

**Bible  
Teachings  
Series**



*A self-study  
course about  
the Ten  
Commandments*

# **The Law of God**



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A self-study course about  
the Ten Commandments

Original text produced by the Institutional Ministries  
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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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# **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.

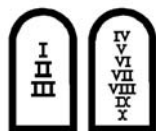
If you read the lesson carefully, you will be able to answer the questions on the test. If you go back to the beginning of the chapter and check the goals (\*), you will see what you learned about those goals in the chapter. After each set of questions and after each chapter test, you will see a page 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 come to know 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 what the two places are where God has written his law;
- \* tell why he had to write them 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 people, they already knew what his commandments were. We knew them naturally. They were like an instinct in us. We were born with the knowledge of how God wanted us 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 8)

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 were doing the same thing to the natural law in our hearts. The more we would sin against any of the commandments, the more it is like throwing mud at them. Soon you would not be able to 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 are 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 so it no longer bothered you.

4. People's sinfulness began to do something to the \_\_\_\_\_ law in our hearts.

5. The more we sin against a commandment, the more 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 10)

God did not want the whole human race to lose the meaning of his commands. Very soon wickedness would ruin the world! If mankind's 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 it 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



Answers for page 6: 1. heart; 2. knowledge; 3. the natural law.

people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. In Egypt, they were slaves for hundreds of years.

God saved them from slavery and had Moses 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 by God himself on two tablets of stone.

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 12)

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 it 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 have 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



Answers for pages 7-8: 4. natural; 5. mud; 6. sin.

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 was 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 the 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 13)

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 actually 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 everyone 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. It is to keep the human race where it belongs. It is to keep us where we should be. It is to keep us out of trouble.

Think what the world would be like, for example, if God had no laws about stealing.



Answers for pages 9-10: 7. stone; 8. Sinai; 9. Moses; 10. written.

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 14)



Answers for page 11: 11. natural; 12. written.

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 look at 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 from 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)

Once a person has come to Jesus and  
become a Christian, the law has one more use.  
It can serve as a guide to tell a person how to  
live a 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 know the way they  
count money. 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, 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 just 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 a Christian should 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 a citizen of \_\_\_\_\_ should act.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 18)

## ***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 we 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 would have known 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 in bounds 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 godly life here on earth.

### ***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 \_\_\_\_\_.



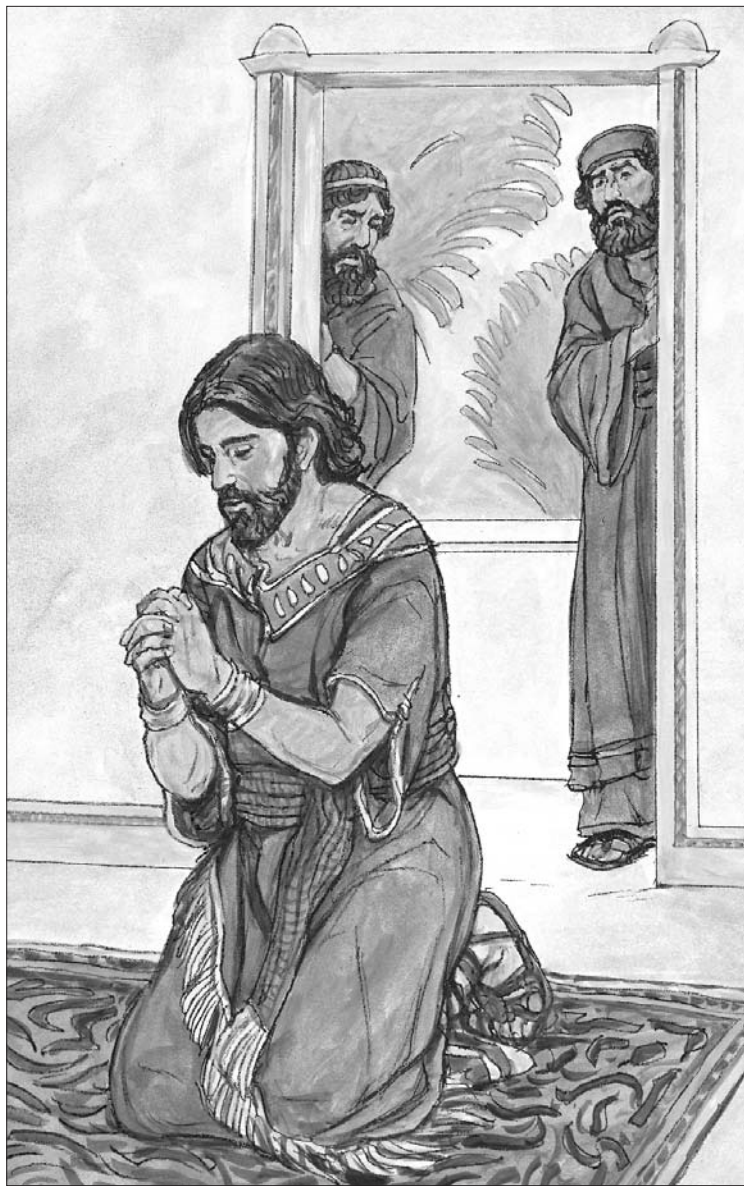
4. This man copied the Ten Commandments into the Bible, giving us what is called the \_\_\_\_\_ law.

