

# Treasuring & Using God's Word

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS *Exodus 20*

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and **His Word**, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

*Key text:* Luke 10:38–42. Why does Jesus commend Mary and not hardworking Martha? How does God's Word open our eyes to see all of His good works?

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *Summary of the Bible*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

. . . the Holy Spirit has called me by **the Gospel** . . .

*Key texts:* Acts 9:1–22 and 16:13–15. What role did they each play in their conversion?

Say a brief prayer of thanks to the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6*

Our Father who art in heaven,

**hallowed be Thy name,**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**God's name** is kept holy when **the Word of God** is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. . . .

But anyone who teaches our lives contrary to **God's Word** profanes the name of God among us.

*Key text:* Luke 11:9–12. How does Jesus teach us to honor His Father's name?

In what ways can I honor that Name today?

**God's kingdom** comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe **His holy Word** and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

*Key text:* John 18:33–40. How did Pilate misunderstand the nature of Jesus' kingdom and His rule as King? Since we know that Christ will return, how should we live today?

**God's will** is done . . . when He strengthens and keeps us firm in **His Word** and faith until we die.

*Key text:* Matthew 26:36–56. What obstacles did Jesus encounter on His journey to the cross? What things in my life threaten to pull me away from the Word of God?

## TAKE HOME – REMEMBER & APPLY

1.

2.

## The Third Commandment from *The Large Catechism*

<sup>89</sup> Indeed we Christians ought . . . [to] be occupied with nothing but holy things, i.e., daily be engaged upon God's Word, and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips [**Psalm 119:11–13**]. But . . . since we do not at all times have leisure, we must devote several hours a week for the sake of the young, or at least a day for the sake of the entire multitude, to being concerned about this alone, and especially urge the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and thus direct our whole life and being according to God's Word.

<sup>91</sup> For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have. For though we had the bones of all the saints or all holy and consecrated garments upon a heap, still that would help us nothing; for all that is a dead thing which can sanctify nobody. But God's Word is the treasure which sanctifies everything [**1 Timothy 4:5**], and by which even all the saints themselves were sanctified [**1 Corinthians 6:11**]. At whatever hour, then, God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or meditated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all. <sup>92</sup> Therefore I constantly say that all our life and work must be ordered according to God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where

this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled.

<sup>93</sup> On the contrary, any observance or work that is practiced without God's Word is unholy before God, no matter how brilliantly it may shine. . . .

<sup>96</sup> Therefore not only those sin against this commandment who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, as those who on account of their greed or frivolity neglect to hear God's Word or lie in taverns and are dead drunk like swine; but also that other crowd, who listen to God's Word as to any other trifle, and only from custom come to preaching, and go away again, and at the end of the year know as little of it as at the beginning. <sup>97</sup> For hitherto the opinion prevailed that you had properly hallowed Sunday when you had heard a mass or the Gospel read; but no one cared for God's Word, as also no one taught it. Now, while we have God's Word, we nevertheless do not correct the abuse; we suffer ourselves to be preached to and admonished, but we listen without seriousness and care.

<sup>98</sup> Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of

you [[Romans 14:12](#)] how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word.

<sup>100</sup> For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil [[Colossians 1:13–14](#)], who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware [[Matthew 13:24–30](#)]. <sup>101</sup> On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever

it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit [[Isaiah 55:11](#); [Mark 4:20](#)], but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts [[Philippians 4:8](#)]. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words [[Hebrews 4:12](#)]. <sup>102</sup> And even though no other interest or necessity impel us, yet this ought to urge every one thereunto, because thereby the devil is put to flight and driven away [[James 4:7](#)], and, besides, this commandment is fulfilled, and [this exercise in the Word] is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.

## The Five-Fold Use of Scripture

**2 Timothy 3<sup>16</sup>** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Romans 15<sup>4</sup>** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- Teaching – true doctrine
- Reproof – refuting what is false
- Correction – against vices, ungodly living, etc.
- Training in Righteousness – exhortation to good works
- Hope/Comfort