

II.VI THE LAW OF GOD IS WRITTEN ON EVERY HEART: Romans 2:14-15 - Shepherd School

I. OPENING RAYER: All.

II. SERMON:

THE LAW OF GOD IS WRITTEN ON EVERY HEART: Romans 2:14-15

CONTEXT. Lest the Gentiles think they are not guilty before God because they have not received the written Law, God, through Paul, shows them that they still stand guilty as Law breakers and are in great need of Jesus to save them.

OUTLINE. Two points from the text, 6 uses for Instruction, and other Uses sprinkled throughout.

DOCTRINE. God's Moral Law is written on the heart of His image bearers, leaving them all without excuse before Him and in need of Christ's redemption.

I. THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THE WRITTEN LAW OF GOD, BY NATURE STILL KNOW THE MORAL LAW OF GOD (Rom. 2:14).

Romans 2:14 "For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law."

CLARIFICATION: Those who have the written Law of God have it by nature and by special revelation.

II. BY NATURE EVERY IMAGE BEARER KNOWS THE MORAL LAW OF GOD BECAUSE THE WORK OF THE LAW IS WRITTEN ON THEIR HEART (Rom. 2:15a).

Romans 2:15a "They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts,"

- **EZEKIEL HOPKINS:** "This unwritten or natural law, for the substance and matter of it, is the same with the moral law contained in the Scriptures. It requires the performance of the duties of religion, towards God; the

duties of sobriety, towards ourselves; and the duties of love and charity, towards others." — Ezekiel Hopkins, *The Works of Ezekiel Hopkins, Vol. 3, Pg. 302*

- **EZEKIEL HOPKINS:** "The work of the law was written in their hearts, when as the words of the law were not written in their books." — Ezekiel Hopkins, *The Works of Ezekiel Hopkins, Vol. 3, Pg. 303*

III. 6 USES FOR INSTRUCTION, WITH OTHER USES SPRINKLED IN.

I) God wrote His Moral Law on Adam's heart (Gen. 1:26, Eccl. 7:29, Col. 3:10).

Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"

- **Ecclesiastes 7:29** "See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."
- **Colossians 3:10** "put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."
 - **THOMAS BOSTON:** "He was created wise: Not that he knew all things, for that is proper to the omniscient Being alone; but he was ignorant of nothing that he was obliged to know; he had all the knowledge that was necessary for life and godliness."

II) God writes His Moral Law on the hearts of Adam's Posterity, though their hearts are marred by sin (Rom. 5:12-14).

**turn with me*

Romans 5:12-14 "12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come."

- There is no sin where there is now law, yet sin reigned from Adam to Moses. How? Because the Law was not given in written form, yet it was given in heart form.

III) Those who do not have the written Law are still guilty of breaking the first and second tables of it, because they still have the Moral Law written on their heart (Rom 1:25-31).

**turn with me*

Romans 1:18-32 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress

the truth (**they have the truth!**). 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **(1-4CVs)**

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **(7CV)**

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness **(10CV)**, malice. They are full of envy, murder **(6CV)**, strife, deceit **(9CV)**, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents **(5CV)**, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die **(they know not only God's Moral Law, they know also the punishment owed to Law breakers!)**, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." **(Literally all of these are a breaking of the 8th Commandment, as sinners try to steal God's glory by glorifying themselves through their sinful desires)**

CLARIFICATION. Those who have the written Law of God by nature and Scripture are doubly guilty, sinning not only against their nature but also against God's special revelation He has graciously given them.

– **turn with me**

Romans 2:17-24 "17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God 18 and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; 19 and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit

adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. 24 For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

USE FOR EXAMINATION.

- **Q. Do you think you are any better off than those who are without the written Law or than those who reject the written Law?** You had it by nature and by Scripture, and you still sinned against God. You are doubly guilty if you are unconverted, or you were doubly guilty before you were born again by God's grace.

IV) The Son of God fulfilled the Law of God, and paid the penalty of redemption for the enemies of God (Matt. 3:15, Gal. 3:13).

- **Matthew 3:15:** "But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented."
 - **Galatians 3:13** "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.'"

