

Sermon - The Law of The Lord - NTMBC - Sunday AM - 12.31.23

Intro - Having prayed for the direction of today's message, I pondered different directions / days

- Felt very strongly led that our new series should begin in the New Year
- Also **became acutely drawn to today's message being a Forerunner to that series...**
 - New Series? FOUNDATIONS - A Study on **Genesis 1-11** (*Book of Beginnings*)
 - **???** - What comes before the Beginning?
 - **John 1:1**
 - THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD!!!

Ps 19 - (3 sections)

- **Vs 1-6 - God Revealed in the World**
 - His Works are Seen - **Vs 1**
 - His works are Shown - **Vs 2**
 - His Works are not Silent - **Vs 3**
 - His Works Shine - **Vs 4-6**
 - **Looking Upward to the Sky**
- **Vs 12-14 - God Revealed in our Worship**
 - Request for Repentance - **Vs 12**
 - Request for Refuge - **Vs 13**
 - Request for Righteousness - **Vs 14**
 - **Looking Inward at Self**
- **Vs 7-11 - (right in middle) - God Revealed in His Word**
 - Law / Testimonies / Statutes / Commandments = Synonyms
 - The Law of The Lord
 - The Word of God
 - **Looking Downward in Scriptures**

It's here I want to focus this Morning - "The Law of The Lord is perfect, converting the soul"...

- Grateful to **A Begg & M Luther** for their work on this subject...

1st establish - What is the Law of the Lord? / Word of God?

- Holy Scriptures contained in the Books of the OT & NT

1. The Law is a Statute that brings us to Harmony - A Foundation for Public Living

- There is a Reason the 10 Commandments hung in courtrooms & Govt bldgs
 - i. Pathway of Peace - **not to Overturn, but rather to Obey** - Law of the Lord is perfect!
- **Micah 4:2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2. The Law is a Sentence that brings us to our Knees - A Fear of Proper Litigation

- **Rom 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- **M Luther** - "As long as a person is not a murderer, adulterer, or thief he would swear that he is righteous. How is God going to humble such a person except by Law? The Law is the hammer of death, the thunder of hell, and the thunder of God's wrath to bring down the proud and shameless hypocrites. When the Law was instituted on Mount Sinai, it was accompanied by lightening, by storms, by the sounds of trumpets to tear to pieces that monster called Self-Righteousness. As long as a person thinks he's right, he's going to be incomprehensibly proud and presumptuous. He's going to hate God, despise His grace and mercy, and ignore the promises in Christ. The Gospel,

the free forgiveness of sins through Christ, will never appeal to the self-righteous. This monster of self-righteousness, this stiff-necked beast needs a big axe, and that's what the Law is, a big axe."

- **WE MUST KNOW THAT WE STAND CONDEMNED UNDER THE LAW...**
 - i. The Word of God is - **A Microscope** that we may see ourselves and our need for Him
- 3. **The Law is a Schoolmaster that brings us to Christ - A Framework for Pointed Living**
 - **Gal 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith
 - i. The Word of God is - **A Telescope** that we may see Him
 - The Law leads us to Christ, who then leads us back to the Law (*fulfilled it*)
- 4. **The Law is a Sweetness that us closer to God - A Format for Personal Living**
 - **Ps 1:1-2** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
 - i. The Word of God tells me how to live as a Believer...
 - ii. **Gal 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. - **Law of Love!**

Promises Concerning The Law of The Lord

- **Reject - Isa 5:24** Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
- **Delight - Ps 119:1** Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.
- **Encouragement - Josh 22:5** But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Conc - M Luther - 3 ways to Abuse the Law

1. By Self-Righteous hypocrites who fancy they can be justified by the Law
2. By those who claim that Christian Liberty exempts a Christian from the observance of The Law
 - a. **Love does not Replace the Law - Love Fulfills the Law!**
3. Thirdly, By those who do not understand that the Law is meant to drive us to Christ & when the Law is properly used, it's value cannot be too highly upraised - **it will take me to Christ every time...**

Vs 7 - We see the Laws Perfection / See also the Laws Purpose...

- **To Convert our Souls...** (*read vs 7: 10, 11*)
 - We are Lawbreakers - GOOD NEWS! - Christ has kept the Law on our behalf!
 - **Convert** = To Turn Us Back...

Back to **Ps 19** - as the Sun is the centerpiece of Creation, **The Word of God MUST BE the centerpiece of the Christian** - everything revolves around it - **IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD**

- **The Bible is???**

BIBLE PLEDGE - **Slide**

Invitation - Standing on the Promises