

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Taking Root: Walking Wet ...Tablets of Stone Deut. 6:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Do you feel the Ten Commandments are valid in today's society or were they just a bunch of guidelines to keep people in line way back in Moses' time? Have you ever asked yourself what guidelines are directing your life? Does God have any place at all in what you say and do? The news media is constantly filled with stories where man has fallen short of obeying God's word and we all pay the penalty for this in one form or another. Just think of the amount of money spent, the pain and health issues one causes themselves and others, all because of someone goes against God's command. Try as we might from doing so, none of us are immune from breaking any of the commandments. Despite the plethora of excuses we can invent to justify our actions, the guilt remains in God's eyes, ours. And sad to say, guilt or accountability is not always felt by the wrong doer and, given the opportunity, that person is back living a life as if there is no God. From the time Adam blamed Eve for his disobedience and she in turn blamed the serpent for hers, man seems to take pride in avoiding responsibility and, in doing so, sin appears, from a narrow viewpoint, not to be so bad after all.

At baptism the parents and sponsors promise to teach the child the Ten Commandments. If not taught at home, then hopefully for sure the child will be taught in Sunday school. Yet even though once learned, the commandments are etched in our memory, and sooner or later, one of God's children will fall short of obedience. Repenting is our only way out. And we must continue to repent every time we fall flat on our face. If there were no commandments, what would there be to repent of or worse yet, in what sort of a society would we be living? Man made rules and regulations are not always followed and when we think about it, would we need them anyway if all of mankind truly lived by the Ten Commandments?

Perhaps the only thing that will drive a man away from God is simply his own reasoning or being weak; another voice. Some individuals may tend to believe in the ways of the world and let their own wisdom and pride lead them on their way. But really, does the wisdom of the world save anyone? There is nothing wrong with confidence and self-sufficiency in winding one's way through life, but think how much stronger one would be if those attributes were combined with a relationship with God.

The Ten Commandments are for our benefit, not God's. Sure, breaking one of the Ten Commandments results usually in guilt and/or punishment. But, in reality, living a life of obedience to the Ten Commandments is a show of gratitude to the One who not only cares and will redeem us, but has given us everything we need. What else could we possibly want?

-- Week of March 15, 2009