

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2013 EVENING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 31:15

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 81:1, 4, 9

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 119:13

Scripture reading: 1 Peter 2

Scripture text: Catechism Sunday 43; 1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
(! Peter 2:1)

The demand of the Lord to all people through all times remains the same: faith and obedience.

- Be careful and be true.
- The process of taking care is clearly defined: lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking.

Let us consider this evening the ninth commandment against the backdrop of the promises the Lord makes to us. We pay attention to the following two aspects:

1. **The ninth commandment wants to protect us against the evil.**
 2. **The ninth commandment calls us taking care.**
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1. **The ninth commandment wants to protect us against the evil.**

We who believe must have various attributes:

- We must lay down all physical sins like malice and every sort of deceit.
- But we must also lay down sins of the soul, which are not always clearly visible from outside – matters like hypocrisy, jealousy and all evil speaking.
- In very plain language it means that we must be very sincere: Sincerity means that we must avoid all hostility and pugnaciousness.

This command of the Lord Jesus thus joins very well with the ninth commandment prohibiting us to give false testimony.

- We must not think that we only give false testimony when we are witnesses in court telling lies under oath.
- False testimony has a lot of family giving the same end result.
 - By example think about slander and evil speaking and how extremely dangerous it is.
 - It is like a wolf in sheepskin coming in amongst a flock of sheep because he (the wolf) can then bite them all to death.

The Lord sends every Christian like a sheep amongst a pack of wolves.

- We have to live out our principles in a hard and aggressive world without doing damage to the glory of God.
- The enemies of the believers are people of nearby and far – they are everywhere.
- The misery is that often the enemies of the believers are camouflaged as fellow-believers! Sometimes they also sit with us in church!

At the hand of John 8:44 where the Lord delivered a judgement against those people going around spreading untruths, we call the transgression of the ninth commandment “**the devil’s own works**”.

- There are many people who engage in evil speaking and slandering and thereby dragging the honor of the church (the believers) through the mud.
- The Lord Jesus said:
"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."
 (John 8:44)

That is indeed so because the Satan is a liar from the first word we hear from him.

- All the miseries we know today in the world are the results of the lies of the Satan.
- The Satan is in his element when we go about with lies and land, because of these lies, in trouble.

Therefore the Bible warns us not to be like the Satan, because the Satan is the father of the lie.

- Should somebody thus live by lies and deceit, then he is living in the style of the devil.

- We may not distort truths or pull them out of context, because that is exactly how the devil does his deeds.
- Should our lives coincide therewith it means that we are following the lead of the devil.

The warning is very clear: Do not become children of the Satan through your works. Words are also works. Evil works strengthen the power of the Satan.

The problem is that there are so many people pretending to be Christians, but who are, through their dishonesty of their lives, damaging the glory of God.

- This warning is not out of season because people always have the tendency of slandering other people.
- People always have the tendency of spreading untrue stories.
- The fact is just that all sorts of loose stories cause hatred and dislike amongst people and sometimes even cause schism.
- It lets people lose their trust in each other and then distrust fills that vacuum.
- People who should be able to live in harmony with each other then come under stress and become dissatisfied with each other.

Should we make ourselves guilty to these types of matters then we damage the image of the Got the King in us.

Keep in mind that the Satan is powerful. He, when he gets the opportunity, has sufficient power to let mankind stumble.

2. **The ninth commandment calls us into taking care.**

God hears and judges over everything.

- He also hears our lies and slander against our neighbour.
- That means that you must realize that God is Personally Witness to everything we say.
- We thus have no defense upon having to face God about this sin.

The first caution to carefulness is that we must know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in their conduct and promises always absolutely honest.

- To God there is nothing else than the truth.
- Should you as image bearer of God not display this same attribute then you can expect that the Lord will punish you because of that.

This brings us to the second reason for carefulness, namely the judgement of God.

- The judgement of God is not something to trifle with.
- The lie goes directly against the glory of God.
- And God Himself promises that He will temporarily and eternally punish all sins.
- That simply means that should you not like the truth and not come to conversion, then you will be punished with the hell.

The best example of this matter is the Satan himself.

- He, amongst others, came to revolt with lies in the heaven and due to that was banned out of heaven.
- Thereafter, through lies, he brought man to a fall. Therefore God calls the devil a murderer of man.
- For this evil conduct against God as well as against man the Satan is eternally judged. He will go to hell.

You must please not think that the terror of the hell is not so bad.

- It is not something any human on earth is able to endure.
- The terror of the hell goes hand in hand with the darkest depths of being God-forsaken and suffering pain – physical and spiritual pain.
- Even more than we can now imagine.

It is remarkable that no person wants to be known as a whore or murderer, but in general people have nothing against slandering.

- We sometimes also do not care about blackening and judging people – this whilst only God alone may judge.
- This whilst all sins will be judged by God with equal severity.

Just for a moment consider what types of sin all fall under the ninth commandment:

- false witness
- distorting words
- evil speaking
- slandering
- rash/thoughtless judgement or helping to judge.
- lying and deceiving

You see, should we carefully go about the ninth commandment then we serve the glory of God and our neighbour. Therewith those who avoid this kind of conduct, also serve their own honour because we do not really have much respect for people with loose tongues.

This morning, together with the Lord Jesus Christ, we celebrated Holy Communion. He gave the assurance to everyone of us who handled the tokens of His atonement that we are fully atoned to God.

- He now prays for all of us – everyone separately, person to person.
- In His supplication to the Father He confesses with absolute honesty all our sins He offered His body and blood for.
- He does not tell a single lie about us – and also not about the fact that he atoned our sins.

May His mercy over us be so great that we, as redeemed, honestly and without any false witness go through our lives.

Take note what we confess about this in the Heidelberg Catechism, Sunday 43:

Q. 112.**What is required in the ninth commandment?****A.**

That I bear false witness against no man, (a)

nor falsify any man's words; (b)

that I be no backbiter, nor slanderer; (c)

that I do not judge, nor join in condemning any man rashly, or unheard; (d)

but that I avoid all sorts of lies and deceit, as the proper works of the devil, (e)

unless I would bring down upon me the heavy wrath of God; (f)

likewise, that in judgment and all other dealings I love the truth, speak it uprightly and confess it; (g)

also that I defend and promote, as much as I am able, the honour and good character of my neighbour. (h)

(a)

Prov.19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Prov.19:9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Prov.21:28 A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

(b)

Ps.15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Ps.50:19 Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.

Ps.50:20 Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son.

(c)

Rom.1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Rom.1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

(d)

Matt.7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Matt.7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

(e)

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

(f)

Prov.12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Prov.13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

(g)

1 Cor.13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Eph.4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

(h)

1 Pet.4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 4:3

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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