



19 Minutes with Luther

The Conclusion

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- **The Conclusion**
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

What does God say about all these commandments?

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

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands.

But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.

1. Explain the following phrases:

a jealous God

punishing the children for the sin of the fathers

2. According to the following verses, with what does God threaten to punish those who break his commandments?

"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked" (Isaiah 57:21).

"The soul who sins is the one who will die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

3. Why do we Christians need to remember God's threat to punish sinners? What should God's threat lead us to do?

4. Complete the three parts of the following statement, and discuss the importance of each. Many churches today deny the reality of hell and look upon it as a religious "scarecrow." We, however, teach the doctrine of eternal damnation in hell because . . .

. . . many people _____ this truth.

. . . it demonstrates what a terrible thing it is to _____ against God.

. . . it demonstrates the enormity of God's _____.

5. What does God promise to those who love him and keep his commandments?

What should this lead us to do?

6. What do the following verses teach us about God's promise to bless our obedience?

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (Romans 11:35).

"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'" (Luke 17:10).

7. Agree or disagree:

Trouble in someone's life is always a sign that God is punishing that person for sin.

God's threat is the most powerful reason we have for avoiding sin.

Belief in purgatory relieves people of a certain amount of fear.

8. What must we all confess about our ability to keep the Ten Commandments? Where alone can we turn for help?

Luther said:

"We are to keep [the Ten Commandments] steadily before our eyes and constantly in our memories, and we are to put them into practice in all our actions and within our personalities. Everyone is to make them his habitual concern in every circumstance and in all his doings and dealings, as if they were written everywhere he looks, yes, even wherever he walks and wherever he stands." (Tappert, p. 410.)

Closing Prayer

Lord God, may we always heed your threat to punish the disobedient and to bless those who obey your law. Empower us by the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ alone to live our lives to your glory. In our Savior's name we ask this. Amen.

At home

Review and memorize the Ten Commandments, the Conclusion, and their meanings.

Helps

(1) God is jealous, that is, serious about his claim to the highest spot in our hearts and lives and serious about wanting us to keep his commandments perfectly. He punishes those who commit the same sins as their ancestors. (2) God threatens to punish with his anger and trouble during this earthly life and with temporal and eternal death. (3) We need God's threat because our sinful nature opposes God's will and is inclined to do only evil. His threat should lead us to fear him and not disobey. (4) deny: we must never compromise the truth of God's Word; sin: if we make light of sin and its consequences, we will never fully appreciate a Savior; grace: God lovingly gives us the opposite of what we deserve. (5) God's promise of grace and every blessing should lead us to obey his commands. (6) God owes us nothing. Since it is our duty to obey, his promise to bless our obedience is really an undeserved gift. (7) Trouble may be, but is not necessarily, a sign of punishment. God may use trouble to call people to repentance or to discipline them. The gospel, not God's threat, is our strongest motivation for obedience. The false teaching of purgatory claims that the hellish punishment of sin is only temporary. (8) We cannot keep the commandments on our own. Only the Holy Spirit, through Word and sacrament, fills us with the desire and ability to obey God.