

THE PARISH LIGHT

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter – November 2017



What are the Commandments?

The question: 'What are the commandments?' is a conundrum. On this page we have a simple answer, a modern answer, and also the hillbilly answer.

Few people know what the Commandments are, still fewer obey them. Here is an English translation of the original 10 commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Horab.

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Sources: The Bible, Exodus chapter 20 verses 2-17, also chapter 34 verses 11-27. There are other matching references in Deuteronomy chapter 5 verses 6-21.

A Modern Version of The 10 Commandments

Compared with modern legislation, or even the small print in any contract, the 10 commandments are crystal clear. Nevertheless, they benefit from modern treatment especially for those who, while less than fully committed to modern religious teachings, feel the 10 commandments have innate worth.

1. You should not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. You should not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. You should not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. You should face each problem as it comes. You can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. You should not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. You should not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you can.
7. You should not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!
8. You should be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.
9. You should not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.
10. You should count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

[Here is a Hillbilly view on life's mandates.](#)

1. Just one God
2. Put nothin' before God
3. Watch yer mouth
4. Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
5. Honor yer Ma & Pa
6. No killin'
7. No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
8. Don't take what ain't yers
9. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Seems very reasonable say Will and Guy.



Broken Toys

As children bring their broken toys, with tears, for me to mend

I brought my broken dreams to God because he was my friend.

But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone

I hung around and tried to help . . . with ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried, "How can You be so slow?"

"My child," He said. "What could I do? You never did let go."

- By Ben Hildner -



Father John, while walking along the pavement in front of his church, heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son, Rory, and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and some cotton wool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. Rory, the minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said, 'Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.'



Story behind the Song

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Before Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts, there was Thomas Ken who has been called “England’s first hymnist.” He was born in 1637 in Little Berkhamstead on the fringes of greater London. When his parents died, he was raised by his half-sister and her husband who enrolled him in Winchester College, an historic boys’ school. Thomas was later ordained on the ministry and return to Winchester as a chaplain.

To encourage the devotional habits of the boys, Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674. This was revolutionary because English hymns had not yet appeared. Only the Psalms were sung in public worship. Ken suggested the boys use the hymns privately in their rooms.

One hymn was to be sung upon waking, another at bedtime, and a third at midnight if sleep didn’t come. His morning hymn had thirteen stanzas, beginning with:

Awake, my soul, and with the sun they daily stage of duty run;

Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise, to pay thy morning sacrifice.

His evening hymn, equally meaningful, included this verse:

All praise to Thee, my God, this night, for all blessings of the light!

Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings.

All three hymns ended with a common stanza, which has since become the most widely-sung verse in the world.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below/

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

In 1680, Thomas was appointed chaplain to England’s King Charles II. It was a thankless job, as Charles kept a variety of mistresses. Once the king asked to lodge a mistress in the chaplain’s residence. Thomas rebuked him, saying, “Not for the King’s Kingdom!” Afterward the king referred to him as “that little man who refused lodging to poor Nellie.”

During the reign of the next king, James II, Thomas, by now a bishop, was sent to the Tower of London for his Protestant convictions. After his release, Thomas retired to the home of a wealthy friend where he died on March 11, 1711. He was buried at sunrise and the Doxology was sung at his funeral.

What If

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank him yesterday. . .

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow him today. . .

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as his day. . .

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain. . .

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others. . .

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today. . .

What if God took away his message because we failed to listen to the messenger. . .

What if God didn't send his only begotten son because he wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin. . .

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door to our heart. . .

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer his call to service. . .

- Author Unknown –

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

St Paul's Boyle: Nov. 5th ~ Rev. Christobel Lines;

Nov 12th ~ Mike Griffin

Nov. 19th ~ Phil Sedgewick

St Andrew's Zion Colinton ~ Nov 5th ~ Joanna Muzyka

Nov. 12th ~ Rev. Bill Creaser

Nov. 19th ~ Rev. Christobel Lines

Nov 26th ~ PARISH EVENT ~ Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

St Thomas, Perryvale ~ Nov. 5th ~ Joanna Muzyka

Nov. 12th ~ Rev. Bill Creaser

Nov. 19th ~ Rev. Christobel Lines

Christ Church, Wandering River ~

Nov 5th ~ Rev. Christobel Lines

Nov. 12th ~ Mike Griffin

Nov. 19th ~ Joanna Muzyka



5th Sunday Open Offerings - it was decided by Parish Council at their Council meeting last evening, October 16 2017 that for the remainder of 2017 and all 2018, all open offerings received at the Parish 5th Sunday services will be forwarded to the Diocese of Ibba to assist in their ministry there.

Saturday, November 18th – Christmas Tea, Craft and Bake Sale ... 10 am – 2 pm

St Andrew's Zion Church Hall – sponsored by St Andrews Zion & St Thomas Churches

Sunday, November 26th ~ Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will be doing the service today. This is a Parish event and an invitation is extended to each and everyone. Potluck will follow the service.

Youth Group News



Upcoming dates for youth group, mark your calendars: October 29, November 12, November 26.

These are Sundays and youth group will begin at 12:30pm following service in Colinton at St. Andrew's Zion. We encourage you to join us for service at 10:30am. On both October 29 (service @ 11am) and November 26 we will be having a potluck lunch following service before youth group.

Please plan to attend - so if this means booking off work do that, if you need a ride let us know we can help out with that. Contact Cathie (cathie.mmaestro@gmail.com) or Joanna (joannamuzyka@hotmail.com)

All youth grade 7 and up (Age 12+) are welcome so grab a friend and join us!