

Delighting In God's Law!

Promise: the Law shows us our sin so we are ready to be shown our Savior

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Deut 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
(6th Sunday after the Epiphany, 2/16/20)

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. – v. 7

Lead In – In Lutheran lingo we speak of Law and Gospel and how they are to be distinguished, but not separated from one another. If we are not careful we might conclude that the Law is bad and we need not bother ourselves with it, and that you can have the Gospel alone without the Law. But, at least from a Lutheran perspective, you would be badly mistaken! ... So this morning I want to speak of how it is we can come to delight in God's Law...

I. For Starters, Apart From Faith, No One likes Law

- A. Most exciting part is not the “rules & regulations”
- B. Those who love rules are kind of suspect...
- C. What speed do most of us like to drive?...

II. How “Works Righteousness” Fits In Here

- A. A failure to distinguish between Law and Gospel
- B. Watch out, when we think we can keep the Law!
- C. Jesus quickly gets to the heart of the Law...

III. Why We Can Delight In the Law

- A. As an SOS it can turn us from “Works Righteous”
- B. It reliably shows us the will of God
- C. We don't have to search, just be attentive!

Parting Shot – Just like the Law, the Gospel comes to us. The Law points to it. Preachers proclaim it. And the Gospel SOS “shows our Savior”. This freeing word conceives and gives birth to faith in us so that we learn to trust in God's testimonies, his precepts, his statutes, his commandments, his law, and his rules. These instruct us and make us truly wise. They are to be desired more than gold, and they are sweeter than honey. The curb, mirror, and guide alongside the promise onto eternal life!

Gen 3:4-5 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Rom 7:5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

Phil 3:4b-6 If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.

Psalm 119:1-8 ESV

Your Word Is A Lamp to My Feet

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,
- 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!
- 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.
- 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
- 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

Mat 19:20-22 The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mat 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Mat 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Deut 30:11-14 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Ps 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

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