

## Lutheran Confessions

### Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV: Justification, 34-35, 43-45

The adversaries consider only the precepts of the Second Table which contain civil righteousness that reason understands. Content with this, **they think that they satisfy the Law of God.** In the mean time they do not see the First Table which commands that we love God, that we declare as certain that God is angry with sin, that we truly fear God, that we declare as certain that God hears prayer. But the human heart without the Holy Ghost either in security despises God's judgment, or in punishment flees from, and **35]** hates, God when He judges. Therefore it does not obey the First Table. Since, therefore, contempt of God, and doubt concerning the Word of God, and concerning the threats and promises, inhere in human nature, men truly sin, even when, without the Holy Ghost, they do virtuous works, because they do them with a wicked heart, according to Rom. 14, 23: *Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.* For such persons perform their works with contempt of God, just as Epicurus does not believe that God cares for him, or that he is regarded or heard by God. This contempt vitiates works seemingly virtuous, because God judges the heart....

**43]** But since justification is obtained through the free promise it follows that we cannot justify ourselves. Otherwise wherefore would there be need to promise? [And why should Paul so highly extol and praise grace?] For since the promise cannot be received except by faith, the Gospel which is properly the promise of the remission of sins and of justification for Christ's sake, proclaims the righteousness of faith in Christ, which the Law does not teach. Nor is this the righteousness of the Law. **44]** **For the Law requires of us our works and our perfection. But the Gospel freely offers, for Christ's sake, to us, who have been vanquished by sin and death, reconciliation which is received not by works, but by faith alone.** This faith brings to God not confidence in one's own merits, but only confidence in the promise, or **45]** the mercy promised in Christ. This special faith, therefore, by which an individual believes that for Christ's sake his sins are remitted him, and that for Christ's sake God is reconciled and propitious, obtains remission of sins and justifies us. (Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

## Put it into Practice

*These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.*

### Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN** (*Collect for Trinity 13*)

### Word of God: St. Luke 10:23-37 (on back)

### Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. In verse 23 and 24, Jesus gives a blessing that is only for his disciples who are eye and ear witnesses. Our blessing is in John 20:29, "Then Jesus told him {Thomas}, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Why are the disciples blessed?
2. How do the disciples' blessedness become a blessing to us? (Eph 2:20)
3. Why did the expert in the law ask Jesus a question(v.25)? How does he view Jesus?
4. The expert asks the most important question. Just humanly speaking, who gets an inheritance? Do you do something to get one?
5. Jesus answers a question with a question about the Law. "How do you read it?" asks the man to recite it from his memory (of their liturgy). The Shema(Deuteronomy 6:4-9) was to be repeated twice a day by the faithful Jew. To the Shema is added, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
6. Jesus has put the man to the test and Jesus says that he is right. Jesus tells the man, "Do this and you will live." Why does the discussion continue?
7. What part makes him uncomfortable? (See 1 John 4:19-21)
8. How does the man intend to weasel out of "Love your neighbor as yourself?" {*Note: In order to deflect attention from himself the man turns the discussion into an argument about the Word.*}
9. Jesus answers his question, "Who is my neighbor?" with "Which was a neighbor?(that is, neighborly)" How does that change things?
10. Once again, the man gives the correct answer and Jesus says, "Go and do likewise?" Is Jesus' answer Law or Gospel?
11. "... Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:27-36). Finally, when the Law breaks the expert's back and he realizes he can't do the Law. Who is merciful to the unmerciful? (Psalm 145:8-9)

### 6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

*Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...*

Hymn TLH #41, stanza 2  
9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments & meaning,  
p. 301  
Romans 5:8

### 7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses  
"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise  
"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading  
St. Luke 10:23-37 (back)

Hymn  
"Wondrous King, All-Glorious" TLH #41

Catechesis on... (back)  
St. Luke 10:23-37  
Liturgy  
Catechism

--prayer based on reading  
+ Recite Word by Word insert  
Ten Commandments  
Lord's Prayer  
Apostles' Creed  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
Matthew 28:19  
Mark 16:16  
Confession & Absolution  
John 20:22-23  
Sacrament of the Altar  
Words of Institution

