the chapter you will be able to:

- * tell why we must not steal the possessions of others;
- * tell why we must not ruin the good name of others; and
- * tell what it means to covet and why we should not do it.

The Seventh Commandment

The Seventh Commandment says, "Do not steal" (Exodus 20:15). We say stealing is the crime of taking something that belongs to someone else. Let us see what the words, "belongs to someone," mean.

Why do things belong to us? Perhaps we were given them as a gift. Maybe we earned them by working for them or bought them with money we had earned. Maybe we inherited them from a loved one who died and left them to us in his or her will.

But, in truth, everything that belongs to us is a gift from God. As the Bible tells us, "Every good and perfect gift is from God. It comes down from the Father" (James 1:17). He gives them to us in the ways described above. He moves someone to give us a gift or remember us in their will. He gives us the ability to work and earn money to buy possessions.

The same thing we said in the last chapter about God's gift of life applies to possessions also. God gave them to us; he alone may decide when they should be taken away. In fact, stealing something from someone else is not only a sin against that person. It is an insult to God.

Think of it this way. Suppose you spent a lot of time planting some trees around your home. You stood back and thought you had done a good job in planting the trees. Then someone comes and tells you, "You are foolish. You have planted the trees in the wrong places."

You would be insulted and angry. How dare he come in and say and do such things. He does not even know how to plant trees.

We do the same thing if we steal. God decided that Joe or Peter or Mary has the things they have. If you steal them, you are telling God that he was wrong in giving those people the things they have. And you are going to fix his mistake by taking the things he gave to them and giving them to yourself instead.

1. Everything we have was given to us by _____.
2. One way God gives things to us is by giving us the ability to _____ and earn money to buy things.

3. When you steal from someone, you are telling _____ that he did it wrong when he gave it to them instead of you.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

So, what should we do instead of stealing? We should help others keep what they have. If we see that someone's possessions are in danger of being stolen, we should warn him and help him protect them. If those possessions are getting ruined, we should help him fix them. If we can think of any way of helping him improve what he has or get more of what he needs, we should do so.

In short, we should not have an idea in our head that says, "Well, I have my things, and that is enough." It is not enough. God wants us to look out for the things other people own, too.

All we need to do is remember that God gave each person the things he has. And he has given each of us the responsibility to help others protect and improve what they have.

4. Instead of stealing, we should help others _____ what they have.

5. God has given us the responsibility to help others _____ and _____ what they have.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

The Eighth Commandment

The Eighth Commandment says, "Do not give false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). Usually, when we hear the word, witness, we think about being in a courtroom. It is a great sin to lie about another person while under oath. We know very well what could happen to him. He might end up in jail when he did not do anything wrong.

But there are other times we witness about our neighbor. We may be talking about someone when he is not in the room. What will we say? If we put ourselves in his place, we can see very easily that it would be wrong to tell lies about him to ruin his good name.

Your good name is one of the greatest gifts God gives you on this earth. Some people ruin their own reputations by their bad deeds. But no one has the right to ruin the reputation of someone else by what they say about them.

In fact, there may be times when it is a sin to tell the truth about someone. Of course, it is different in court. In court you are swearing before God to tell the whole truth, even if it gets someone else in trouble. But suppose you knew someone who had some shameful thing in his past that he did not want anyone else to know. If other people knew it, they would not respect him. It would be wrong for you to talk about his shameful secret in order to ruin that person's good name.

The best thing to do when it comes to the Eighth Commandment is this: Do not say anything, true or false, to ruin another person's good name unless you absolutely must do it. If you are under oath, or if someone will be harmed if you hide what you know about

someone else, then you will have to say things that will hurt his reputation. But otherwise, you must keep silent. And, of course, you must never lie about anyone.

6. Your _____ is one of the greatest gifts God gives you on this earth.
7. In court we swear before God to tell the whole _____, even if it gets someone in trouble.
8. Do not say anything, true or false, to _____ a person's reputation unless you must do it.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

Instead of ruining someone's good name, we should do all we can to defend it. Suppose people are gossiping about someone who is not there to defend himself. It is up to you, then, to step in and defend him. You might tell the others, "You would not want people talking

about you behind your back. Give this person that same respect!"

