

Sunday, October 31, 2021

The 10 Commandments Revisited

Intro

- Greeting
- Announcements
 - Essentials Class next week
 - Prayer Night next week at 7pm
 - Join me in a time of fasting from 8-8 sat-sun
 - Check out our facebook page for the Bible Project Video on Deuteronomy
- Pray
- It is really important to keep the big picture of Redemption in our minds while we read any passage of scripture. Remember, the Bible is one unified story from beginning to end that leads us to Jesus. While we can experience it's beauty and power one verse at a time and even randomly by just opening any page, it is not meant to be read this way. Just as you read a newspaper different than you read a John Grisham book or a phone book, so too do we read the Scriptures as one unified whole. Each book has it's own genre and we interpret it as such, the histories understood differently than the psalms, the epistles differently than the Gospels. Yet the entire Bible in all of its multifaceted parts is one story that leads us to Jesus on every page. It truly is an incredible book.
- The Major undercurrent of the Bible is the movements of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration and this morning we are going to approach the Ten Commandments by looking at them through this lens.
- *Deuteronomy 5:1–5 (ESV): And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. 2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 Not with our fathers did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. 4 The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, 5 while I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to*

declare to you the word of the Lord. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said:

- Before Moses dives into the Ten Commandments for this second generation, he reminds them of how they were given. Chapter 4 does this in much greater detail so check out last week's message or go back and read it again for yourself if you want more.
- He says that these rules are given in the context of Covenant.
 - A covenant is an agreement between two parties, the closest thing we have to it today would be marriage. The idea is that two parties come together, set the terms of the agreement, and promise to follow through with their part of the agreement while acknowledging that if they break their side there will be repercussions.
 - Historians and scholars have found many of these covenants in the cultures of the near east peoples. The most common being between a suzerian, or a more powerful people, and a vassal, or a weaker people. The covenants in the Hebrew Scriptures follow these patterns almost identically with one key difference: God is the initiator of the covenant, there is no comparison between he and the suzerain and he has every right as creator to demand full obedience without any sort of blessing or promise whatsoever. That being said, his covenants are given in light of his grace. First he calls, rescues, and redeems his people and then as a response to this grace his people are to respond in joyful obedience. This is where the 10 words, or the Ten Commandments come in.
- Horeb is another name for Mt Sinai. Moses says, this covenant was not like the covenant made with the patriarchs: Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. That covenant was unilaterally made and fulfilled by God regardless of the obedience of the fathers. No matter what, God would send a redeemer through the line of Abraham, no matter what he would give his people a land, no matter what he would bless the entire world through this one group of people. That covenant was unconditional, this one had conditions. If the people followed the rules of this covenant, they would experience the fullest measure of life possible. Unfortunately, the history of the people of Israel shows us a rollercoaster ride of mostly disobedience and idolatry.
- Before we point a finger however, let us look in the mirror. Let me read these commandments and if you have never broken any of them, raise your hand:

- *Deuteronomy 5:6–21 (ESV): “ ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 “ ‘You shall have no other gods before me. 8 “ ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 9 You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 11 “ ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. 12 “ ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. 16 “ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. 17 “ ‘You shall not murder. 18 “ ‘And you shall not commit adultery. 19 “ ‘And you shall not steal. 20 “ ‘And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 21 “ ‘And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’*
- Anybody in the clear? Not me, that’s for sure. Even if you could say that you are perfect, like Paul does in the letter to the Philippians, in the sermon on the mount Jesus reveals that the issue here is greater than external obedience. Ok everyone, moral of the story is: I suck, you suck, we all suck. Have a fantastic rest of your day and remember, if you celebrate Halloween you’re a giant sinner. Just kidding. Let’s dig a little deeper and take a look at these commandments through the lenses of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration.

- Creation and Fall

- The very first thing we have to see, again I can’t stress this enough, is that these commands are given in the context of Grace. First God brings them out of Egypt and out of slavery, and then as a response to this salvation He gives them the law so that

they might joyful obey. The key to understanding these is to see them as the path to deep joy and fullness of life rather than the rules of a megalomaniac dictator who want's to take away our fun.

