LESSON 3

Knowing Our Sinfulness from the Law of God

Read: Exodus 19:10-25; 20:1-17; 31:18; 32:15-16; 34:1-4; Matthew 22:35-40

1. Q. Where do we learn to know our sinfulness?

   A. From the Law of God. (Romans 7:7)

2. Q. What is the Law of God?

   A. It is God's rule for our lives.

3. Q. What has God commanded in His Law?

   A. All that is contained in the Ten Commandments and their summary.

4. Q. Can we keep God's Law perfectly?

   A. No, for we are inclined to hate God and our neighbours, and to transgress His Law in thought, word, and deed. In the Scripture passages selected from Exodus we learn of the Law which God gave to His people. We now shall study what the Bible says about this Law, and how we should regard it in our lives.

I. The Author of Law

1. When God first gave His Law to His people, did He do so by:

   (a) speaking it directly to the people?

   (b) telling Moses what to tell them?

   Underline the correct answer; see Exodus 20:1 and Exodus 20:19, 22.

2. Q. Near which mountain was Israel gathered when the Law was given? See Exodus 19:11b.

   A. When the Law was given, Israel was near Mount _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Q. What is the Law called in Exodus 34:28d?

   A. In Exodus 34:28d the Law is referred to as the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

4. Q. Were the commandments written on slabs of wood, or on tables of stone? See Exodus 34:1.

   A. They were written on _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ .

5. Q. With what were they written? See Exodus 31:18d.

   A. They were written with the _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ .

II. The Division of the Law

The Ten Commandments are divided into two tables. The first table teaches us how we must behave towards God. The second teaches us what duties we owe to our neighbour. The division into two tables was made by God Himself. When the Law was given, He commanded Moses to make not one, but two stone tables, and wrote upon them the Ten Commandments. See Deuteronomy 4:13. Moses distinguished the two tables according to their contents, namely, love to God and love to our neighbour. See Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.

The all-important principle that controls the entire Law is love to God.

Without love to God we cannot have true love for our neighbour.

1. Name the four commandments given in Exodus 20:3-11 (in brief).
   (1) Serve no idols, but w_ _ _ _ _ _ only the one, true and living _ _ _ .
   (2) Make no images of _ _ _, but worship Him with your whole h _ _ _ _ .
   (3) Do not take God's _ _ _ _ in vain, but worship God with reverence.
   (4) R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ the Sabbath Day and keep it _ _ _ _ .
2. Name the six commandments given in verses 12 to 17 (in brief).
   (5) Obey and respect your p_ _ _ _ _ _ and all whom _ _ _ has placed in authority over you.
   (6) Protect human l_ _ _ as much as you can and do not hurt or _ _ _ _ others.
   (7) God forbids _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and requires purity in h _ _ _ _ , speech and behaviour.
   (8) Treat your n _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , with respect to his property, as you wish to be treated by _ _ _ .
   (9) Love your neighbour's reputation or good _ _ _ _ . Do not lie or slander.
   (10) The desires of our hearts should be pure. We should not d _ _ _ _ e what belongs to someone else.

III. The Summary of the Law

Jesus summarized the Law in the following words: "Thou shalt _ _ _ _ the Lord thy _ _ _ with all thy _ _ _ _ _ , with all thy _ _ _ _ , with all thy _ _ _ _ , and with _ _ _ thy _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

"Thou shalt _ _ _ _ thy _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as _ _ _ _ _ _ _ " (Mark 12:30-31).

IV. What the Law Teaches

1. Q. The Law of God may be compared to a mirror. What does it reveal to us? (Romans 3:20b)

   A. By the _ _ _ is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ .

2. Q. Why can the conscience of an unsaved person not be a safe guide by which to live? (Titus 1:15d)

   A. The mind and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of the unbeliever is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Q. Has anyone ever kept the Law of God perfectly? (Romans 3:23)

   A. No. “For _ _ _ have _ _ _ _ _ _ , and come _ _ _ _ _ of the glory of God.”

4. Q. How did Paul confess his inability to perform all of God's commandments? (Romans 7:19)

   A. “For the _ _ _ _ that I would I do not: but the _ _ _ _ which I would not, that I do.”

5. Q. How guilty are we before the Law according to James 2:10?

   A. “Whosoever shall _ _ _ _ the _ _ _ _ _ law, and yet _ _ _ _ _ _ in _ _ _ point, He is _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ .”

6. Q. How do we all break the Law?

   A. We all break the Law in our t _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Mathew 15:19), w _ _ _ _ (Proverbs 10:19a), and d _ _ _ _ (John 3:19c).

7. Q. What sentence is pronounced against those who do not do what the Law demands? (Galatians 3:10b).

   A. “C_ _ _ _ _ is every one that continueth not in _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ which are written in the _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ to do them.”

8. Q. How has Christ redeemed His people from the curse of the Law? (Galatians 3:13b)

   A. “Christ has _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ us from the _ _ _ _ _ of the law, being made a _ _ _ _ _ for us.”

9. How does a child of God react before the Law?

   (a) He hates it.

   (b) He loves and desires to obey each commandment.

   Underline the correct answer.

Penitential Prayers

(Psalm 51)

1. God be merciful to me,
On Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou;
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face
I confess Thy judgment just,
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil born in sin,
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Saviour art,
Teach thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgement just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace

Evaluator: _____