

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 20: CONCLUSION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

Introduction

What do we learn about God from all these commandments?
What do we learn about ourselves from all these commandments?

What Is Sin?

Sin is _____.

The word literally means _____.



There are two types of sin:

- **ORIGINAL (or INHERITED) SIN**

Psalm 51:5 (393)
Romans 5:12 (397)

- **SIN OF ACTION**

1 John 3:4 (398)

- When did the first sin take place?
Who brought sin into the world?

The Punishment For Sin

The punishment for disobeying God's laws is very serious. Look at these Bible verses:

Romans 1:18 (409) _____

Ezekiel 18:4 (412) _____

The results of sin include earthly death, spiritual death, and eternal death in hell (separation from God forever).

What does God say to remind us that He is serious about His commandments and punishes those who sin against His laws?

Exodus 26:5-6

Write out the conclusion to the commandments (Catechism, p. 90):

What must we say about ourselves in view of this?

Isaiah 64:6 (431)

Romans 3:23 (432)

How Then Can We Be Saved?

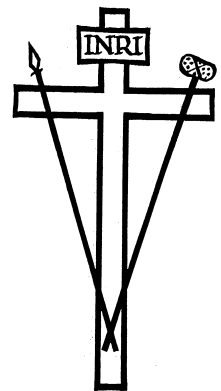
Is there a way to escape the punishments that we deserve on account of our sins? If there were not, we would all be looking forward to an eternity in hell. Thankfully, God gave us a *Savior*. Jesus Christ was punished *for us* when He died on the cross. Those who trust that Jesus did this for them enjoy the blessing of the forgiveness of sins that He gives.

John 3:16 (434)

God is merciful to us by sending a substitute to suffer for our sins!

When God says that He will "[show] mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep my commandments" (Catechism, p. 90), He is talking about the blessings that come to believers in Jesus who seek to do what is right out of love for Him. He does *not* mean that we can "earn" His mercy and love by doing good (See Ephesians 2:8-10).

Can we keep His commandments perfectly? Can we make a *beginning* of keeping His commandments? Why do we want to keep His commandments?



What kind of blessings does the Lord promise to those who trust in Him?

Philippians 4:9

Matthew 5:10-12

Thoughts and Quotations On the Conclusion

- Even as parents encourage their children as they are learning to walk, so the Lord encourages us by promising special blessings on our feeble efforts to keep His commandments. Always God's blessings are undeserved by us. They are rewards of grace (undeserved love), not rewards of merit.
- "We are to believe that we obtain eternal life through Christ by faith, not on account of our works, or of the Law. But what do we say of the reward which Scripture mentions? (For example, Luke 6:23) . . . Eternal life is a reward, because it is something due on account of the promise, not on account of our merits . . . Eternal life is called a reward, because thereby the tribulations which we suffer, and the works of love which we do, are compensated, although we have not deserved it . . . Because men are accepted on account of faith, for this very reason the incomplete fulfilling of the Law pleases, and has a reward in this life and after this life" (*Apology of the Augsburg Confession*).
- "These words contain both a wrathful threat and a friendly promise, not only to terrify and warn us, but also to attract and allure us. God Himself here declares how important the commandments are to Him and how strictly He will watch over them, fearfully and terribly punishing all who despise and transgress His commandments; and again, how richly He will reward, bless, and bestow all good things on those who prize them and gladly act and live in accordance with them" (Luther's *Large Catechism*).

Assignment

- Memorize the Conclusion to the Commandments with Explanation (p. 90)