



6-19-06 His Word Is Truth!

This article is written by
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"His Word is Truth" will appear in
this paper every 3rd Monday.

Today we examine God's
5th Commandment as found
in Exodus 20:13, which
reads: "You shall not
murder." God uses this
commandment to teach us
that we should do no harm
to another human but go out
of our way to help others in
their need. In his Small
Catechism Martin Luther
explains the 5th
commandment in this way:
"We should fear and love
God that we may not hurt
nor harm our neighbor in
his body, but help and
benefit him in every
bodily need."
However, some important

distinctions must be made! commandment clearly is that possible? In unbeliefers to murder save sinners - of whom I
Please note that the proper translation is "murder" and not "kill." Why is this distinction important? The reason is that God gives to "kill." One example is when government performs capital punishment on those who are clearly guilty (see Luke 23:41 and Romans 13:1-7). Other examples would be a police officer who kills a criminal to protect others, a soldier who fights or a person using self-defense. But in all other situations the taking of a human life is MURDER. God does not even allow revenge after a violent crime has taken place (see Romans 12:17-19).

In fact, even those who have the authority to "kill" in certain situations can still be guilty of MURDER. The most obvious example of this today is that our government makes it legal for parents to pay someone to murder their pre-born children. The 5th murder before God! How

clearly is that possible? In unbeliefers to murder save sinners - of whom I
Matthew 5:21-22 Jesus makes it clear that the 5th commandment forbids the deliberate killing of people who are not guilty of certain crimes. Second, Scripture clearly teaches that human life exists from the time of conception! In Genesis 25:22 Hebrew word "ben" is used to refer to twin boys in their mother's womb. This same Hebrew word is also used for young children and even adults! In Hosea 12:3 God speaks of Jacob's actions while he was still in his mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 speaks of God forming you in your mother's womb. Finally, in Luke 1:39-45 both John the Baptist and Jesus our Lord are seen as fully human while still in the womb!

However, abortion and other types of murder are not the only ways we break the 5th Commandment. Even if you have never actually murdered a person, you are still guilty of murder because he had hatred in his heart and he once encouraged other Christians. But the risen Christ convicted Paul of his sin! Paul then received the forgiveness Christ won for all sinners on the cross. Paul received the Holy Spirit and forgiveness through the preaching of God's Word and Holy Baptism (see Luke 24:45-47, Acts 2:36-42 and Acts 22:6-16).

Believe God's Good News! Even though we are ALL sinners and guilty of murder before God, we have hope! God sent His Son to save sinners like you and me! In 1st Timothy chapter 1 the apostle Paul writes: "Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy...The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life." God wants you to see yourself as "the worst of sinners" so that you can receive the forgiveness and new life Jesus won for ALL people. Confess your sin and trust in Jesus today!! (See 1st Timothy 1:8-2:2).

Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, July 17th!
Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on The 10 Commandments with the 6th Commandment: "You Shall Not Commit Adultery!"
For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's web page: www.concordia.org
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