

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The commandments at Sinai

20:1 Then God spoke all these words,

20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.

20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

20:7 "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

20:13 "You shall not murder.

20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

20:15 "You shall not steal.

20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance

20:19and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

20:20Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Psalm 19

The commandments give light to the eyes

19:1The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

19:2Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

19:3There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

19:4yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

19:5which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

19:6Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

19:7The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

19:8the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

19:9the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

19:10More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

19:11Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

19:12But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

19:13Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

19:14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Philippians 3:4b-14

To know Christ and his resurrection

3:4bIf anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

3:5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

3:6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

3:7Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

3:8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

3:9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

3:10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,

3:11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.

3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

3:14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

The parable of the vineyard owner's son

21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away.

21:34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

21:35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

21:36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way.

21:37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

21:38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'

21:39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

21:40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

21:41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

21:43 "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits.

21:44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

21:46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.