When others are saying bad things about someone, you should say good things about him. When others are ruining his name, you do all you can to honor it.

Suppose you have suspicions about your friend. Suppose you see him doing something that looks bad at first. What should you do then? You should give the person the benefit of the doubt. For example, if someone is talking with a slurred voice and is having trouble standing straight or walking, you might suspect that he is high on drugs or is drunk. But giving him the benefit of the doubt, you ought to say to yourself, "Maybe he is feeling sick today." Also you might go over to him and try to help him. That is the way God wants you to help your friend.

9. We should do all we can to _____ someone's good name.

10. When others are ruining someone's good name, we should say _____ things about him or her.
11. When someone is doing something suspicious, we should give him or her the benefit of the _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

The final two commandments speak about the same sin of coveting. The Ninth Commandment says, "Do not long for anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17). The Tenth Commandment says the same thing, "Do not long for your neighbor's house, wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey" (Exodus 20:17).

Coveting is a sin we commit in our minds. But it is very bad, even if we never do anything about such desires. Coveting means we really, really want something that we know we are not meant to have. It is no sin to desire, or

want, what our neighbor has if we could get it honestly. If he has a book he might lend to us, or even sell us, there is no sin in wanting it. But when he has something we know we cannot have (for example, his wife), then it is wrong to keep on desiring it.

Coveting is, first of all, a sin against God. As we said in connection with the Seventh Commandment, it is like telling God he made a mistake. "Lord, you gave that wonderful coat to the wrong person. It should have been mine! You gave that good wife (or husband) to the wrong person. He or she should have been mine!"

Coveting is also a sin against the person whose things you covet. You are really wishing him harm when you want the things that he enjoys. Suppose he died tomorrow, and you could get what he has, something that you covet. You would be sort of glad about his death. What kind of attitude is that to have against another human being?

Coveting often leads to other sins. The Bible has many examples of such sins. One story tells of a king named Ahab who wanted to buy the grapevines of a man named Naboth. But Naboth believed that God did not want him to sell his vineyard. Ahab continued to covet the vines anyway. Before it was all done, the king and his wife paid evil people to lie about Naboth in court. They got him killed for a crime he never did, and then stole his vines for themselves.

12. Coveting means really, really wanting something that we know we are not _____ to have.
13. Coveting is a sin against God because it accuses him of making a _____ when he gave something to someone other than you.
14. Coveting makes us wish _____ against the person who has something we want.

15. Coveting often leads to other _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

There is a great cure for coveting. It is called contentment. The Bible tells us, "You gain a lot when you live a godly life. But you must be happy with what you have. We didn't bring anything into the world. We can't take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we will be happy with that" (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

When we are happy with what we have, we are content. Who, after all, is richer: the rich man who cannot be happy unless he has more, more, more, or the poor man who is very happy with only a little? A Christian is happy with the gifts God has given him. This is especially true since God gave him the greatest gift there is, a Savior named Jesus Christ.

When you are happy to have Jesus, you will have no reason to feel unhappy because someone else has something you might desire.

Instead, you will be more eager to share Jesus with him than to take from him what Jesus decided to give him. You will do all you can to help him keep his possessions, including his wife, workers, animals, and everything else he has.

16. The cure for coveting is called

_____.

17. A Christian is happy with the gifts

_____ has given him.

18. We want to do all we can to help others

_____ the things God has given them.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

Chapter Review

The last four commandments speak of how we are to love people by respecting and protecting the things that belong to them.

The Seventh Commandment tells us not to steal what belongs to other people, but to help them improve and protect their property. After all, God gave each of us what he, in his wisdom, decided we should have. We have no right to start questioning him or trying to take what he gave to someone else.

The Eighth Commandment tells us not to ruin another person's reputation or good name. There are times when we have to say things that will hurt his good name, for instance, in court. But otherwise, we should say nothing, false or true, that would hurt his good name. Instead, we should defend him and speak well of him and give him the benefit of the doubt in whatever he does.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments speak of the sin of coveting, that is, desiring what someone else has and what God clearly wants him to keep. It is a sin against God to covet. It leads us to have bad feelings towards the person who has what we desire. Bad feelings can lead us to commit sins against that person so we can get what he or she has. Instead, we should be content with what God has given us, especially because he gave us his Son to be our Savior. And we should help others keep what God has given them, too.

