

Catechesis Minute

The Fulfillment of the Law

The Explanation of the Small Catechism makes it clear—the Law condemns everyone. It cannot save. God is holy and as such, He cannot tolerate any sin. Not one speck of sin will enter heaven. before God there are no big sins and little sins. There is no difference between murder and a “little white lie.” Now, if we stopped here, life would be hopeless. What good is the Law if all it can do is condemn? We’ll talk about the purpose of the Law next week. The point here is that the Law doesn’t save because no one can keep the Law. We are all born in sin, with a sin nature. This fallen nature makes it impossible for us to keep the Law. Even if, with our sin nature, we could somehow keep the Law, that wouldn’t save us, either. Our very nature would condemn us. The Law shows the hopelessness of our situation. We are powerless to save ourselves.

But that is a good thing. If we had to depend on our own frail abilities to save ourselves, we would be doomed for sure. We would always live with the uncertainty of wondering, “Am I good enough?” The good news is that none of us are “good enough.” Now, if this causes you to despair, I can share this with you: God has fixed it all. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became a man and lived a perfect life, fulfilling the Law. Then, He died on the cross, paying the price for our sins, dying in our place. He took on our sinfulness and clothed us in His righteousness. So, we can stand before God, made holy by the blood of the Lamb. Christ fulfilled the Law for us. The Law points us to the cross, where we find the Gospel, the good news that Jesus saves.