

Getting Started

1. Do you use to do lists? Why or why not?
2. What part of the Christian life is hardest for you?
3. When your faith seems stagnant how do you reinvigorate it?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 114:

Q. But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience.¹ Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.²

¹ Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8-10 ² Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16

If we cannot keep the commandments of God, why try to?

6. Why does Paul use the 10th commandment as his example of sin (Rom. 7:7-8; Ex 20:17)?
7. In Leviticus 18:5 and Deuteronomy 30:15, 19 we see that God gave the law to give life. Why did it not lead to life for God's people?
8. There is a profound conflict residing in each Christian: Christ dwells within him or her (Gal. 2:20), yet sin also dwells in him/her (Rom. 7:17, 20). Why are we saved, but not made complete in this life?

Application

9. After we have been saved by grace we have a new life in Jesus Christ. A danger that can arise is that we turn our lives of righteousness into a to do list for us to complete. The Christian life is not a checklist to complete, but a way of life. Do not turn God's righteousness into a barrier, but serve God joyfully.

Praying Scripture

Psalm 17

- 1 Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry!
Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!
- 2 From your presence let my vindication come!
Let your eyes behold the right!
- 3 You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night,
you have tested me, and you will find nothing;
I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.
- 4 With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- 5 My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.
- 6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.
- 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O Savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.
- 8 Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
- 9 from the wicked who do me violence,
my deadly enemies who surround me.
- 10 They close their hearts to pity;
with their mouths they speak arrogantly.
- 11 They have now surrounded our steps;
they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.
- 12 He is like a lion eager to tear,
as a young lion lurking in ambush.
- 13 Arise, O Lord! Confront him, subdue him!
Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,
- 14 from men by your hand, O Lord,
from men of the world whose portion is in this life.
You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children,
and they leave their abundance to their infants.
- 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · March 26, 2017

The Gospel: Class is in Session

“To Do List”

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead?

Romans 7:7-8

- **The law was _____ to give _____.**

- **We have been delivered from _____ (and the _____) by God through Jesus Christ to a life of _____.**

- **Our sinful nature wants to turn something _____ (into something that _____ us.**

Topics: Bondage, sin, righteousness