- God is not an old grumpy man in heaven waiting for us to screw up so that he can beat us with a stick: he wants us to experience the deepest joy possible and this deepest joy only comes to us when we align ourselves with his character. He is perfect, perfectly holy, perfectly good, perfectly just, perfect in every way and a these commands flow out of who He is in himself. Do give us himself, as the greatest thing in the universe, is to give us what we need. In fact, the ten words can be divided into two tables: the first 4 dealing with our relationship with God, and after this is established as primary, the latter 6 dealing with our relationship with one another.
- Now that we've established the context, Let's take a look at them the way that the church has historically understood them: positively and negatively. By that i mean this: Each command can be understood as calling us to avoid something as well as pursue something. Paul says it perfectly in Colossians 3. Put to death these things, and then put on these things.
- V7 "You shall have no other gods before me"
 - Negatively: We are to worship nothing and no one else but God alone. Before me can also be translated besides me. There is one God and to worship anything else is to worship creation rather than creator. Other gods are in fact NO gods at all. It all begins here because to worship anything other than God is to say we want his gifts over him, just like our first parents in the garden. Every other sin flows out of this one.
 - Positively: This is not simply a mental exercise of knowing the right things but of using every part of us in the worship of God. Heart, soul, mind, strength. Heart and soul: the center of our being, the weightiest thing in our life is God. Mind and strength: not only is this a matter of knowledge, intellect and will, it is also a matter of obedience and action.
- V8 "You shall not make for yourself a carve image, or any likeness of anything..."
 - Negatively: We do not get to decide who God is, what he looks like or how he operates outside of what He reveals to us. Images in the near east where most likely statues or objects made in the image of a specific god in order to bring the god's attention to a situation and bind him to the worshiper. What God was

doing was setting Israel apart from their neighbors. He made everything therefore nothing in His creation resembles him perfectly or can contain him.

- This one has repercussions built into it: 3 to 4 generations live under one roof and sin has consequences. We know this through alcoholism, sexual and physical abuse. While God never judges someone for another person's sin, the patterns of sin do repeat themselves and spread further than we know.
- Positively: What God has revealed about himself in Scripture through his Holy Spirit is enough. Not only this, but he has already created something in his image: humans. And more importantly, Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
 - Not only are the repercussions built in, but so too are the benefits. Steadfast love will be shown to thousands, literally to the thousandth generation for those who love God and keep his commandments. So freaking awesome!
- V11 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"
 - Negatively: To bring the character, nature, and reputation of God into a situation lightly or in the wrong way is a big deal. This isn't saying "oh my God" necessarily, it's bringing God's stamp onto something. To do this flippantly is wrong. God is the weightiest thing in the universe so to just throw him around willy-nilly is not ok.
 - Positively: When we approach God, worship God, pray to God, or even talk about God, there is a measure of fear, reverence, honor, respect, and dignity that we must have. A.W. Tozer begins his famous book "knowledge of the holy" by saying, " what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." The fact that He is so approachable is something precious, we dare not take advantage of it. The fact that we can come boldly into the throne of Grace, that we can stand before him without terror, these are gifts won by Jesus and they are not to be misused.
- V12 "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"
 - Negatively: We were not made to find our identity in our work. We are not human DOINGS, we are human BEINGS meant to find our identity in the one who made us. To work constantly without rest is to declare to God that we trust ourselves more than we trust him. Yet Jesus speaks about the heart behind the Sabbath over and over again in the gospels declaring that "the sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath." It's possible to be too legalistic with this command and therefore missing out on actual rest.

- Positively: If the sabbath was made for man not the other way around, then it is a gift given to us by a God who cares for us. In Exodus this command is based in the creation order: the fact that God rested from his work on the 7th day. Not because he needed something, but because he was setting a precedent. Here in this chapter it is based in something greater, redemption. Not only are they called to rest from THEIR work but they are to make sure that no one, not even their animals, are to work all the time. This even extends to those outside of the nation of Israel to those who are merely in their cities. They were once slaves and they were rescued by God's might hand and outstretched arm, therefore they are to work for the good of everyone in their care. They did nothing to save themselves, so to rest on the Sabbath means to rest in God's continued care for their well being. If we have a greater Exodus, a greater redemption, how much more important is it for us to rest in His daily care for us?
- V17 "honor your father and your mother"
 - Negatively: to honor something or someone is to give a weighty place in your life therefore to dishonor someone is to show contempt for the authority that they have been given over you. Your parents are the reason you exist, to treat them with contempt then is a serious thing. The Lord starts with the family unit here because the rest of the commandments flow from a break down of authority. If we desire to throw off the authority of God, we will worship lesser, created things. If we are worshiping lesser created things, we will want to throw off even the authority of our parents. This will then spread to county, neighbor, and every other relationship. Just like marriage, the family unit is a picture or an image of a deeper reality, to despise the authority God has placed on us in our family is to show our true feelings toward His authority over us. It's no circumstance that family units are breaking down and authority is despised in America. We were founded on bucking authority.
 - Positively: Authority, while it can be and certainly is abused, is instituted by God. Sin gets in the way of authority figures acting how they should and many of us have been hurt dearly by those who were supposed to care for and protect us both in our families and in the church. Yet for those of us in Christ, we are called to treat all people with respect. In Ephesians Paul says submit yourselves to ONE ANOTHER out of reverence for Christ. To be a Christian is to be a person who desires to put others good and wellbeing above our own. Paul says this in *Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV): Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not*

only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. This flows first from our view of God's authority over us and then into all the other areas of our lives. Have those in authority sinned against us? Absolutely and it is not ok. Yet how we respond points past the situation itself to our trust in our good Father and can be a huge witness to the power of the Gospel.

