
Scripture Lessons

1 John 2: 3-11

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him.

6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because[a] the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him[b] there is no cause for stumbling.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Read Heidelberg Catechism LORDS DAY 2 form the Psalter Hymnal (Responsive)

Prayer of Illumination

“Eternal God, you have revealed your nature and purposes through the scriptures and in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word. Open our hearts and minds by the activity of your Spirit, to hear you speaking, that we may learn more of you and discover afresh your call on our lives. Amen”

Scripture Reading: I John 2:3-11

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Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 2

Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Mga kapatid, Tunay na napapanahon at hindi nagbabago ang mga salita ng Diyos, ito ay mananatiling buhay magpakaylanman kahit pa tayo ay napapaligiran ng mga pabago bagong pananaw ng mundo patungkol sa ating buhay , sa moralidad at maging patungkol sa kaligtasan. Sa ngayon, ang paglalahad ng pagkamakasalanang at kabuktutan (or Depravity) ng tao ay tila bago maling sabihin, at hindi katanggapgap tangap sa mga nakakarinig. The only time you can speak of moral wickedness is to mention people like Hitler, Stalin, bin Laden or Pol Pot, sila yung sa kasaysayan ay tinatawag na “Wicked” people. Sila ba ay tunay na masasamang tao? Paano sila naging ganung kasama?

If you asked your unbelieving neighbour that question, they would likely be surprised at your question. Well, of course you know they are bad, they killed thousands and millions. But why? Why did they orchestrate mass murders? Ang kanila bang puso ay talagang kakaiba kumpara sa pangkaraniwang tao ? hindi po. Maaaring nagtagumpay sila sa paggawa ng masama dahil sa taglay nilang katalinuhan at impluwensya bilang mga pinuno ng bansa. Brothers & sisters ang masasamang tao na ito ay hindi naiiba sa ating kapwa or sa ating “unbelieving

neighbour” Maaring ikagulat natin ito pero ito po ang itinuturo sa atin ng banal na kasulatan at ng Lords day 2 ng Heidelberg Catechism.

The problem we face today is that these lies that our society continues to push off on us, some Christians end up believing them. In fact, we are in danger of losing a Reformed and biblical life and worldview and of taking up the worldview, which is a lie, of the secular, unbelieving world.

Ngayong hapon po ay ating aalamin ang apat na kasinungalingan na palagiang sinasabi sa atin ng mundo. Ito din po ang ating magiging sermon points habang nakatuon po tayo sa ating text sa 1 John 2 at sa HC Lords Day 2.

Our theme is: The law of God reveals the sinfulness of our hearts.

- I. I can love God and live how I want.
- II. Jesus has fulfilled the law, so I don't have to keep it
- III. I'm not really that bad.
- IV. All the answers to our questions can be found in this world

I. I can love God and live how I want

Kadalasang naitatanung lalo ng mga kabataan ang patungkol sa mga makasanlibutang mga Gawain. Katulad ng ating mga anak na hindi maiiwasang makasama ang mga kaibigan or kaklase na hindi pareho ang kanilang way of life (kahit pa sinasabi ng kanilang mga kaibigan sa sila ay Christian). Sila yung hindi na pagpapahalaga sa pagdalo sa Lords Day or hindi nila nakikita ang kahalagahan ng pagiging malinis sa kanilang seksuwalidad at pagpapahalaga sa magulang. Some will say , “I love God, but I don't really think he cares if I did this or that”. Or “ I love God, but I can do whatever I want to do”..

In 1 John 1 and 2 we have one of the most common and comforting assurance of pardons in the scriptures.(Read vs. 1:9-2:2.) Then we come to verse 3 and we read **“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”** There is a wordplay on the work **“know “** there. To translate it another way, “by this we will be sure that we **love Him**, if we keep His commandments.” This verse itself should be enough to respond to this lie. That is why we are admonished that if someone persists in this lie, read him the next verse that says **“4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”**

Jesus said, “If you love me, **you will keep my commandments.**” The whole sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5-7 is a direction given to believers. Can believers keep God's law perfectly? No, their whole inclination and motivation and desire is to please God.

When we come across people who believe that they do not have to live according to God's word, this likely is just an excuse to be selfish and fulfill the lusts of the flesh. **This is how some people try to justify their sin.** But who are they trying to fool. Who are they trying to convince? those around them,

their friends or peers, dahil hindi nya kayang malinlang makapangyarihang Diyos, alam ng Diyos ang lahat at kanya itong nakikita, walang maitatago sa Panginoon.