5. The law acts as a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the human race in bounds.

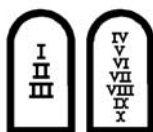
6. The law acts as a \_\_\_\_\_ to show us how much we have sinned and need a Savior.

7. The law acts as a \_\_\_\_\_ for Christians to live a godly life on earth.

(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 or how much on the other. But we speak about the two tables of the law as a way to divide the commandments. We think of the First Table of the law as containing the commandments that speak about how we act

toward God. The Second Table speaks about how we are to act toward our fellow man.

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 we should behave toward God. How should we think of him? How should we use his name? How should we think about 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 we should feel about 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 statue that someone worships as a god. To worship a false god, whether you have the statue 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 wide 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 himself speaks as if even he is unable to understand the mind 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 many such religions that have many such idols for people to worship.

There are other religions that frown on making 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 worshipping the true God is all right. After all, at least they are using 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 does not worship Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, is guilty of open idolatry.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 28)

There is another kind of idolatry, though. It is called secret idolatry. Even Christians can fall into the sin of secret idolatry. We fall into this sin when we give God's 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 God's place in our \_\_\_\_\_ to anything or anyone but him.

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 29)

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 from 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, we should respect him. 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, we should 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. No wonder we should love him



and show that love by doing what he wants us to do.

Finally, we should trust in him more than in 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 gives us his commandments, we know we can trust him. Whatever he says to do must be the right thing, the thing that will do us the most good.



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 33)

## **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. He wants his name to mean something, and careless use of his name will not get that meaning across.

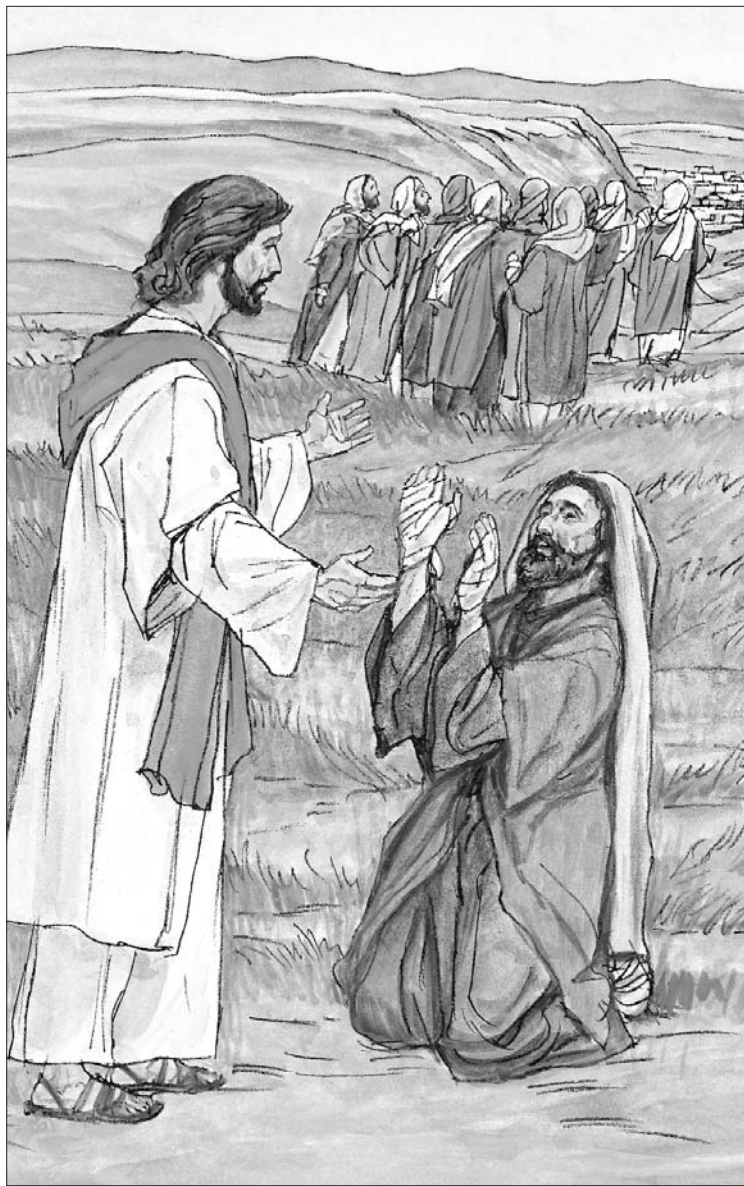
There are some people whose names say everything about them to us, The name Hitler, is an example. Hitler was the German leader