- V17 “You shall not murder”
 - Negatively: at this point we move from worship and obedience to God to interaction and dealings with our fellow man. The KJV translates this word as “kill” but it is better translated murder. The causing of human death through carelessness or negligence. Why is this such a big deal? Because man was made in the image of God and is therefore immensely valuable, to take another's life is the highest crime against the creator. Remember, the first sin against another human recorded in scripture is the murder of Abel by Cain. A life for a life is the rule in the OT. In cases of accidental manslaughter, cities of refuge were set up where the man slayer could flee for safety. Yet a life was still required for the death of the innocent, in this case the life was that of the high priest. After the high priest died, the man slayer could return home.
 - Positively: Life is precious. Not only should we actively avoid harming another human being, but we should work extensively for the good of our fellow human beings. Life is precious, everyone was made in God's image regardless of their religious background, sexual orientation, political ideology, unborn state, or whatever. Life is precious and we must do everything in our power to work for the good of people from all walks of life, especially our fellow brother and sister in Christ.
- V18 “you shall not commit adultery”
 - Negatively: Marriage is an institution that points beyond itself to the love of a faithful LORD and savior and therefore it is not to be taken lightly. Any sort of cheating is off limits, emotional, through porn, affairs, open marriages, marriage is a symbol of God's love for his people and therefore is to show exclusive faithfulness.
 - Positively: the book of Hebrews say's “let marriage be held in honor among all and let the marriage bed be undefiled. In the most famous passage on marriage in the scriptures, Ephesians 5:22–33 (ESV) says this: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as

the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- Marriage points beyond itself to the churches relationship to Christ. And this isn't a new idea, it was one of the most prominent images used to describe God's relationship with his people in the OT. Read the book of Hosea. Man. We are called to be a faithful people, because we are united to a faithful God.
- V19 “You shall not steal”
 - Negatively: To take anything that does not belong to us is to declare to God that we do not trust Him to provide for us. Stealing is like a middle finger to God's provision. The idea here is not just blatant theft like robbery or forgery but lesser crimes like tax evasion or taking advantage of tax loopholes like so many do.
 - Positively: We are to be a generous people. To not steal is to be content with what we have. Not only that, but we should work generously for the benefit of our fellow man. Look at the early church, they shared everything among themselves that those who had much gave to those who had little and there was no one who was in need. In fact, Rome became a Christian nation primarily through how early Christians treated the poor. Not only did they care for their own families and their brothers and sisters in Christ, they cared for literally everyone. There is an extra biblical report of Emperor Vespasian (i think) being pissed off because Christians are doing such a good job caring for all the poor, not just their own communities. One of our core values is open handed living. To give generously, to hold on to our things loosely, and even our people as we send them on mission, is to trust in Jehovah Jirah: the Lord who provides.
- V 20 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”

- Negatively: this specifically has to do with honest testimony in court, otherwise known as perjury. The judicial system is a huge part of the stability of a culture and so truthful witness in court is essential. Yet this extends beyond court to personal relationships in general. Over and over again in the scriptures, God says he detests lying. Why? Because he is perfectly truthful. Truth is part of who he is, he CANNOT tell a lie, even more than George Washington. To lie is to go against the grain of God's character.
- Positively: Honesty is to be a mark of the people of God because it is a mark of God himself. Not only this, but we are work for the good reputation of others. This is why gossip is such a big deal. It isn't affairs that sink churches, it's gossip. Loose lips sink.... Churches. When James is speaking about the tongue being a flame of fire set on fire by hell, it is gossip and lying that he is referring to. Attacking the character of a person is a serious issue and rumors are easy to believe and hard to irradiate. Our honest should be an active honesty.
- V21 "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, house, field, servants, ox, donkey, or anything"
 - Negatively: We are to be satisfied with what we have been given. God gives graciously to all and everything that we have is a gift given to us by a generous God. Therefore, wanting what we do not have is declaring to God that we are unsatisfied with the situation where he has placed us. It was the concept of coveting that the prophet Nathan used to rebuke David for his sin against Uriah and Bathsheba.
 - Positively: Paul says in Romans that he wouldn't have known that coveting was a sin had the law not told him that it was wrong. The crazy thing about this command is that it is not an external act against our neighbor. It is entirely internal. If you break any of the other 9 commandments, you will have first broken this one. You want the tangibility of other gods, so you worship them. You see them, want them, and so create an image or find your identity in something other than God. You want a better reputation so you take the name of God in vain when promising something. You want more money or stuff so you refuse to rest and trust that God has things under control. You want freedom from authority so you despise your parents. You want what your neighbor has so you kill them. You want to fulfill your lust so you commit adultery. You want what you do not have so you steal. You want someone else to pay, hurt, or you want to get out of getting in trouble so you lie or beater false witness. It all begins with

the internal command of coveting. Positively then, not only should we be satisfied with what we have, we should actively work for the good of others.

