

and from 1 John iii. 15, hold it up to the class as one which, to a certainty, they have all broken. Refer also to Rom. xiii. 8-10, where we are reminded that the true way to keep any of the commandments is to cultivate the virtue which is precisely *opposite* to the thing forbidden. "He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law," (i.e. the second table.) Why? Because "love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Love a man, and you will not wrong him: and thus, without thinking of the law, you will keep it. And so with the first table. Love God, and all your duty to God follows as a matter of course.

If the consciences of the scholars can be touched in respect of one commandment, the next step is to show the truth of James ii. 10, that to break one is to break all. This is exactly what children do not see, and it must be illustrated to them. Thus: the commandments are not like ten iron rings lying separately on the ground, but like the links in a chain by which the sailors in a sinking vessel hope to reach the land. *Break one link*—and where is the chain? Or, suppose a garden with ten gates, and a father says to his children, 'You must stay in the garden, and not go outside'; what would be thought of the boy who, when charged with breaking the rule, pleaded that he had only gone out of *one* of the gates?

What will be the feeling if this teaching is grasped? Will it be one of utter hopelessness? That is just what we want to awaken. And then comes in the good news of the Gospel. Christ has borne for us the penalty of our disobedience. (See Gal. iii. 13.) He has kept the law which we could not keep, and "by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. v. 19.) Thus the very best way of drawing our children to the Saviour is to show them the searching character of God's commandments.

What have we to do with the law now? Just the same—to keep it. Not to obtain salvation—that is as unnecessary as it is impossible, for "ye are complete in Him." (Col. ii. 10.) No, but from love, because salvation is ours already. So says the Golden Text. "*If ye love Me keep My commandments.*" No amount of trying to walk would have enabled the paralytic to shake off his palsy; the palsy must first be cured, and then he could and did walk.

Seed Thoughts for Senior Scholars.

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1. What *reason* is assigned for giving this Law?

2. Is a graven image the same as other gods?
3. Why are graven images so strictly and minutely forbidden?
4. What is a vain use, in its broadest sense, of the divine name?
5. What is it to *remember* and what to *keep* holy the Sabbath?
5. When are father and mother honored?
7. What is the *extent* and what the *limitation* of *shalt not kill*?
8. How much is forbidden in *shalt not commit adultery*?
9. What is *theft*?
10. How do we bear *false witness*?
11. Define *covetousness*.
12. Is this moral Law *changeable*?
13. Did the Jews *keep it or understand it*?
14. Were they *punished for its violation*?

Blackboard Exercises.

Where were the commandments first inscribed? *On tables of stone.* Where should they now be written? *In my heart.* How shall my heart be prepared? *God knoweth; ask him, in faith believing.* Can I keep his commandments and not love him? *If you give your heart to him, he will fill it with his love, and write therein his law. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.* How shall I keep his commandments? *Jesus will help, ask him.* If I transgress God's law, what must I do? *Repent and ask forgiveness for Jesus' sake.* How shall I show my love to God? *Keep his commandments: love thy neighbor as thyself.*

The Primary Class.

Remind the children that the people of God remained in the desert, having come from Rephidim, where Amalek was defeated, (as noticed in the lesson two weeks ago,) to Mount Sinai. Show the places on map or blackboard. Describe the steep mountain, the people assembled in front, the thunder, the lightning, the trembling earth, and the voice of God. God gave his law to the people, that is, he told them what he wished them to do, and what not to do.

Of course a single lesson on the Ten Commandments cannot be very thorough, but much may be done, even in one lesson, to help fix the commandments in the memory.

We offer two analyses, both of which may be used in the class.

First. We are told what we are to do and what we are not to do. I. We are to, I. Keep