

The Close of the Commandments.

82. What does God say of all these Commandments?

He says thus: I the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

83. What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all that transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear His wrath, and not act contrary to them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all that keep these Commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him, and willingly do according to His Commandments.

84. Why does God here call Himself a jealous God?

Because He has not only the right to give us commandments, but also the power to execute His threats and fulfill His promises.

138) James 4,12. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.

85. What does God threaten all them that hate Him and transgress His commandments?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death and eternal damnation.

139) Deut. 27, 26. Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this Law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

140) Rom. 6, 23. The wages of sin is death.

86. Upon what children will God visit the iniquity of the fathers to the third and fourth generation?

Upon such as likewise hate Him and follow their parents in their transgression.

141) Ezek. 18,20. The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

B. H. Gen. 9,25. Canaan. -Matt. 27,25. The Jews.

87. Whereunto should this threat induce us?

That we may fear His wrath and not act contrary to His Commandments.

B. H. Gen. 7. The Deluge. - Gen. 19. Sodom. - Luke 19, 43. 44. The destruction of Jerusalem.

88. What does God promise those who love Him and keep His Commandments?

Grace and every blessing.

Luke 10, 28. This do, and thou shalt live.

1 Tim. 4, 8. Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

89. Whereunto should this promise tenderly invite us?

That we may love God and trust in Him, and willingly do according to His Commandments.

90. Can we keep God's Commandments as He would have us keep them?

No; since the fall natural man cannot keep the Law of God at all, and even the regenerate can keep it but imperfectly.

144) Ps. 14, 3. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good; no, not one.

145) Eccl. 7, 20. There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not.

146) Is. 64, 6. We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

147) Job 14,4. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one.

148) Phil. 3, 12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, in that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

149) Ps. 143, 2. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

150) James 2, 10. Whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

91. What purposes does the Law, then, serve?

First, it checks, in a measure, the coarse outbursts of sin, and thereby helps to maintain outward discipline and decency in the world. (*A curb.*)

Secondly, and chiefly, it teaches man the due knowledge of his sin. (*A mirror.*)

151) Rom. 3, 20. By the Law is the knowledge of sin.

152) Rom. 7, 7. I had not known sin but by the Law; for I had not known lust except the Law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Thirdly, it leads the regenerate to know what are truly good works. (*A rule.*)

153) Ps. 119, 9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.

Of Sin.

92. What is sin?

Sin is every departure from the rule of the divine Law.

154) 1 John 3,4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Law; for sin is the transgression of the Law.

93. By whom was sin brought into the world?

By the devil, who first departed from God, and by man, who of his own free will suffered himself to be misled into sin.

155) 1 John 3,8. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

156) Rom. 5, 12. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin.

B. H. Gen. 3,1-7. The fall of man.

94. Of how many kinds is sin?

Of two kinds, original sin and actual sm.

95. What is original sin?

It is that sin which we have inherited from Adam, the total depravity of our whole human nature, which is now deprived of its concreated righteousness, inclined to all that is evil, and subject to damnation.

- 157) Ps. 51,5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 158) John 3, 6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit:"
- 159) Rom. 7, 18. I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.
- 160) Gen. 8, 21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.
- 161) Eph. 2, 3. And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

96. What is actual sin?

Every transgression of the divine Law in desires, thoughts, words, and deeds.

- 162) Matt. 15, 19. Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.
- 163) James 4,17. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

97. How may we, then, be made free from sin, righteous, and heirs of salvation?

Not by the works of the Law, but by faith.

- 164) Rom. 10,4. Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.