

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

### DEVOTION

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*What does God say about all these commandments?* He says: “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Exodus 20:5–6)

*What does this mean?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

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### FOR SHARING

1. G. K. Chesterton wrote, “When people cease to believe in God, they don’t believe in nothing; they believe in anything.” In what ways have his words come true in today’s world?
2. The Close of the Commandments reminds us, as Luther notes, that the Law is a serious matter to God. How do we often trivialize God’s commandments by our words and actions?
3. “The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). Describe how the Bible speaks to us through Law and Gospel.
4. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17–18). How does His perfect obedience and His sacrificial death comfort you in dealing with your temptations and failures?
5. Though we always preach and teach the Law, why is it important that the Gospel of forgiveness, life, and salvation predominate?

### PRAYER

God’s Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations. Amen. (LSB 582)