Once again, when we look at our behavior, we have many reasons to ask God for his forgiveness. How wonderful that he gives it to us freely because of Jesus! How can we show him our love and thank him? By loving the people around us and living in ways that please God.

Answers to questions within Chapter Four:

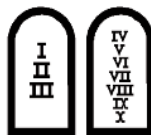
1. God; 2. work; 3. God; 4. keep; 5. protect, improve; 6. good name; 7. truth; 8. ruin (or hurt); 9. defend; 10. good; 11. doubt; 12. supposed; 13. mistake; 14. harm; 15. sins; 16. contentment; 17. God; 18. keep.

Chapter Test

1. Everything we have was given to us by _____.
2. When you steal from someone, you are telling God that he made a mistake when he _____ something to them instead of you.
3. Your good name is one the greatest gifts _____ gives you on this earth.
4. Do not say anything, true or false, to ruin a person's _____ unless you have to.
5. We should do all we can to _____ someone's good name.
6. Coveting means really, really _____ something that we know we are not meant to have.

7. Coveting is a sin against God because it accuses him of making a _____ when he gave something to someone other than you.
8. _____ often leads to other sins.
9. A Christian is _____ with the gifts God has given him.

(Check your answers on page 105)



Chapter Five

OBEYING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Many people want to become a better person. To do this they will use a program, that is, a series of steps they must take to reach their goal. An alcoholic might follow a well-known Twelve Step program to stop drinking. Someone who is overweight might follow a program to lose that extra weight.

Some people think of the Ten Commandments as a Ten Step program to becoming a better person. It is true that if people would try to live according to the Ten Commandments, they would probably be better people.

But God did not give these commandments to us for that reason. Only to become better persons is not our goal when we read the Ten Commandments, that is, it is not God's goal for us. God wants us to use the Ten Commandments humbly and thankfully because he has saved our souls. That is what we will talk about in this final chapter. At the end of the chapter you will be able to:

- * tell how well God commands people to keep the Ten Commandments;
- * tell how Jesus used the Ten Commandments to save us from our sins; and
- * tell how a Christian uses the Ten Commandments.

When someone gives you a list of rules, he expects you to obey them. However, most rule-givers will give you a little wiggle room. That means they realize you may not keep the rules exactly the way they would like, but they will be satisfied if you are at least trying. For example, many people believe that policemen will allow you to drive maybe three or four miles (six or eight kilometers) above the speed limit. It is not strictly according to the rules, but they will be satisfied with it.

That is not the way it is with God. When he gives rules, he demands that people obey them perfectly. In the Bible he says, "Be holy, because I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44). Holy means perfect. That means that even one sin, even one little sin is too many for God. You are not holy any more after that. James, one of the writers of the Bible, put it this way, "Suppose you keep the whole law but trip over just one part of it. Then you are guilty of breaking all of it. God said, 'Do not commit adultery.' He also said, 'Do not commit murder.' Suppose you

don't commit adultery but do commit murder. Then you have broken the law" (James 2:10-11).

Remember one more thing. Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden, disobeyed only one law. God told them not to eat the fruit of a certain tree. They ate it anyway. For that one act of unbelief (which does not even seem that bad to us) they were condemned to die.

1. God demands that people obey his commandments _____.
2. Even _____ sin is too many for God.
3. Adam and Eve were condemned to die for _____ sin.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 95)

So, people who want to use the Ten Commandments as a program to improve themselves and to impress God are only

fooling themselves. Can they ever obey them perfectly? Of course not. God does not allow wiggle room. So they can never improve themselves as much as God requires.

But there was one man who did keep the law! He kept all the commandments perfectly his whole life long. That was Jesus Christ, our Savior. He never committed a single sin! He never even desired to do anything except what God demanded in the law.

