**The Way, the Truth and the Life: Following Jesus Our Prophet, Priest and King**

**Week 13**

**13.1 Introduction**

**13.2 Approaching the Commandments**

**Principles for interpreting the commandments**

1. We are to take account of the narrow and the broad meaning of the commandments.
2. We need to relate them to the rest of the ethical teaching of the bible
3. We are looking at how we respond to God as his people
4. We are to look at what is forbidden, and by implication what is encouraged

**13.3 The Eighth Commandment: theft and work**

You shall not steal. **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**110. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?**  
Not only such theft and robbery as are punished by the magistrate; but God views as theft all wicked tricks and devices, whereby we seek to draw to ourselves our neighbour’s goods, whether by force or with show of right, such as unjust weights, ells, measures, wares, coins, usury, or any means forbidden of God; so moreover all covetousness, and all useless waste of His gifts.

**111. But what does God require of thee in this commandment?**  
That I further my neighbour’s good, where I can and may; deal with him as I would have others deal with me; and labour faithfully, that I may be able to help the poor in their need.

**Some areas of application:**

***Wealth and Poverty***

**13.4 The Ninth Commandment: True and false witness**

You shall not bear false witness [against your neighbour].

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**112. What is required in the ninth commandment?**  
That I bear false witness against no one; wrest no one’s words; be no backbiter, or slanderer; join in condemning no one unheard and rashly; but that I avoid, on pain of God’s heavy wrath, all lying and deceit, as being the proper works of the devil; in matters of judgment and justice and in all other affairs love, honestly speak and confess the truth; and, so far as I can, defend and promote my neighbour’s good name.

**13.5 The Tenth Commandment: attitudes of the heart**

You shall not covet [your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or slaves, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour].

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**113. What is required in the tenth commandment?**That not even the least inclination or thought against any of God’s commandments ever enter into our heart; but that, with our whole heart, we continually hate all sin, and take pleasure in all righteousness.

**Some areas of application:**

Hatred of the successful – *ressentiment*

**13.6 Forgiveness and prayer**

**Anglican catechism Q10-14**

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**114. Can those who are converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?**  
No: but even the holiest men, while in this life, have only a small beginning of this obedience; yet so, that with earnest purpose they begin to live, not only according to some, but according to all the commandments of God. 

**115. Why then doth God so strictly enjoin upon us the ten commandments, since in this life no one can keep them?**  
First, that all our life long, we may learn more and more to know our sinful nature, and so the more earnestly seek forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ; secondly, that we may continually strive, and beg from God the grace of the Holy Ghost, so as to become more and more changed into the image of God, till we attain finally to full perfection after this life.