

New City Catechism Class

Week Fifteen

Q15: Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

A15: That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

Romans 3:20 "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin" (ESV).

Discuss the question:

- How does this question relate to questions 13 and 14?
- What does it mean that something has a purpose?

Discuss the Scripture (vv. 19-20):

- For what purpose(s), given in verse 19, does the law speak?
- What does it mean that every mouth is stopped?
- To whom is the whole world accountable?
- Why do we find it difficult to believe that we will face God's judgment?
- What are works of the law?
- Can we be justified in the sight of God by works of the law?
- What comes through the law?
- What is knowledge of sin?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

Purpose 1:

- How does the law help us to know the holy nature of God?
- How does the law help us to know the will of God?
- How can we delight in God by delighting in the law (Ps 1)?
- "God does not require us to do things that he is not prepared to do himself" (Duncan).
How does this statement help us to see that the law is not arbitrary?

Purpose 2:

- How do Romans 3 and the law help us to know the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts?

Purpose 3:

- How does knowing God and knowing who we are show us our need of a Savior?

Purpose 4:

- How does the law teach and exhort us to live a life worthy of our Savior?
- How do we live a life worthy of our Savior (cf. Col 1:10ff.)?
- What are some of the results of living a life worthy of our Savior?