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

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

He has done us a favor. In the book of Exodus, he told us what he wants his name to mean:

"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 deserved fell on Jesus instead of us. Therefore, God has forgiven our sins.

To put this simply, then, God wants his name to mean, "The Father of Jesus Christ, our Savior."



10. God wants his reputation to be tied together with his \_\_\_\_\_.

11. God explained his name means he is the God who forgives and punishes \_\_\_\_\_.

12. God wants his name to mean, "The Father of Jesus Christ, our \_\_\_\_\_."

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 36)

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 the Father of Jesus Christ, our Savior, send you to hell!" Well, that sounds stupid! Jesus came to save everyone from going to hell!

Some people swear foolishly, "I swear that I saw so-and-so yesterday!" What does that mean? "God, the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, strike me dead if I am lying about seeing so-and-so!" What a dumb thing to say! Did God's Son come into the world just 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, the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, to help fool everyone into thinking you are telling the truth. Even just saying something like, "God, I am tired!" makes it sound like God's Son came into the world but forgot to bring you a pillow or something!

But there are many 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 the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ!  
 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 39)

### **The Third Commandment**

The Third Commandment says, "Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy" (Exodus 20:8). For the people in Moses' day their day of worship was Saturday. They were to do no work at all on that day. They were to do no cooking, no

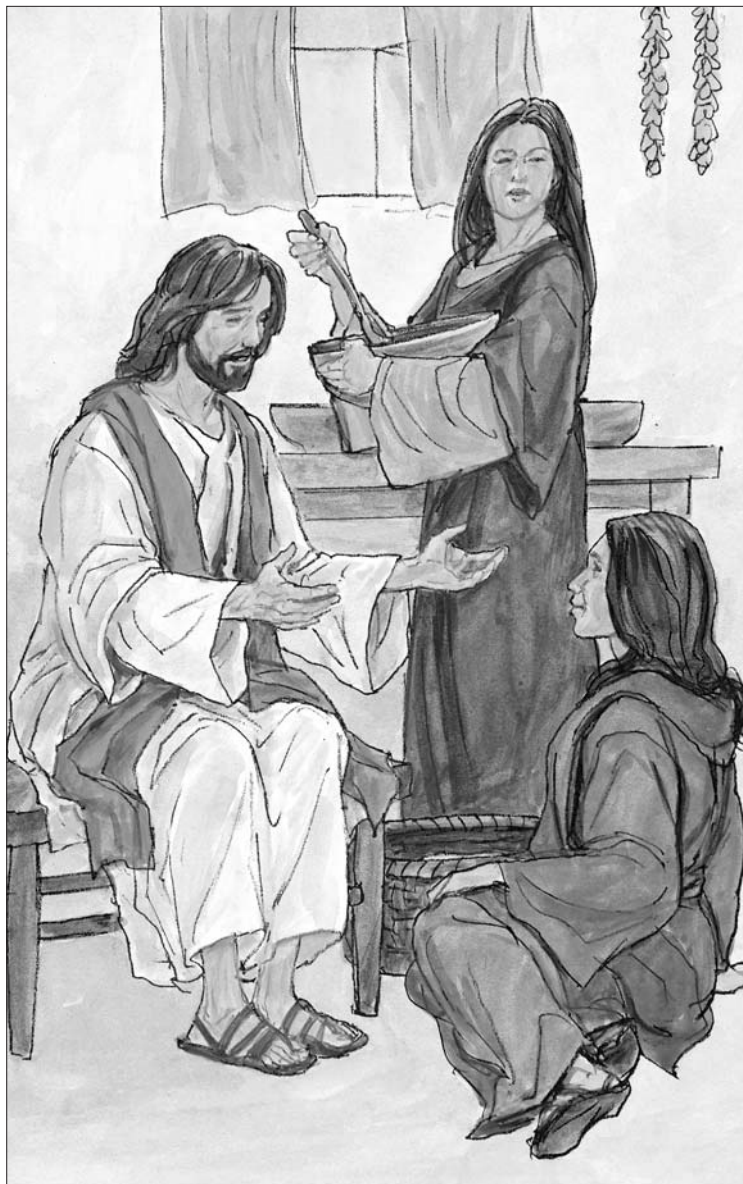


Answers for page 34: 10. name; 11. sin; 12. Savior.

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 learn 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. Jesus Christ was to bring rest for our souls. If Jesus had not come to save us, 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.



*Mary listened to Jesus. Martha got things ready.*

Jesus came to die for all our sins. We will get into heaven, not because of our efforts, but 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 all they were supposed to do was \_\_\_\_\_.

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

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 40)

Most people do not observe Saturday as the day of worship any more. Sunday is the day



Answers for page 36: 13. think; 14. people; 15. praise.

most Christians go to church. It was only a short time after Jesus' lived 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.

But we should remember that the Third Commandment means more than taking a day off from our 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, after all, 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 it is 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 will 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 42)

