

## **Week One – January 29, 2018**

### **The First Commandment**

Commandments are statements which direct us to do or, not to do something. Martin Luther tries to help us look at The Ten Commandments using positive language, as this is how we are to come to know the loving nature of God.

#### **THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

#### **Pastor's Commentary**

In the First Commandment, God tells us not to have “other gods”.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term “god” this way: Something afforded supreme importance appropriate to a god. I define it this way: anything in which I put my security and hopes for the present and future. In other words, something other than God that I trust to provide and care for me. The decisions we make, the way we structure and live our lives declare the god we trust and serve.

**1- How would you define the term “god”?**

**2- Can you identify anything in your life that you might allow to fit that definition?**

As Luther explains what the Commandments mean, he uses the terms “fear, love, and trust” in each explanation. In this, he is trying to help us be honest with ourselves so that we are not trying to “justify ourselves” as to how good are at keeping the Commandment. Instead, Luther is leading us to frankly admit that we are indeed sinners in this regard, and should rightly fear judgement. But, because we believe that God is loving and merciful, we can be honest with God and ourselves. We reset the proper and faithful relationship with God that we corrupted. Now, having done that, we are allowing the loving and trusting God who has chosen us, to be our security, our hope, our God... the “God in whom we trust.” And it is in this, that our lives, once again, become a response to God’s love for us.

#### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,<sup>14</sup> says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know

the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Ponder This**

1- How can knowing that God has chosen you be a blessing that shapes your life?

**Luther’s 4 Strands of Prayer**

1- What is God trying to teach me here?

2- What does this passage make me thankful for?

3- Where have I fallen short and need God to help and guide me?

4- Pray.