



Lesson 8 Right Repentance

Law and Gospel seem to me to be a mystery of God; certainly not intuitive. Intuitive is an interesting word. We want our smartphones to operate intuitively that is the way our minds work. God be praised that Law and Gospel doesn't work like our minds work. Our minds lead us away from God's ways and we get mired down in our misconstrued ideas on how we need to do something to earn our way to salvation or most surly to help out our belief in God so we can take some ownership in our rescue. In chapter 8 we learn *contrition* like *faith* is entirely the work of God and we can't even feel sorry for our condition except that God works it in us. Many modern thinkers approach the Word of God like it were the writings of M.L. King Jr., Oprah Winfrey, John Dewey, Bertrand Russell, Soren Kierkegaard, or Homer Simpson. There is nothing to revere as holy in these words. But God's word creates faith and repentance.

1. How does the Law manifest its power? See Romans 5:20, Romans 7:7-12
2. See question 2 on p. 98. Why must the Gospel follow the preaching of the Law for repentance to be brought to its intended purpose?
3. What is the distinction between worldly grief and Godly grief?
4. How is the Gospel portrayed in Luke 4:18-19 and Ephesians 2:14-17?
5. Read Matthew 12:33-37. Speaking to the Pharisees who failed to acknowledge Jesus as God, Jesus spoke about the fruit of trees. Saying the biology of trees is such that you have planted this type of tree in this area for many ages so you can depend on a good tree to bear good fruit and other trees have a reputation of bearing bad fruit. So he postulates how can good fruit come from bad trees? They understand what he is saying and elsewhere in the chapter he calls them a brood of vipers. If Christians are good trees, how have we received our goodness? What is the fruit of good trees? Give some examples of good fruit.
6. What does John 3:1-8 teach us about faith?
7. In a situation where we have freedom to eat certain foods but other Christian friends are abstaining for Lent for example, we should not "rub it in our friends face," by eating food from which they are abstaining. It doesn't matter to our faith and it is permissible, yet we might cause others to doubt their salvation in such situations. For that reason we abstain along with them and encourage them in their faith. Why is this advice we read in Romans 14:23 so offensive to human thinking (philosophy)?

8. Reread the paragraph on the bottom of p. 97 Why is it necessary to be especially careful in describing the qualities of faith? Why is it dangerous for the High School Bible class teacher to say, "A Christian wouldn't cheat in the game 'capture the flag'"!

To motivate your children to do "good works, you may accomplish an immediate end such as saying, "Get in the kitchen and help your mother with the dishes." What you would rather happen is that your child regularly, with joy, cleared the table, helped wash dishes, and volunteered to put the dishes away as well because your child enjoys spending time with Mom chatting about the events of the day.

The law will never get you to the greater goal, because it is the love of God that motivates not the law. The love of God is a fruit of the gospel and the faith instilled by God in your child's heart. You show the love of God in you and lead by example. Others have said that this love of God is caught not taught. I believe it is taught also in reading the word of God in devotions at the dinner table and attending Sunday School and worship regularly; By showing our children God is important in our lives. Can you share some success stories of the gospel motivating your children to bear good fruit?

Next Week read and prepare chapter 9

For March 18 read and prepare chapters 10 & 11

For March 25 read and prepare for chapter 12

April 1 is Easter- We will have no class on Easter.

For April 8 read and prepare for Chapter 13

For April 15 read the Appendix and we will review and discuss any questions you might still have. This will be our last class.

LSB # 435

Come to Calvary's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall, Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within, From infection and
uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin, Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk
with God in light.