## ***Chapter Review***

We often speak of the two tables of the law. By this we mean that some commandments speak of how we act toward God, and the rest of how we act toward our fellow man. The First Table of the law is about the first three

commandments. These three commandments talk about how we behave toward God.

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 sin by saying they worship the God of the Bible, but do not worship Jesus as his Son. 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. We should 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 the Father of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 has to do with our respect for God's Word. The Bible tells us how Jesus came to win rest for our souls. In the times before Jesus lived on earth, people were told to do no work on Saturday, so they could look forward to that rest. In our times, we obey this commandment by loving God's Word and reading and hearing and learning it gladly.

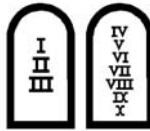
### ***Chapter Test***

1. The First Table of the law is the first \_\_\_\_\_ commandments.
2. The First Table of the law tells us how to behave toward \_\_\_\_\_.

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 the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus, our Savior.
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 \_\_\_\_\_.



Answers for page 42: 7. accuser; 8. love, forgiveness.



### *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 act toward our fellow man. 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 other people's property.

We might divide up 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 speak of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments, that tell us how to act around other people. 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 deals not only with your

parents, but also with anyone whom God has put in authority over you. We are to obey them and show them honor and respect.

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

In a way you might say 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." It is like that with the people God has put over you. When you obey these people, you are obeying God.



*Jesus swept the floor for Mary and Joseph.*

1. One area where God puts people over us is in our \_\_\_\_\_ when we are children.
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 50)

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 is also 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 also have authority over us. Theirs is a different kind of authority. They cannot tell us what to eat or wear, like our parents in the home. They cannot tell us how fast to drive, like the government can. But they tell us what the Bible says we are to do. They are not allowed



Answers for page 49: 1. home (or family); 2. government; 3. church; 4. God.

to add in their own ideas, but can only tell us to obey God's Word. 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 52)

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 an idiot! Why did you put such stupid people in authority over me?" This, of course, is not a smart or wise thing to do! God, in his wisdom, gave us the authorities he gave 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, then we are to disobey them. Or if they forbid us to do something that God commands, then we have to disobey them.