All human beings are going to have to face their sin. Lord's Day 2 speaks about our **misery**, ang salita na mas malawak pa ang kahulugan kaysa kasalanan, for it also includes our guilt, which is a consequence of sin. King David understood this well. For someone who feeds us this lie, we can tell them the solution that David came up with at anu po iyon? **"Repent of your sins."** In Psalm 32:3-5 David says, **"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning (or pagdaing) all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer."** Here David is even describing the physical and psychological results of believing the lie that we need not repent of our sins. His life was being quenched, at tunay na nawala ang kanyang tikas bilang isang pinuno at isang mananampalayataya. Then in verse 5, he said **"I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. And you forgave the iniquity of my sin."**

God will punish those in his anger those who live according to the lie, "I can love God and live however I want. For " **Psalm 32:10 says "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord mercy shall surround him."**

II. The second lie (which is our 2nd sermon point) is ..Jesus has fulfilled the law, so I don't have to keep it.

The first half of the phrase is correct if you are a child of God. **Jesus Christ has fulfilled the law.** This is part of the gospel. Subalit ang ikalawang kataga ay mali. Realize that we are in the first section of the catechism dealing with our sin and misery. In the first part of the catechism we see the first use of the law in play.

The law is a mirror in order to measure ourselves. Kung gusto po nating makita ang tunay na sukat ng isang bagay, marapat na gumamit tayo ng sukatan, sa pagluluto or sa simpleng pag kuha ng ating bigat o tangkad , maaring magkamali ang ating tingin pero kung may instrumento na sukatan, magbibigay iton ng accurate na "Guide' or "rule" sa atin. The law of God works like a mirror or a measuring instrument to see how we measure up to God's standard at ito ay hindi nagbabago. Ang unang gamit ng Kautusan ng Diyos ay upang ipakita sa atin ang ating pagiging makasalanan, at habang sinusukat natin ang ating sarili mula sa mga kautusan ng Diyos, nakikita natin ang lawak ng ating kamalian at kasalanan.

For the children of God, Jesus has fulfilled the law, he has not abolished the law. The law for us is to guide us in our whole lives. It guides us in raising our families, it guides us in determining how our children are to be educated, it guides us in determining how to spend our holidays, etc. **Let us meditate on this mga kapatid..Isang bagay na nabago nang si Kristo ay dumating, is that as we are united to Him in true faith, we are no longer under the demand of the law. We certainly do not keep the law in order to earn or gain the favour of God. We have the favour of God and that is sure and lasting. The covenant of grace is upheld by His providence.**

The law of God for us shows our thankfulness, our gratitude. Look at verse 5 of I John 2, and verse 6 (read). *5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we*

may know that we are in him. 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

We have a calling to love. This is what the summary of the law reminds us, to love God and our neighbour. You cannot love your neighbour if you do not love God. Ulitin ko po..” **We have a calling to love. This is what the summary of the law reminds us, to love God and our neighbour. We cannot love your neighbour if we do not love God”** . Naiisip ko lang po.. How much more that we should love the household of faith, the body of Christ, the flocks, tayo po bilang isang katawan.

Again mga kapatid, This lie “**Jesus has fulfilled the law, so I don’t have to keep it**”. that we are looking at is not new. So-called Christians have been promoting this view for centuries, they are called **antinomians**. That word literally means, **against or contrary to the law**. What law? God’s law. This is a misunderstanding of the grace of God. The work of Jesus Christ is **liberating**. This does not mean that it is a license to live in all kinds of wickedness, but rather it **liberates us** so that we can live our lives for the glory of our Almighty God.

So, the response to this lie is that Jesus has fulfilled the law, but because he has done so, now we can walk according to it in gratitude. It is not a weight, but it is light as a feather for the true child of God.

III. I’m not really that bad

Hindi po ba talaga tayong “ganung “ kasama? yes we are, for this is our nature. I John 1:10 says, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” Okay, all will likely admit that they have made mistakes in their life. They have done things they shouldn’t have. They will agree to breaking some of the commandments of the second table of the law. But, people are far worse than that. This is the modern mentality. Kung pag uusapan daw ay ang abilidad at mga talento, ang mga Americano daw po ang mayrong mataas na pagtingin ka kanilang sarili kaysa sa mga Asians particular Chinese na may mababang pagtingin sa kanilang sarili.