Collect of the Day  
--prayer based on reading  
R. AMEN  
Benediction  
R. AMEN

## Catechesis on St. Luke 10:23-37

23Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; 24“for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”

25And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” 27So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” 28And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” 29But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31“Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32“Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34“So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35“On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’

36“So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” 37And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (NKJV)

### Law and Gospel

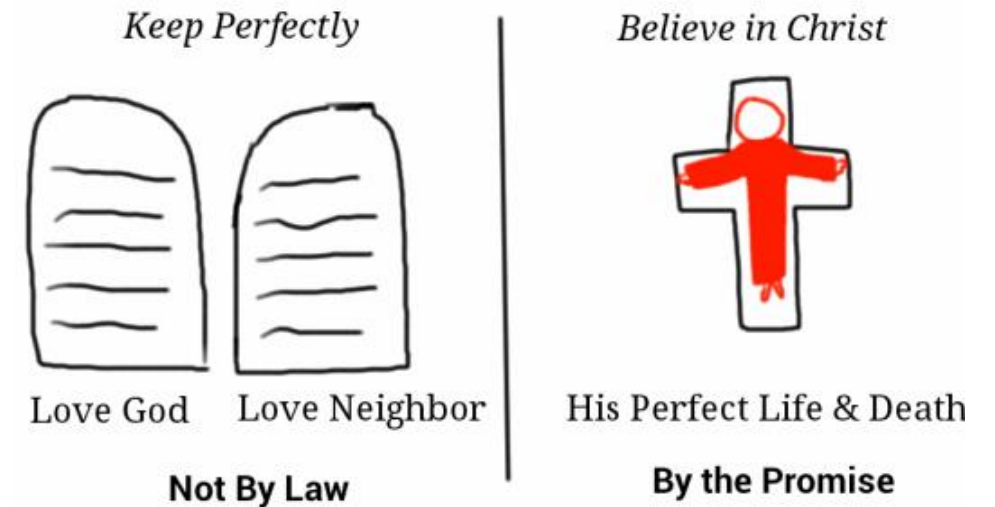
1. We believe, teach, and confess that **the distinction between the Law and the Gospel** is to be maintained in the Church with great diligence as an especially brilliant light, by which, according to the admonition of St. Paul, the Word of God is rightly divided.
2. We believe, teach, and confess that **the Law** is properly a divine doctrine, which **teaches what is right and pleasing to God, and reprovcs everything that is sin and contrary to God’s will.**
3. For this reason, then, everything that reprovcs sin is, and belongs to, the preaching of the Law.
4. But **the Gospel** is properly such a doctrine as **teaches what man who has not observed the Law, and therefore is condemned by it, is to believe, namely, that Christ has expiated and made satisfaction for all sins, and has obtained and acquired for him, without any merit of his [no merit of the sinner intervening], forgiveness of sins, righteousness that avails before God, and eternal life”** (FC Ep V 2-5, also see Ap IV 5-6).

### Requirements of the Law

“Now, the Decalog requires not only outward civil works, which reason can in some way produce, but **it also requires other things placed far above reason**, namely, truly to fear God, truly to love God, truly to call upon God, truly to be convinced that God hears us, and to expect the aid of God in death and in all afflictions; finally, it requires obedience to God, in death and all afflictions, so that we may not flee from these or refuse them when God imposes them.... For, as long as **the human mind is at ease, and does not feel the wrath or judgment of God, it can imagine that it wishes to love God**, that it wishes to do good for God’s sake. [But it is sheer hypocrisy.]” (Ap IV, 8-9).

## CATECHESIS ON ST. LUKE 10:23-37

### Two Ways of Salvation



## Trinity Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

1000 North Park Avenue, Herrin, IL 62948  
Church 942-3401, Learning Center 942-4750

[www.trinityh.org](http://www.trinityh.org)

Pastor Michael D. Henson • Deacon Gary K. Harroun

*Pr. Henson and Dcn. Harroun are members of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America ([Eldona.org](http://Eldona.org))*

## The Ninth Commandment

“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

### **Inherited/Original Sin**

“It is also taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature **are conceived and born in sin...**” (AC, II. Original Sin, 1, German, continues below).

