

THROUGH THE MIRROR OF GOD'S LAW

1 Corinthians 3:20 "Through the law we become conscious of our sin."

What would you do without mirrors? You use them in the bathroom to make sure your face is clean, to shave, apply make-up and for the many other details that go into getting ready for the day. You carry one in your purse. Think of what it would be like to drive your car without mirrors.

Through His law God provides you with a mirror. Why is this function of the Ten Commandments so important for you? It is important because of your sinful nature you can excuse and rationalize your sins. God's word, however, says, "Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy." (Leviticus 19:2) God's word says, "Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." (James 2:10) It is important that the law makes you completely aware of your sins and that they alienate you from God. They bring God's judgement upon you. God is serious that the "wages," cost, result of your sin is eternal death (hell.)

Through the law you become conscious of your sins. Roman 7:7 says, "If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin." As you need mirrors to see your true physical self so you need God's law to see your true moral and spiritual self. Without God's Ten Commandments your old sinful nature would work overtime to convince you how moral, upright and good you are. However, once you read, study and hear the Ten Commandments, like a mirror, they show you the truth about your lack of moral purity and the punishment you deserve for the sins you commit.

Without the law, you would not know your sins. Without the law you would not know your need for Christ's saving work. The law prepares your heart to thirst for God's forgiveness and to hear the Good News of God's undeserved love for you in Christ Jesus.

You are blessed by God's Law as it shows you your sins and the Gospel that shows you God's forgiveness of your sins through faith in His Son Jesus.

Prayer: Father in heaven, thank You for Your law that shows me my sins and need for the redeeming work of Your Son Jesus. Bless Your law as I receive it that I know my sins, repent of them and Your Gospel that is Your power in my heart for Your Spirit to work faith in my heart to accept the saving work of Jesus in my behalf. Amen.

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we
transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate And turn from sin before too late.

To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.

But those who scornfully disdain God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds And keeps their wickedness in bounds.

The Law is good; but since the fall Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no pow'r to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.
(LSB 579)