The authorities once told Jesus' followers that they had to stop preaching and teaching about him. 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 kind of people God thought should be in authority.



8. We have to 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 54)

### **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 often gives people the right to kill other people. In a war soldiers are supposed to kill the enemy. Police are given guns to kill criminals who are threatening to kill innocent people. Anyone is allowed to kill in self-defense, if someone who wants to kill him or her is attacking them. Even executioners in prisons are killing 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. That would be murder. God alone is allowed to decide when people's lives end. He 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

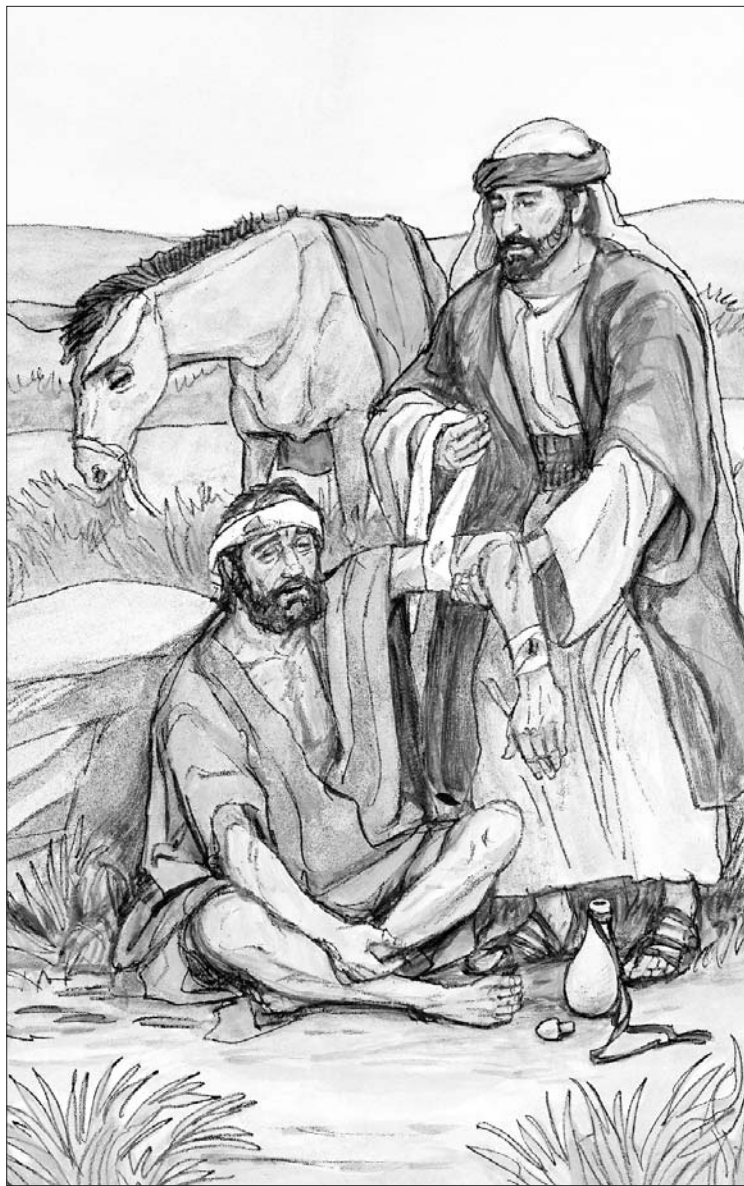
11. Anyone is allowed to kill in \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

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

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 56)



Answers for page 53: 8. forbids, commands; 9. respect, honor.



*The Samaritan helped a man who was beaten by robbers.*

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 someone up, or doing any physical harm to him or her, is not allowed. Jesus even said we should not be so 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).

We can even disobey this commandment without even touching the other person. Jesus also 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



Answers for page 54: 10. soldiers, police (or executioners); 11. self-defense; 12. our Savior (or Jesus Christ).

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 58)

## **The Sixth Commandment**

The Sixth Commandment says, "Do not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Adultery is the sin of having sex outside of marriage.

Adultery is a sin against all kinds of people.

First of all, it is a sin against the person you are doing it with. Secondly, it is a sin against the person you are going to marry one day.