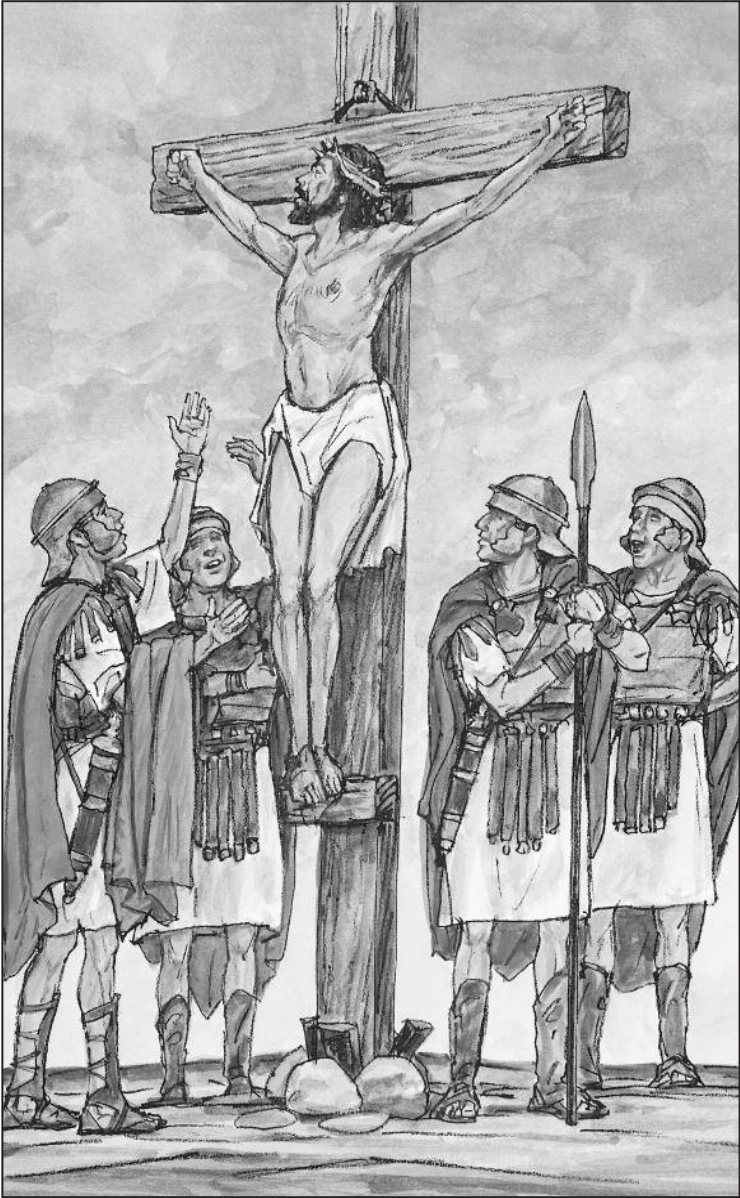
You might say, "So what? What good does that do me?" The answer is, it does you all the good in the world. Jesus substituted for you and for all people when he obeyed the whole law of God, and then God declared that we all had kept the law. Jesus' perfectly holy life satisfied God completely. What Jesus did was exactly what God wanted from the entire human race.

Think of it this way. Suppose you are a poor person. You cannot afford a decent set of

clothes. You are invited to an important event, a big feast or banquet. The invitation says, "Formal clothes required." How can you go there? You do not have any formal clothes. Then a friend says, "Here, you can wear my clothes to this banquet." Now you can go. You have the right clothes, even though they are not your own.

The Bible speaks in the same way about Jesus' perfect life. It says that Jesus' perfection is like a set of clothes that we are invited to wear to God's great banquet. "All of you" the Bible says, "who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes" (Galatians 3:27).

In fact, Jesus not only gave us his perfect life to wear before God, he took away our clothes and wore them himself. Our clothes (lives) were filthy, covered with our sins. Jesus covered himself with our sins when he died on the cross. God looked at him and saw only our sins. That is why Jesus died. Jesus died



The soldiers made fun of Jesus.

because God punished him for all of our sins. He paid for them with his holy life. Now God looks at us who trust Jesus as our Savior and because he sees only Jesus' holy obedience to the Ten Commandments, he is pleased with us.

4. The only man who ever kept all the commandments perfectly was _____.
5. Jesus covered himself with our _____ when he died on the cross.
6. God had Jesus pay for our _____ with his life.
7. When God looks at us, he sees Jesus' obedience to the _____
_____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 95)

Someone might get the wrong thought or idea here, though. He or she might say, "Well, since Jesus obeyed the Ten Commandments for me,

I do not have to obey them. I can sin all I want to and still be saved." The first sentence is right; the second one is as wrong as wrong can be.

