SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-21; Galatians 4:1-26

SERMON: The Grace of God in His Law

12 September 2010 INTRODUCTION: ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE (Westminster Confession, 19; Larger

Catechism, 91-102 & etc.; Shorter Catechism, 39-44 & etc.; reformedvoice.com for outlines and audio of all sermons in series)

I. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LAW OF GOD

- **A. LAW: PREVAILING PRINCIPLES** (natural *law*; ie, laws, statutes, ordinances, commandments; Dt.8:11; 1K.2:3)
- B. THE WORD OF GOD: EFFECTIVE EDICTS (see Gen.1:3,etc.; Ps.33:6,9; Dan.4:35; Is.55:11f)
- C. COVENANTAL: TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP (Lev.26:12f; Ps.78:10; Jer.31:33; see Dt.4:10; Ps.50:7f)
- **D. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** (Ex.34:28; Dt.4:13; 10:4)
- E. THE TWO COMMANDMENTS (Mt.22:37(#1-4); 39 (#6-10) /Rom.13:9 /Dt.6:5 & Lev.19:34 /see LC,SC!)

II. THE NATURE OF THE LAW OF GOD

- **A. A TRANSCRIPT OF GOD'S CHARACTER** (Rom. 12:2; 7:12; see Ps. 40:8 /also Is. 6:3; Ps. 11:7; 100:5)
- B. A MANUAL FOR MAN'S CHARACTER (Gen. 1:26; above with Eph. 4:23,24; "user's guide")
 - 1. creation ordinances: the way things were and ought to be (Gen.1-3; i.e. Ex.20:1//Gen.2:7; Ex.20:8ff//Gen.2:3; Ex.20:14//Gen.2:18f; Ex.20:15//Gen.2:7f,15f; etc.; creation, probation)
 - 2. redemption ordinances: the way things ought to be and will be (Eph.4:24,20f; Col.3:9,10; 2Pt.3:13; i.e., re-creation, perfection; Gal.6:15)

III. THE KINDS OF THE LAW OF GOD

- **A. THE MORAL LAW: FOR MAN AS MAN** (Gen.1-3; Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:17f; Rom.3:31; 13:8f; 2Pt.3:13f /eternity AD)
- B. THE CEREMONIAL LAW: FOR MAN AS CHILD (Gal.3:23f; 4:1f; see Mk.7:19; Acts 10:14f; Col.2:8,20; 2:14; Eph.2:15; Heb.8:5; 9:24 /9:12; 10:10 /5:6,etc. /33AD)
- C. THE JUDICIAL LAW: FOR MAN AS ISRAELITE (Eph.2:12f,15,19 /Mt.28:18f; 1Pt.2:13; 1Cor.9:8; /70AD)

IV. THE *PURPOSES* & *USES* OF THE LAW OF GOD

- A. COMMUNICATE OF UNKNOWN (Rom.1:18f; 2:14f; Dt.29:29)
- B. CONVINCE OF TRUTH & RIGHTEOUSNESS (Ps.119:142; Rom.1:18f; 2:14f,17f,20; 10:3f)
- **C. CONVICT OF SIN** (Rom.3:20; 7:7f; Gal.3:22)
- **D. CONVERT TO FAITH** (Ps.19:7; Rom.3:20f; Gal.3:19f,23f; Rom.10:3,4; 11,13)
- **E. CONDUCT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS & LIFE** (Rm.6:1f,15f; 12:1f; Gal.5:13f; Ex.20:1f; Eph.2:1-10ff /Ps23:3; Dt5:33)
- F. SUMMARY: NOT UNDER DEMAND & CONDEMNATION; UNDER GIFT & ENJOYMENT (Rom.6:14f; 8:2f; Eph.2:8-10f)

V. THE *ERRORS* AGAINST THE LAW OF GOD

- A. LAWLESSNESS & LEGALISM: SUBTRACT & ADD (principle; Gen.3:1f; Dt.4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6; see Mt.5:17; 15:3f; 1Tm.4:3f; Col.2:20)
- B. UNRIGHTEOUSNESS & SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS: OWN APPOINTMENT & OWN **ACCOMPLISHMENT** (practice; Dt.21:9; Jdgs.17:6; Prov.21:2f; Is.55:7; Rom.1:18f,23; Rom.10:3,4; Phil.3:9)
- VI. O HOW I LOVE YOUR <u>LAW!</u> (Ps.19; 119; e.g., 119:97; Rom.2:14f; 7:7f,13f,22; 8:1f)
 - A. THE LAW REVEALS GOD: WHO HE IS AND HOW HE WORKS (Rom.c.1,2; 7:12; 12:2)
 - B. THE LAW REVEALS YOURSELF: WHO YOU ARE AS HUMAN, SINNER, CHRISTIAN (Rom.c.3-8)
 - C. THE LAW REVEALS CHRIST AS THE RIGHTEOUS ONE OF GOD FOR YOUR SAKE (Is.53:11(Phil.2:5-11); Acts 7:52; 22:14; Rom.3:21f; 5:12f; 10:3; 2Cor.5:21)
 - **D. THE LAW LEADS TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION** (Gal.3:24f; 5:1f; Ex.20:1f; Eph.2:1-9; Heb.10:19f)
 - E. THE LAW LEADS IN CHRIST FOR BLESSING (Gal.5:13f; Ex.20:2f; Eph.2:10)

Prepared by Teaching Elder Kit Swartz Reformed Presbyterian Church Eph.4:11,12; 1 Tim.4:12-16; 5:17; Ezra 7:10; Hos.4:6; Mal.2:7. www.oswegorpc.org Questions/Comments: 154 City Line Road Oswego, NY 13126-2905 (315) 343-7112 Audio at www.reformedvoice.org; www.sermonaudio.com Page 1