Thirdly, it is a sin against the person that your partner in adultery is going to marry one day.

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 in having sex with the wrong person. God means for it to be only between husband and wife. The people in the world around us do not think that way any more. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ outside of marriage.



Answers for page 57: 13. harm; 14. angry; 15. bodily.



*Joseph ran away from temptation and sin.*

17. God means 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 just having thoughts 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 Christian is going to want to have those magazines around or watch the movies and television shows that deal only with sinful desires. No Christian is going to enjoy those jokes that make fun of sex. No Christian is going to take part in sex with anything but respect.

Here is what God wants. He wants each of us to find someone to marry and to remain true

and faithful to 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. And he has given sex as a gift to such 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 63)

### ***Chapter Review***

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments tell us how we are to act toward 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 he 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 his 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



Answers for page 60: 16. sex; 17. husband, wife.

commandment by loving and honoring the person to whom we are married.

### ***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 have to \_\_\_\_\_ the authorities if they tell us to do something God forbids or forbid us to do something God commands.



Answers for page 61: 18. thoughts; 19. true, faithful; 20. gift.

6. God gives some people, for example, soldiers or policemen, the right to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
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 \_\_\_\_\_.

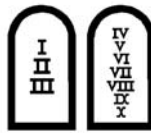
13. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ to the person we  
marry.

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 act toward our fellow man. We learn more about that in this chapter, with a little difference. The last four commandments tell us how we are to behave toward those things God has given to our fellow man.

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 those words, "belongs to someone", means.

How do things come to 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. He created the heavenly lights" (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 life applies to possessions. 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 did 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. You are going to have 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 72)

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, 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 74)

### **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, because we know very well what could happen to him. He might end up in jail when he did not do anything wrong.



Answers for pages 70-71: 1. God; 2. work; 3. God.

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? 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, this is not true 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 they knew it, they would not respect him. It would be wrong for you to tell what that shameful secret is just so that you could ruin that person's good name.

The best thing to do when it comes to the Eighth Commandment would be this: Do not say anything, true or false, to ruin another person's good name unless you absolutely have to. If you are under oath, or if someone will be hurt if you do not say what you know about someone else, then you will have to say things that will destroy 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 have to.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 76)



Answers for page 72: 4. keep; 5. protect, improve.

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 consideration!"

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 uphold 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 78)

### **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



Answers for page 74: 6. good name; 7. truth; 8. ruin (or hurt).

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 he does not want to part with (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 and what 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 did not wish 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 testify, or witness, against 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 80)

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 however much God has given him. This is especially true since God gave him the greatest gift there is, a Savior named Jesus Christ.

When you have Jesus, then you will not be tempted to be 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. As for his possessions, not to mention wife, workers, animals, and everything else he has, you will want to do all you can to help him keep them.

16. The cure for coveting is called

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Answers for page 79: 12. supposed; 13. mistake; 14. harm; 15. sins.

17. A Christian is happy with however much \_\_\_\_\_ 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 ought to act toward those things that belong to others.

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, or wanting, 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 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 considering that he gave us his Son to be our Savior. And we should help others keep what God has given them, too.



## Chapter Test

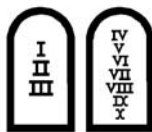
1. Everything we have was given to us by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When you steal from someone, you are telling God that he made a mistake when he \_\_\_\_\_ something to them instead of you.
3. Your good name is one the greatest gifts \_\_\_\_\_ gives you on this earth.
4. Do not say anything, true or false, to 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 however much 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 to save 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 us 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 rulegivers 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 means for you to 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 sin (which does not even seem that bad to us) they were thrown out of Eden and condemned to die.

1. God means for us to obey his commandments \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Even \_\_\_\_\_ sin is too many for God.
3. Adam and Eve were thrown out of Eden and condemned to die for \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 90)

So, people who want to use the Ten Commandments as a program to improve themselves 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 for God.

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.