We do not have to obey the Ten Commandments to get to heaven. That is true. The Bible says so again and again. "Christ has completed the law. So now everyone who believes can be right with God" (Romans 10:4).

But no one who believes in Jesus would ever say, "I can sin all I want." The fact is believers do not want to sin at all! We are very grateful to Jesus for being our Savior. Why would we want to do things he does not like?

Think back to that example of wearing someone else's formal clothes to a banquet. Would you feel free, wearing those clothes, to start running and jumping around in the mud? Of course not! What kind of a way is that to thank the person who loaned them to you?

Jesus put his perfect clothes on us. He dressed us up in his perfect obedience and brought us to God. Dressed like that, why would we want to run out and get dirty in our sins again?

The Bible puts it this way. "Let us act as we should, like people living in the daytime. Have nothing to do with wild parties. Don't get drunk. Don't take part in sexual sins or evil conduct. Don't fight with each other. Don't be jealous of anyone. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ as your clothing. Don't think about how to satisfy what your sinful nature wants" (Romans 13:13-14).

8. We do not have to _____ the Ten Commandments to get to heaven.
9. Believers do not want to _____ at all.
10. Instead of living sinful lives, we want to live like _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 95)

Chapter Review

God's law demands that people be holy. We are to keep the Ten Commandments perfectly. If you commit even one sin, you have failed and are a sinner. We, of course, have failed to be perfect. But Jesus Christ did keep the entire law of God. He has shared his perfection with us by letting us wear his clean suit, while he took our sins on himself and paid for them by dying on the cross.

Now that Jesus has saved us, we do not need to obey the Ten Commandments in order to be saved. But we want to obey them anyway, rather than sinning all the time. It is our way of showing we are thankful to God for all he has done for us. We want to live our lives as Jesus did, with love in our hearts as we are guided by God's Ten Commandments.

Answers to questions within Chapter Five:

1. perfectly;
2. one;
3. one;
4. Jesus;
5. sins;
6. sins;
7. Ten Commandments;
8. obey;
9. sin;
10. Jesus Christ.

Chapter Test

1. God wants people to _____ his commandments perfectly.
2. Even one _____ is too many for God.
3. The only man who ever kept the Ten Commandments perfectly was _____.
4. Jesus covered himself with our sins when he died on the _____.
5. God had _____ pay for our sins with his life.
6. When God looks at us, he sees Jesus' _____ to the Ten Commandments.
7. We do not have to obey the Ten Commandments to get to _____.

8. Believers do not want to _____
at all.
9. Instead of living _____ lives,
we want to live like Jesus Christ.

(Check your answers on page 105)



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

ability	the power to make or to do
absolutely	completely
adultery	having sex outside of marriage
afford	to be able to do, spend or buy
alcoholic	a person who gets drunk all the time
attitude	inward thoughts and feelings
in authority	having the right to tell us how to behave
behave	to act correctly or properly
bothered	troubled
cedars tree	big trees that grew in the area where Jesus lived
citizen	someone who belongs to a country
commit	to carry out something
condemn	to disapprove; to say what someone's punishment will be

conscience	the inner voice that tells you when you are doing wrong
consider	attention; to think about something
contentment	being satisfied with what you have
convince	to cause someone to be sure something is true; to cause someone to believe
criminal	someone who has committed a crime by breaking a law
curb	something that stops people from leaving a street or road
cure	a medicine that helps heal
decent	acceptable; good; helpful; kind
deed	an act or something done on purpose
defend	to stand up for, or to protect someone
depend on	to rely on someone or something
determine	to say or to find out about something
discuss	to talk about something among people
enforce	to make something happen by using force
exception	not included; something not following a general rule

executioner	someone who puts people to death for the government
exercise	to train the body or mind to strengthen it
explanation	the act of giving meaning to something
fix	to make right
forbid	to command not to do something
formal	ceremonial; following acceptable behavior
fuel	material burned to give heat
gossip	idle talk about someone
grateful	thankful
guide	something that shows the way to go or what to do
guilty	has broken a commandment; has done wrong
human	a person (male, female) not any animal
idolatry	worshiping something that is not the true God
improve	to make or become better
innocent	not guilty; has done nothing wrong