Take this in terms of sin, and nearly everyone thinks they are better than they actually are. This is because society knows nothing about total depravity because of total depravity. To further explain. Our confession says that we “**have a natural tendency to hate God and our neighbour.**” Sin has affected our whole beings. Naka apekto ito sa ating mga gawa, sa ating mga nais at sa ating emosyon at character. And dahilan na ang makasalanan ay hindi nakikita ang kanilang kasamaan dahil sa sila ay bulag sa kasalanan. Ito po ang argumento ni Apostle John sa text sa verse 11. “*But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*”

Unbelievers are walking around in the dark. They do not even recognize their own depravity. Romans 2:15-16 says that **they are a law unto themselves**. Romans 1 says that they **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**. Ephesians 2 says, **this is what we were like, satisfying the cravings of our sinful nature, by nature we are objects of wrath.**

The good news congregation, is that we are no longer “by nature.” We are by super-nature. God has worked supernaturally in our hearts. The invisible work of the Holy Spirit becomes visible in our lives. Our whole being is transformed, our will, emotions, motives and actions. Ang tanung ay ..Are we still sinful? **Yes**. Are we as sinful as before? **No**. Can our righteousness merit the favour of God? **No**, only trusting in Jesus Christ can do so. When we admit our depravity and sinfulness, and turn unto God in faith, we are embraced as his children, heirs of everlasting life, members of the covenant of grace.

A proper understanding of sin is under attack today. Roman Catholics deny the full fall into sin, Arminians deny that our will has become completely depraved, but is still free, able to choose to follow God or able to reject him. Arminians also do not believe that sin has caused spiritual death, but rather just a spiritual sickness. However, scriptures says, “you were dead in trespasses and sins.” Or, “there is no one who seeks after God.” Our catechism says, we by nature hate God and neighbour.

Anyone today who teaches that natural man can rightly understand and interpret the world around them, including the law written on their mind or conscience, is not recognizing the far-reaching effects of the fall into sin.

When we speak with people who say, “I am not really that bad.” We must be willing to point them to the truth, in wisdom, and show them, from their own live, the utter depravity and the vital need for an Advocate with the Father which they do not have. Jesus has come to save sinners, not the righteous.

IV. All the answers to our questions can be found in this world.

Pang huli mga kapatid, It is indeed wrong to say that “**All the answers to our questions can be found in this world.**” All of the answers to our questions, the ultimate questions must come from God. In one way, we could respond and say that the answer to all of our questions must come from the Holy Scriptures, for this is how God teaches us, but more accurately pwede nating masabi na ang mga sagot sa ating mga tanong ay nagmumula lamang sa banal na kasulatan sa pamamagitan lamang ng gawa ng Banal na Espiritu.

Maraming tanong ang mundo subalit kadalasan ang mga sagot ay lalo pang nakakagulo sa isipan ng tao.

Take for instance the theory of evolution. This isn't just an answer to the questions of how old is the world, or why do birds have wings, etc. **ano po ang karaniwang sagot na ating maririnig, “nag umpisa iyan sa isang malaking pagsabog, bilyong taun na ang nakalilipas, Instead of just answering it , “Its because of Gods act of Creation, he causes all things to exist.”** This is a whole belief system and worldview. Taliwas po ito sa mga salita ng Diyos at mismong sa Diyos. The world doesn't recognize this as clearly as we do. This whole evolutionary, atheistic worldview is being publicly funded by your tax dollars in public schools. I hope you didn't think public schools were neutral in terms of its relationship to God. No, that is impossible. Isn't this clear from our confession no one or nothing is ever neutral. You are either for God or against God.

Brothers and sisters, our world is continually telling us lies. Our world denies their own wickedness and depravity. God's word reminds us of our sinfulness **to point us to the solution. I John 2:1 says, “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”**

The law shows us **our unrighteousness**, and the gospel tells us about **Christ righteousness**. Keep this in mind brothers & sisters, **The perfect righteousness of Christ's is ours, by faith. Repent and believe in Him.** Amen.

Let us sing the Hymns of Response “Not what my hands have done “ #389 1-3

BENEDICTION & CHARGE

Ephesians 3: 20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.