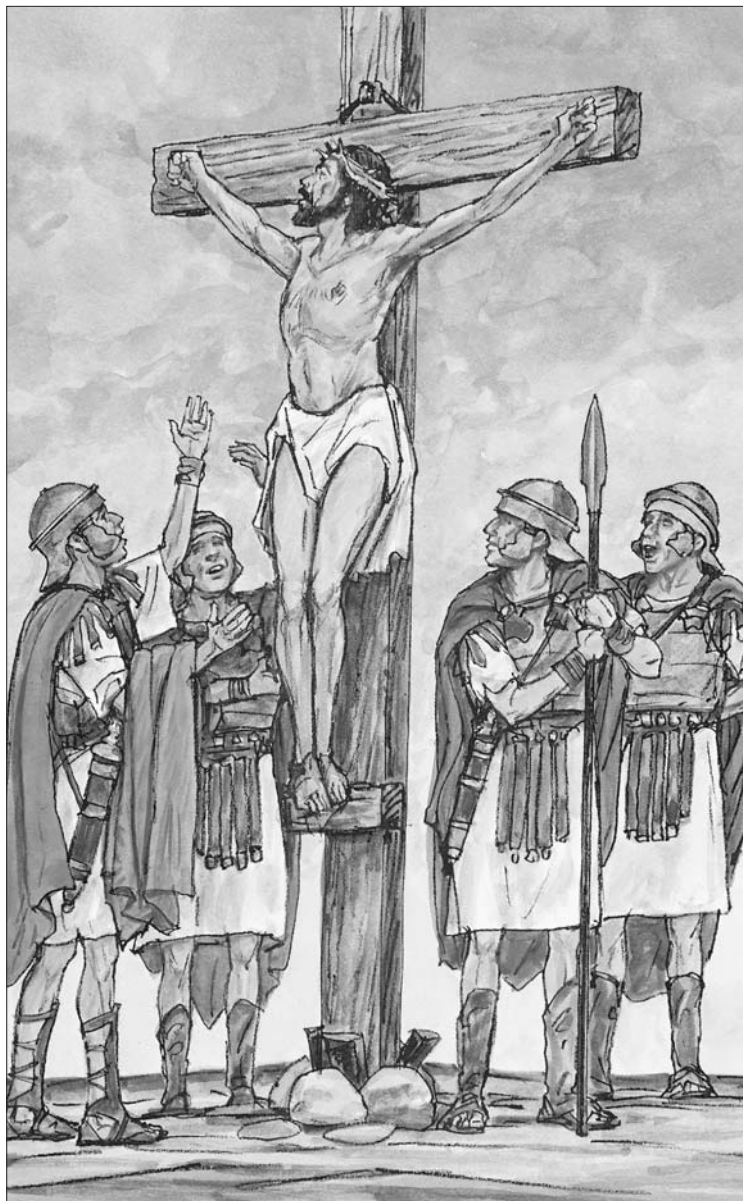
You might say, "So what? What good does that do me?" The answer is, it does you all the good in the world. Jesus obeyed the whole law of God, and then God acted as if we all had kept the law. Jesus' perfect and holy life satisfied him so much, that he counted what Jesus did as all he ever wanted from 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 or feast. "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, just as Jesus gave us his perfect life to wear before God, he took our clothes and wore them. Our clothes (lives) were filthy, covered





*The soldiers made fun of Jesus.*

with our sins. Jesus covered himself with our sins when he died on the cross. God looked at him and saw only our sins and made Jesus pay for them with his life. Now he looks at us and sees only Jesus' holy obedience to the Ten Commandments, and 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 94)

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 business about 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.



Answers for page 92: 4. Jesus; 5. sins; 6. sins;  
7. Ten Commandments.

10. Instead of living sinful lives, we want to live like \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 96)

## ***Chapter Review***

God's law demands that we 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, like 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 have to obey the Ten Commandments 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 him for all he has done for us. We want to live our lives like Jesus did, by keeping God's Ten Commandments.

## Chapter Test

1. God wants us 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.



Answers for pages 94-95: 8. obey; 9. sin; 10. Jesus Christ.

