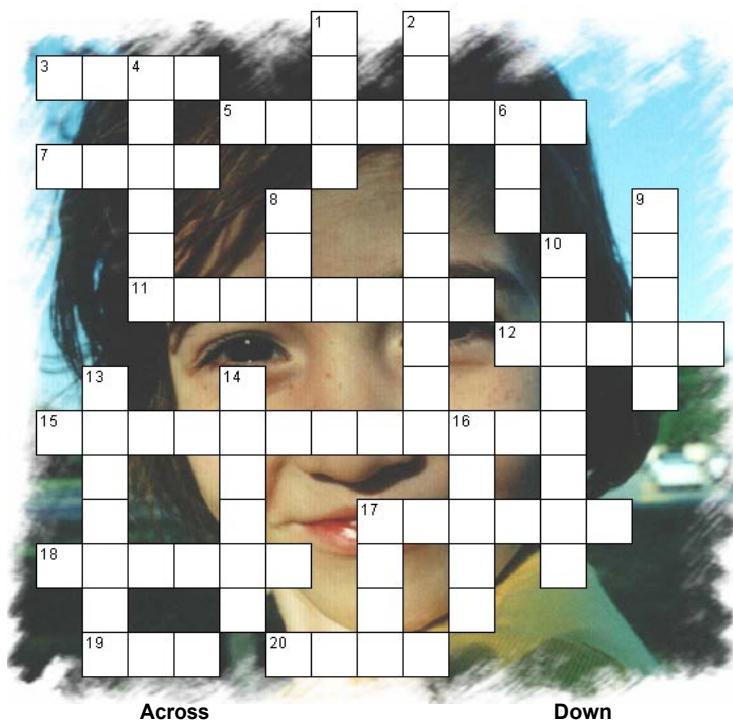


Crossword Puzzle



2-6

The Ten Commandments

- Lesson Twenty-Three -

How to Practice

Keeping the Ten Commandments

I. Overview.

St is important for us to realize that merely knowing the Ten Commandments will not enable us to fulfill the commandments. Even if we truly desire to keep the commandments, this is not enough.



Through the fall of man
sin entered into his being.

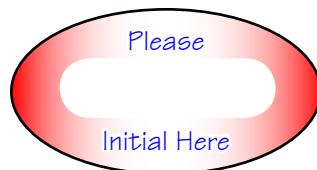
When man fell through disobedience, sin entered into man. Because of this sinful nature we automatically have a tendency to break God's law. Sin within us can cause us to do things that we know are wrong and that we even hate. The only thing that will enable us to keep God's commandments is to be strengthened by His Word. We should develop a practice of daily confessing our sins and turning our heart to the Lord. We should pray that the Lord would keep our hearts soft toward Him and loving Him. We should also receive His Word through the Bible in order to be strengthened within. It is only by such strengthening that we can live a life that fulfills the law of God.

II. Memory Verse.

"And these words, which I command you today, shall be upon your heart."

(Deut. 6:6)

Parent's Initials:



III. Lesson.

Through the fall of man, we all have the sinful nature within us. This sinful nature causes us to sin automatically – even to do things that we don't want to do. Simply knowing the Ten Commandments and desiring to fulfill them is not enough. None of us will be able to keep the commandments by our knowledge or desire.



When we confess our sins,
our hearts are softened.

We Must Be Strengthened By God's Word

No man can keep God's commandments through his own strength. No matter how hard we try, we will continue to fail. There is a way revealed in the Bible for us to live a life that is pleasing to God, fulfilling the requirements of the commandments. The way for us to live this kind of life is by being filled with God's Word. If we receive the Lord's Word, we will be inwardly strengthened and enabled to keep the commandments.

Daily Practices We Need to Develop

Because we sin every day, we need to confess our sins every day. When we turn to the Lord and confess our sins, the Lord forgives us and cleanses us of our sin. We also need to pray each day that the Lord would keep our heart soft and keep us loving Him. If we do these things and also receive His living Word, we will be supplied to live the proper kind of Christian life. It will not be by our own strength, but by the power of God's Word within us, that we can live a life that keeps the Ten Commandments.

A Soft Heart

When we sin, we should never simply try to forget it. If our conscience is telling us to confess, but we refuse, our heart will become hardened. Rather we should always turn our heart to the Lord and confess our sins. This will keep our heart soft and open to the Lord.

With a soft and open heart, we will be able to receive the Lord's Word. Then God, through His Word, will be able to do in us that which we are utterly unable to do by ourselves. We will be enabled to keep the commandments and live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What entered into man when he fell?

2. Is it good enough for us to know and desire to keep the Ten Commandments?

3. What will strengthen us to keep God's law?

4. What kind of daily practices should we develop?

