

5. God's Law



Thursday

Place #5 picture (tablets) on cross

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-11, Daniel 9:4-8, Galatians 3:23-24

3 candles lit before reading

God wants people to be happy, but the only way we can be happy is by following His instructions. So He gave us His word, His written word, to make it very clear to us where our life comes from and how we can keep it. But again and again we think our ideas are better than God's. And we choose sin and death over obedience and life.

Psalm 19 tells us how the law is good:

The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.
Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever.
The laws of the LORD are true, each one is fair.
They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold.
They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.
They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

Daniel recognized that the nation of Israel had wronged God by not following the law that God had given them, but he knew that God loved them by giving rules for them to live by.

O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill Your covenant and keep Your promises of unfailing love to those who love You and obey Your commands. But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against You and scorned Your commands and regulations. We have refused to listen to Your servants the prophets, who spoke on Your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land. LORD, You are in the right; but as You see, our faces are covered with shame...because of our disloyalty to You.

(Have kids blow out another candle. Do not light again until Easter.)

The Law is a mysterious thing. It was given for our benefit, but it causes us to fail. So why then did God give us the law?

The purpose of the Law is to show us what is right and what is wrong. Once we understand the difference, we begin to see just how far from perfect we really are. We find ourselves frustrated and desperate. It is impossible for anyone to obey ALL the law! This brings us to the benefit of the law...it points us to Jesus, and we see our need for a savior!

...before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

PRAY: Lord, we know that Your law is good and perfect, but we also know that we cannot keep it on our own. Thank You for sending Your son to help us obey Your word.