



This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.

His Word Is Truth!

to submit to other authorities He places over us for our good. For example, some authorities are teachers, pastors, employers, law enforcement and government (see Romans 13:1-7, 1st Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17 and 1st Peter 2:13-17).

If all earthly authorities honored God and faithfully served those under their care; if all who are under authority honored those placed over them and faithfully obeyed them, we would then have paradise on earth! In Ephesians 6:1-3 Paul says that our obedience of the 4th Commandment gives us "long life" in the land. **By "long life" God does not mean living many years as much as he means that we will have peace, joy and prosperity in our society.**

But life in this world is anything but paradise! Many families are dysfunctional and our nations are filled with poverty, crime, hatred and death. Why? We rebel against God! We disobey the 4th Commandment! Parents and other authorities often fail to do their duty and even do evil to those under their care. In the same way, we sinners often rebel against the good authorities God has placed over us. What are some examples of this? Many governments throughout history have become corrupt – rewarding evil people and oppressing those who are good. In turn, many people throughout history have rebelled against the good laws of their governments. (*Our own nation's jails and prisons are overflowing with people who have broken the 4th Commandment!*) Also, many spiritual leaders throughout history have rejected God's Word and misled their people with false teaching. In turn, many people throughout history have rejected their faithful pastors and sought

after false teachers who would speak what they wanted to hear (see 2nd Timothy 4:1-4). In addition, children have disobeyed their parents and other authorities. Likewise, parents have hurt their children either through lack of discipline or through neglect and abuse. God's 4th Commandment exposes the fact that we ALL are rebellious sinners who wish to live as we please. Our disobedience of the 4th Commandment reveals that we have rejected God as our authority. We deserve God's present and eternal wrath for our rebellion! **But the good news is that God decided to serve us who have rejected Him!** God sent His only Son to save us from the consequence of our rebellion. Jesus kept the 4th Commandment perfectly for us. In addition, Jesus suffered God's wrath in our place when He obeyed His father and died on the cross to save you and me (see

Matthew 20:28 and 26:42). Jesus then conquered death for us so that we might have the hope of resurrection and eternal life with God! God convicts us of our sin so that we might rejoice in His good news which the Spirit uses to give us faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior (see Romans 3:19-28). Those who repent and trust in Christ are completely forgiven and have new life in God's love – now and for eternity.

As God's love fills your heart you will be moved to submit to His loving plan for your life! God's Spirit will move parents to provide for their children and discipline them in love. *Even more, God's Spirit will move parents to lead their children to Christ by having them baptized and teaching them God's Word (see Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 6:4).* Likewise, God's Spirit will move children to obey their parents. The Spirit will move children to honor

their parents as instruments of God's physical and spiritual blessing in their lives.

Even though we have not kept the 4th Commandment, God has still been a faithful Father to us – *even to the point of sending His Son to die and conquer death for us rebellious sinners so that we might be His dearly loved children now and for all eternity.* Praise be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen!

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Please read the next **"His Word is Truth"** on Monday, June 19th! Pastor Eckstein will continue the series on **The 10 Commandments** with the 5th Commandment: **"You Shall Not Murder!"** For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's webpage: www.concordiajt.org
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Today we examine the 4th Commandment. Exodus 20:12 reads: **"Honor your father and mother."** Here God is teaching that He chooses to serve us through the earthly authorities He places over us. The closest authority to you is your mother and father through whom God gave you life. God uses parents to provide for their children's physical needs. God also wants parents to teach their children about God and His will for their lives. *Such families are the foundation of society!* In addition, God also wants us