USE FOR COMFORT

V) The Law of God is rewritten on the heart in regeneration (Jer. 31:31-34).

turn with me

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

USE FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

VI) God's Moral Law is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- **(i)** The Moral Law of God was written on Adam's heart of flesh.
- **(ii)** After the fall, the Moral Law of God is still written on Adam's posterities' hearts, though they are now made of stone because of sin.
- **(iii)** The Moral Law of God was written at Sinai on Tablets of Stone by God's finger.

(iv) That same Moral Law of God is written on regenerated hearts of flesh with Christ's blood by God's Spirit.

*Let me finish by giving you
4 USES FOR DIRECTION.*

- **JOHN TRAPP:** "Divinity must be done as well as known."

I) Teach these things to those in your charge.

II) Evangelize knowing that the Law of God is written on the heart of everyone you talk to.

- They know the one true God.
- They know they owe Him obedience and worship.
- They know they owe their neighbors love and mercy.
- They know they deserve death for their sin.

III) Pray that God would regenerate those you proclaim the gospel to, and write His Law on their heart by His grace through the Spirit.

IV) If you are in Christ, praise our triune God that He did not leave you guilty with the Law written on your heart by nature.

- He sent you the Gospel;
- He sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts by which you cry, "Abba, Father!";
- He took away the heart of stone and gave you a heart of flesh;
- He wrote His Law on that new heart with the quill of the Spirit dipped in the blood of the Christ;
- He will one day perfect you so that you will not only obey His Law in sincerity, but in glorified security!
 - Hallelujah! What a Savior!

III. SONG:

B r e a k (start back at 7:10pm)

IV. 1689 Confession: Ch 19. Par 1-2 (finish by 7:35pm)

V. DISCUSSION (finish by 8pm)

God's Law Made Easy

The Ten Commandments

Closing Prayer

SYLLABUS

📖 SHEPHERD SCHOOL - SEASON TWO (2026) - THE WORD, THE GOSPEL, & THE LAW 📖

WEEK	Scripture	Book I <i>(read before)</i>	Book II <i>(read before)</i>	1689 Confession	Certificate Essays	Certificate Exposition
1. 2/12	2 Timothy 2:1-7	INTRO	INTRO	INTRO	INTRO	INTRO
2. 2/19	1 Thessalonians 2:13	The Properties of the Written Word, Part 1: Authority and Clarity <i>Reformed Systematic Theology (vol. 1)</i> by Joel Beeke (pg. 334-351)	The Ten Commandments Obedience & Love by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 1 Par. 1-3		
3. 2/26	Isaiah 8:19-20	The Properties of the Written Word, Part 2: Necessity, Unity, Efficacy <i>Reformed Systematic Theology (vol. 1)</i> by Joel Beeke (pg. 352-370)	The Ten Commandments The Preface to the Commandments (pg. 12-29) by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 1 Par. 4-5		
4. 3/5	Psalms 19:7-11	The Properties of the Written Word, Part 3: Inerrant Veracity <i>Reformed Systematic Theology (vol. 1)</i> by Joel Beeke (pg. 371-382)	The Ten Commandments The Preface to the Commandments (pg. 29-43) by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 1 Par. 6-8		First Draft Exposition Due *Certificate path will meet an extra night this week
5. 3/12	2 Timothy 3:15-17	The Properties of the Written Word, Part 5: Sufficiency <i>Reformed Systematic Theology (vol. 1)</i> by Joel Beeke (pg. 395-408)	The Ten Commandments The Right Understanding of the Law by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 1 Par. 9-10		
6. 3/19	Matthew 19:17 + Romans 2:14-15	Introduction + The Essence of God's Law <i>God's Law Made Easy</i> by Kenneth Gentry (pg. 1-24)	The Ten Commandments The First Commandment by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 19 Par. 1-2		
7. 3/26	Matthew 5:17-20	Christ and God's Law + The New Testament and God's Law <i>God's Law Made Easy</i> by Kenneth Gentry (pg. 25-46)	The Ten Commandments The Second Commandment by Thomas Watson	1689 Confession Ch. 19 Par. 3-5	Short Essay on the Sufficiency of the Scriptures *1,000-1,200 words	