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)

<b>ability</b>	the power to make or to do
<b>absolutely</b>	completely
<b>adultery</b>	having sex outside of marriage
<b>afford</b>	to be able to do, spend or buy
<b>alcoholic</b>	a person who gets drunk all the time
<b>attitude</b>	inward thoughts and feelings
<b>in authority</b>	having the right to tell us how to behave
<b>behave</b>	to act correctly or properly
<b>bothered</b>	troubled
<b>cedars</b>	big trees that grew in the area where Jesus lived
<b>citizen</b>	someone who belongs to a country
<b>commit</b>	to carry out something
<b>compassionate</b>	feeling sorry for others and showing them love and mercy

<b>condemn</b>	to disapprove; to say what someone's punishment will be
<b>conscience</b>	the inner voice that tells you when you are doing wrong
<b>consideration</b>	attention; thinking about something
<b>contentment</b>	being satisfied with what you have
<b>convince</b>	to cause someone to be sure something is true; to cause someone to believe
<b>criminal</b>	someone who has committed a crime by breaking a law
<b>curb</b>	something that stops people from leaving a street or road
<b>cure</b>	a medicine that helps heal
<b>decent</b>	acceptable; good; helpful; kind
<b>deed</b>	an act or something done on purpose
<b>defend</b>	to stand up for, or to protect someone
<b>depend on</b>	to rely on someone or something
<b>determine</b>	to say or to find out about something
<b>discuss</b>	to talk about something among people
<b>dumb</b>	foolish; not able to speak

<b>enforce</b>	to make something happen by using force
<b>exception</b>	not included; something not following a general rule
<b>executioner</b>	someone who puts people to death for the government
<b>exercise</b>	to train the body or mind to strengthen it
<b>explanation</b>	the act of giving meaning to something
<b>fix</b>	to make right
<b>forbid</b>	to command not to do something
<b>formal</b>	ceremonial; following acceptable behavior
<b>frown</b>	to wrinkle the forehead in disapproval or anger
<b>fuel</b>	material burned to give heat
<b>gossip</b>	idle talk about someone
<b>grateful</b>	thankful
<b>guide</b>	something that shows the way to go or what to do
<b>guilty</b>	has broken a commandment; has done wrong

<b>human</b>	a person (male, female) not any animal
<b>idiot</b>	a very stupid person
<b>idolatry</b>	worshipping something that is not the true God
<b>improve</b>	to make or become better
<b>innocent</b>	not guilty; has done nothing wrong
<b>inscribe</b>	to write, print, or engrave on something
<b>instinct</b>	an inborn ability to do something
<b>insult</b>	to speak to someone with great disrespect thus hurting his feelings
<b>leap</b>	to jump up or to jump over something
<b>lust</b>	a dirty desire for sex
<b>manure</b>	waste from animals
<b>mirror</b>	a shiny surface to see yourself
<b>natural</b>	received by birth
<b>oath</b>	swearing or appealing to God
<b>observe</b>	to see or to notice; to obey
<b>opposite</b>	the other side of something

<b>perfection</b>	state of being perfect, the best, without defect
<b>pillow</b>	a cloth case stuffed with something soft and used for the head to sleep on
<b>possessions</b>	things someone owns like property like tables and chairs
<b>protect</b>	to keep safe; to guard
<b>puffy</b>	swollen
<b>purpose</b>	the reason for doing something
<b>really</b>	truly; certainly
<b>refuse</b>	to say you do not agree
<b>religion</b>	what you believe in and worship
<b>reputation</b>	your good name
<b>respect</b>	to honor; a high regard for someone
<b>responsibility</b>	your duty
<b>rivalry</b>	trying to out-do others in a selfish way
<b>ruin</b>	to completely destroy
<b>satisfy</b>	to make someone happy
<b>secure</b>	to make safe or sure
<b>situation</b>	a set or group of events

<b>slurred</b>	slowed and hard to understand
<b>spouse</b>	a husband or wife
<b>statue</b>	a likeness of a person or thing made out of wood, stone or metal
<b>stupid</b>	not having knowledge; not clever
<b>suspicion</b>	not trusting; a feeling about something
<b>tablet</b>	something to write on
<b>tempt</b>	to try to make someone sin
<b>terrific</b>	very good; wonderful; enjoyable
<b>testify</b>	to tell something
<b>wiggle</b>	to move back and forth
<b>will</b>	a written statement leaving possessions or money after death to someone
<b>witness</b>	to tell what you heard or saw happen
<b>worship</b>	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. Father;  
6. respect (or honor); 7. rest; 8. Word.

### **Chapter Test Three: (Pages 63-65)**

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 in bounds.
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 the Father of Jesus, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ outside of marriage.
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 means for us 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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