TALKING POINTS

Exodus

Quarter 3, Lesson 8
"Covenant at Sinai"

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MEMORY VERSE: "'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'" Exodus 19:4-6, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson is on the giving of the decalogue on Mt. Sinai.

1. God's Law is holy, just and good (Sun-Tue)

- God took the initiative in the people's deliverance and the giving of His law.
    - When He met w/Moses at Horeb, God told him to bring the Israelites back to the same place (Ex. 3:1, 10-12).
    - When once again at Horeb, He introduced Himself as their deliverer before giving the law and entering into covenant relationship with them (Ex. 19:4-6).
- The giving of the law at Sinai conveyed God's holiness – and consequently, the Law's (Ex. 19:10, 11; Heb. 12:18f).
    - God wanted the scene to impress His people with His holiness, the holiness of His law, and their inability to keep it holy.

> God purposed to make the occasion of speaking His law a scene of awful grandeur, in keeping with its exalted character. The people were to be impressed that everything connected with the service of God must be regarded with the greatest reverence. PP 303 (Qtly, Fri, par 1)

- God's law was intended for the good of humanity.
    - "In the Bible, God's law is seen in a very positive light." Qtly, Wed, par 2
        - "…that it may be well with you…" (Dt. 5:33); "happy is he who keeps the law" (Pr. 29:18); "…in keeping them there is great reward" (Ps. 19:11); "the commandment… was to bring life" (Rom. 7:10); "Blessed are those who do His commandments" (Rev. 22:14).
    - The essence of the law is love (Rom. 13:8-10) – "horizontal love" and "vertical love."
        - "True obedience is simply an expression of love and gratitude toward Jesus." Qtly, Tue, last par.

2. God's Law is integral to the plan of salvation (Wed)

- That fact that the law can't save us is not an argument for getting rid of the law.
    - The purpose of the law is two-fold:
        - It acts as a fence, or boundary (Gen. 2:16, 17; Ps. 19:11; Jas. 2:12).
        - It serves as a guidepost to point us to Jesus (Gal. 3:24).
    - The very concept of justification implies and requires a law (see Gal. 2:16-21; Rom. 3:19-23).
        - "Because salvation is by faith and not works – including works of the law – some Christians claim that the law is done away with and that we no longer have to keep it…. The existence of the law is precisely why we need the gospel." Qtly, Wed, last par

3. Christ is the "end of the law for righteousness" (Thu)

- The word "end" in this passage comes from the Greek word telos, which means the goal or intent of the law.
    - "the end of faith" (1 Pet. 1:9); "the end of the Lord" (Jas. 5:11).
        - "The meaning of the word telos is primarily purposeful and goal-oriented, not time related." Qtly, Thu, last par
    - Compare Romans 10:5-13 w/Deut. 30:8-14
        - Are these passages trying to convince us that we can't keep God's commandments, or that through Christ, we can?
- In Christ, these "ten words" are promises of what God is willing and able to do for us.
    - This doesn't mean they aren't commandments, but that because God has always taken the initiative in salvation, and is the One who "gives to all life, breath and all things" (Ac. 17:25), we can have confidence that He will always give us the strength to do what He asks or commands us to do.

> The Ten Commandments, Thou shalt and Thou shalt not, are ten promises, assured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe "if ye love me, keep my commandments (Jn. 14:15)." 12LtMs, Ms 41, 1897, par. 26

> As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. COL 333.1

CONCLUSION

> The law of ten commandments is not to be looked upon as much from the prohibitory side, as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience. As received in Christ, it works in us the purity of character that will bring joy to us through eternal ages. 1888 1575.3