Psalm 51:5, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”

John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh....”

### **(1) With Concupiscence, that is Evil Desires, and**

### **(2) Without True Faith**

“...That is, all men are (1)full of evil lust and inclinations from their mothers’ wombs and (2)are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God....” (AC II 2)

(1) Genesis 8:21, “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though **every inclination of his heart is evil** from childhood.”

(1) Matthew 15:19-20, “For out of the heart proceed **evil thoughts**, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

(2) Romans 8:7-8, “...the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

(2) 1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

### **Evil Desires Are Sin Deserving of God’s Wrath**

“...Moreover, this inborn sickness and hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God...” (AC, II).

Romans 5:12, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned....”

Ephesians 2:3, “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying **the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts**. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

## Believers Fight Against These Evil Desires

### **1. Believers deplore their sinful condition.**

Romans 7:24, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Also Ps 51:5)

### **2. Believers confess their sinful desires**

Galatians 5:24, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh **with its passions and desires.**”

Colossians 3:5-6, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience....”

Ephesians 4:22, “...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,...” (cont.)

### **3. Believers trust in God’s promise of Forgiveness**

Ephesians 4:23-24, “...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

2 Peter 1:4, “Through these **he has given us his very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by **evil desires**.

Ephesians 2:1-3, “**And you He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world....”

Hebrews 13:5-6, “Let your conduct be **without covetousness; be content** with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

### **4. Believers are Controlled by the Spirit**

Romans 8:11-14, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13For if you live according to the flesh you will die; **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Psalm 119:35-36, “Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And **not to covetousness.**”

### **5. Believers exercise self-control**

1 Timothy 6:6-10, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain....”

**Phil. 4:11-13, “...for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”**

## The Tenth Commandment

“Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered to the end that we shall daily obtain there nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. Thus, although we have sins, the [grace of the] Holy Ghost does not allow them to injure us, because we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but [continuous, uninterrupted] forgiveness of sin, both in that God forgives us, and in that we forgive, bear with, and help each other (LC II, 55)

### **Evil Desires are Revealed by the Law**

Romans 7:7-8, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness** unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of **evil desire**. For apart from the law sin was dead.”

Romans 3:20, “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

### **Evil Desires Remain after Baptism**

“He(Luther) always wrote thus, namely, that Baptism removes the guilt of original sin, although the material, as they call it, of the sin, *i.e.*, **concupiscence, remains**. He also added in reference to the material that the Holy Ghost, given through Baptism, begins to mortify the concupiscence, and creates new movements [a new light, a new sense and spirit] in man.... Also against Julian, Augustine says, ‘The Law, which is in the members, has been annulled by spiritual regeneration, and remains in the mortal flesh. It has been annulled because the guilt has been remitted in the Sacrament, by which believers are born again; but it remains, because **it produces desires, against which believers contend.**’”(Ap II 35,36)

Romans 7:14-20, “We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

Romans 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in **its lusts.**”

### **Evil Desires Are Sin Deserving of God’s Wrath**

“...and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit (*AC, II*).

John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

Romans 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

### **These Evil Desires cause Actual Sin**

James 1:14-15, “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away **by his own desires** and enticed. Then, **when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

Matthew 7:17, “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”

### **In Unbelievers These Evil Desires Reign**

Ephesians 2:1-3, “...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 4:19, “Having lost all sensitivity, they {The Gentiles} have given themselves over to **sensuality so as to indulge** in every kind of impurity, with **a continual lust for more.**”

### **Believers Fight Against These Evil Desires**

Luther, “When you have wicked thoughts, you should not on this account despair; only be on your guard lest you be taken captive by them.... Wherever faith comes into being, there come a hundred evil thoughts and a hundred temptations more than before. Only see to it that you act the man; do not suffer yourself to be taken captive; continue to resist and to say: I will not, I will not” (St. L. IX: 1032).

Romans 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in **its lusts.**”

2 Peter 1:4, “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by **evil desires.**

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