inscribe	to write, print, or engrave on something
instinct	an inborn ability to do something
insult	to speak to someone with great disrespect thus hurting his feelings
manure	waste from animals
mirror	a shiny surface to see yourself
natural	received by birth
oath	swearing or appealing to God
observe	to see or to notice; to obey
opposite	the other side of something
perfection	state of being perfect, the best, without defect
pillow	a cloth case stuffed with something soft and used for the head to sleep on
possessions	things someone owns like property like tables and chairs
protect	to keep safe, to guard
purpose	the reason for doing something
really	truly, certainly
refuse	to say you do not agree

religion	what you believe in and worship
reputation	your good name
respect	to honor; a high regard for someone
responsibility	your duty
ruin	to completely destroy
satisfy	to make someone happy
secure	to make safe or sure
situation	a set or group of events
slurred	slowed and hard to understand
spouse	a husband or wife
statue	a likeness of a person or thing made out of wood, stone or metal
suspicion	not trusting; a feeling about something
tablet	something to write on
tempt	to try to make someone sin
wiggle	to move back and forth
will	a written statement leaving possessions or money after death to someone
witness	to tell what you heard or saw happen

worship

a time to listen to God's Word and
praise him in word and song



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter Test One: (Pages 18-19)

1. natural; 2. sins; 3. Moses; 4. written; 5. curb; 6. mirror;
7. guide.

Chapter Test Two: (Pages 43-44)

1. three; 2. God; 3. Idolatry; 4. obeying; 5. Savior; 6. respect (or honor); 7. rest; 8. Word.

Chapter Test Three: (Pages 63-64)

1. God; 2. father, mother; 3. government; 4. Pastors; 5. disobey;
6. kill; 7. our Savior (or Jesus Christ); 8. harm; 9. cause (or reason); 10. help; 11. marriage; 12. sin; 13. true, faithful;
14. married.

Chapter Test Four: (Pages 83-84)

1. God; 2. gave; 3. God; 4. reputation (or name, or good name);
5. defend; 6. wanting; 7. mistake; 8. Coveting; 9. content or happy.

Chapter Test Five: (Pages 96-97)

1. obey; 2. sin; 3. Jesus Christ; 4. cross; 5. Jesus; 6. obedience;
7. heaven; 8. sin; 9. sinful.



Jesus loves us and promises to take care of us.



Final Test

Congratulations! You have completed your study of *The Law of God*. Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals from each chapter. When you are certain or sure you know all the goals, you are ready to take the Final Test.

Complete the Final Test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book or mail it to the address on the back cover of the book. You may also ask for more Bible study books in this series.

If you are ready, remove the test from the book and put the book away. Take the test without opening the book.



The Law of God *Final Test*

1. God created human beings with the law written in their hearts, but our _____ muddled up that law so that we did not know how to follow it.
2. God wrote the law on two tablets of stone which he gave to a man named _____.
3. The law acts as a _____ to keep the human race from running wild.
4. The law acts as a _____ to show us how much we have sinned and need a Savior.
5. The law acts as a _____ for Christians to live a godly life on earth.
6. The first _____ of the law tells us how to behave towards God.
7. We will show our respect, love, and trust for God by _____ his commandments.

8. Our use of God's name ought to show that we _____ he is our Savior.
9. We obey the Third Commandment by reading, hearing, and learning God's _____.
10. When we obey the people God has placed over us, we are obeying _____.
11. It is even wrong to be _____ at someone without a good cause.
12. Adultery is the sin of having _____ with someone who is not married to us.
13. Everything we have was given to us by _____.
14. Your good _____ is one of the greatest gifts God gives you on this earth.
15. Coveting means really, really _____ something that we know we are not meant to have.

16. Coveting is a sin against God because it accuses him of making a _____ when he gave something to someone other than you.
17. Coveting often leads to other _____.
18. God requires people to _____ his commandments perfectly.
19. Even one _____ is too many for God.
20. Jesus covered himself with our sins when he died on the _____.
21. God had _____ pay for our sins with his life.
22. When God looks at us, he sees Jesus' _____ to the Ten Commandments.
23. Instead of living _____ lives, we want to live like Jesus Christ.

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