

The Good Life:

(1) No Other Gods

(A brief devotional guide)

Summarize and remind yourself each day the central message you heard from God through the sermon Sunday:



Read daily the Heartfelt Confession (Heidelberg Catechism)

Lord's Day 34, Q/A 94 and 95.

Q: What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

A: That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures.

That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God, trust him alone, look to him for every good thing humbly and patiently, love, fear, and honor him with all my heart.

In short, that I give up anything rather than go against God's will in any way.

Q: What is idolatry?

A: Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word.

Pray humbly and expectantly for God to speak to you through God's Word today.

Read and Reflect upon the Daily Scripture Readings.

“What is one thing you hear God's Word say to you through in these verses today?” Summarize this hearing and apply it to your life today.

Monday: Deuteronomy 6:4 - 19

Tuesday: Judges 2:8 - 19

Wednesday: I Kings 18

Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1 - 13

Friday: Matthew 4:1 - 11

Saturday: I Corinthians 8:1 - 6

Offer your prayers of Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving and Request to God.

Additional Reading for the Week:

“One of the strongest positive formulations of the First Commandment occurs in Deuteronomy 13:4:

The Lord your God you shall follow, him alone you shall fear, his commandments you shall keep, his voice you shall obey, him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast.

Every sentence of the verse is an emphatic articulation of the First Commandment, and the lead sentence shapes the whole. To obey/keep the First Commandment is to follow the Lord. And here is where Scripture first speaks about discipleship, for this is the language that Jesus uses when he calls on his disciples and others to give themselves completely to him and his way. The Commandments remind us [that the positive call of discipleship also involves a negative aspect, a “You shall not” that is part of the positive “Follow me”; God calls us to an] exclusive loyalty and setting aside of any other claims on our ‘following after’ the kyrios, the Lord of Israel and the church.”

Patrick Miller, The Ten Commandments (2006)