

## The 10 Commandments: The Ashes and The Cross

### Reflect

1. What's the purpose of a street sign that says, "STOP"?
2. Have you ever received a traffic ticket, or faced another legal violation?
3. When has your conscience bothered you?

### Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:1-6
- Romans 7:7-12

### Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. As Moses summons Israel in verse 1, how many years have passed since God made his covenant at Horeb?
2. Is there a difference between knowing and following the Law?
3. This covenant begins in verse 6. Why does it matter that the covenant begins this way?
4. Re-read Romans 7:7-12 three times. Re-write it in your own words.
5. What sins have you become aware of because of the Law?
6. How does the Law point you to Jesus?
7. How does the Law direct your life?
8. How does the Law's direction bless you and your community?

### Conclusion

Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell discourse to the Hebrews. In these specific verses, Moses recounts the establishment of the covenant that leads to the Ten Commandments. He reminds them that the covenant is for every generation of Israelites. Most importantly in these verses, the covenant and subsequent Commandments begins with God grace. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." The Law is there to promote order and direct the people to live as God's chosen people.

As people bound to sin, often our experience with the Law is negative. St. Paul leads us through his experience. He begins and ends with the premise that the Law is good. The Law however, points out our sin and makes it evident that we are far from God and it will kill us. The Law makes us cry out for a savior. Later in Romans 7:25 Paul writes, "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Not only does the Law promote order and convict us in our sin, it helps us in our daily lives as followers of Jesus. It guides us to live a pleasing life to God, and to be examples of Christ for our neighbor.

### Pray

God of grace, we praise you that you call us from slavery to freedom through Jesus. May your thoughts become our thoughts, and your ways our ways. May our neighbor know your love through our thought, word, and deed. May our lives be examples of Jesus' love. And may all we do be pleasing to you as we grow in faith, love, and obedience to your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.