

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

Their delight is in the law of the Lord. (Ps. v2)

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, & train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel & say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, & you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- How does the refrain “I am the LORD” root the Israelites’ behavior in God, not themselves? By the way, review the Golden Calf incident to see what happens when we look within/give into ourselves (see *Exodus* 32). See *Exodus* 19:5-6, 20:2, 8-11; *Deuteronomy* 6:20-25, 7:6, 26:18-19; *Isaiah* 61:6; *Romans* 6:12-23; *Ephesians* 2:12-13; *1 Peter* 2:9
- Leviticus* contains the worship instructions for the Israelites. What does this add to your understanding of holiness in everyday life as worship? What does St. Paul add? *Romans* 12:12; *1 Corinthians* 3:16, 6:19-20; *2 Corinthians* 6:16-18; *Ephesians* 2:1-22, 6:18; *1 Thessalonians* 5:17; see also *1 Peter* 2:5

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- How does our modern attitude of “settle it & let the insurance take care of it” violate v15? What about “sweetheart deals” for celebrities, politicians, & the well-connected? Review 7th Commandment in both the Small* & Large Catechisms*
- Review the proper Lutheran teachings in Formula of Concord- Solid Declaration IV:7-12* about good works. What stands out to you? What’s new to you? Do you disagree with any of it? *SC, LC, & FC available bookofconcord.org

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- Review this Lutheran Witness article by Prof. JT Pless. How does this clarify that our neighbors need our good works? In what sense can we say that our service within our congregation is practice/training for the “gametime” of serving our neighbors in everyday life? Also, check out Prof. G. Veith’s Cranach Blog post. <https://witness.lcms.org/2021/good-works-in-the-freedom-of-faith/>
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2019/10/faith-in-god-and-good-works-for-your-neighbor/>
- Good works & merciful acts toward our neighbors are not intended to manipulate or coerce them into church attendance or congregational membership. (Oh, how pastors hate overhearing “We should be nice to this [high-income] family so they’ll go to our church!” cf. *Matthew* 19:23-26.) When a neighbor, colleague, friend, or classmate asks why you do acts of kindness, generosity, mercy, goodness, etc. how do #4, 5 above help you explain that 1) it’s who God made you to be & 2) Jesus’ return to judge the living & the dead is imminent? See *Romans* 13:11-14

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Festival of the Reformation
Series: Judgment

10.29.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Holy Love

God judges our (lack of) love for neighbor, who needs our good works

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. (v2b)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another. (*1 John 4:11*)

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