- Let's read the next part starting at v22

• *Deuteronomy 5:22–27 (ESV): These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. 23 And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. 24 And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. 25 Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? 27 Go near and hear all that the Lord our God will say, and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'*

- What is insanely crazy is the fact that God delivered these commandments verbally from the Mtn and the people at the bottom didn't die on the spot. We don't have time to hit this scene in detail but I talked about it at length last week if you are interested. we could spend so much more time in these commandments, they are so incredibly practical and we could turn them over and over again seeing a new facet of beauty each time we did. The big idea is this: all of these flow out of God's good and perfect character and if we could obey them perfectly they would bring us into perfect joy and satisfaction. But there is a problem with our hearts. We cannot perfectly keep these, whether negatively or positively. We WILL stumble and fall. The Israelites promised to keep these commandments, but we know how that went. Look what happens next.

- Redemption and Restoration

- *Deuteronomy 5:28–33 (ESV): And the Lord heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the Lord said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. 29 Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! 30 Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." 31 But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole*

commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.’ 32 You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

- Did you catch that? The LORD’S deepest desire is for His people to experience the fullness of his love in his holy and righteous presence. Through perfect obedience to the law, this is possible. But there is a problem with man’s heart. The heart of man is unable to perfectly fear God and keep all his commands.
- Throughout the rest of the OT God, through his prophets, calls his people back to this covenant. If they would walk in it they would experience the blessings that God has for them, and these blessings are laid out in detail later on in this book. Yet they worship and serve creature rather than creator. Over and over again they desire autonomy from God, and God gives them over to their sin. He sends his Prophets to urge them back to His ways, but they do not listen. Finally, They come to their senses and cry out for rescue and God delivers them. And this patterns repeats itself over and over again. Look what Moses says a little later in Deuteronomy 10:12–22 (ESV):

- *And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. 15 Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. 16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. 22 Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.*

- A heart change is needed to take away our stubbornness. A heart change is needed for us to walk in His ways. And that is exactly what God promises will happen. After generations of experiencing the roller coaster of rescue and exile, the prophet Jeremiah says this
 - *Jeremiah 31:31–34 (ESV): 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."*
- And this is exactly what happened. What we are about to celebrate in communion is this new covenant. In order for our hearts to be circumcised, Jesus, the Son of God, was cut off and cast out. He perfectly obeyed not just the letter of the law but the heart behind it. Everything Jesus did He did for the Father. He was and is the image of the invisible God who makes known to us the father. He was given the Name above every name and perfectly brought the character of the Father into every circumstance. He perfectly enjoyed the sabbath rest and invites us to rest in him. He obeyed his father and his mother in all things and with his dying breath gave his disciple to care for his mother Mary. He not only never killed, he brought life and peace everywhere he went. He was perfectly celibate, not lusting after another but treating everyone with the honor and respect they deserve as image bears. He never stole though he had no place to lay his head. He never bore false witness, telling the truth to the point of death as false witnesses lied about him. He was perfectly satisfied in the Father and desired only that his will would be accomplished.
 - Though he deserved all the blessings that Deuteronomy lays out, to circumcise our hearts he took all the curses upon himself. By placing your faith in him, his obedience becomes yours. The curses that you deserve because of your disobedience are placed on his shoulders on the cross and when he rose from the grave you can rise with him into newness of life.
- Because of Jesus and his perfect obedience to this law, not only can our hearts be changed, but we GET to live this life of joy. Not only do we get to, we WANT to and

we finally CAN. And when we sin, and we will until we go home to glory, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Because of Jesus, these commands are not burdensome: they are easy and light and the pathway to joy. Because of Jesus, we WANT TO/GET TO/CAN worship only Him and He as the image of the invisible has revealed to us. We WANT TO/GET TO/CAN bring his name and character into all we do. We WANT TO/GET/ TOCAN rest and the rest points to our eternal rest in him. We WANT TO/GET TO/CAN live in humility to those in authority over us. We WANT TO/GET TO/CAN bring kindness and peace, We WANT TO/GET TO/CAN live faithfully in our relationships. We WANT/GET/CAN be satisfied with what we have. We WANT/GET/CAN be a people of the truth. We WANT TO/GET TO/CAN trust God at his word and where he has placed us.
- I want to end this morning with this exhortation from 1 John 5. May we be a church characterized by this type of life.
 - *1 John 5:2–4 (ESV): By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
 - Let's Pray