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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

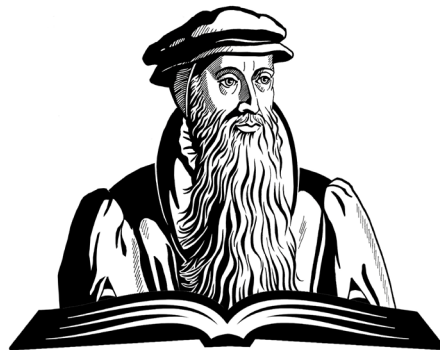
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 33:**

**Keeping the Law: Not to Merit but to show  
Thankfulness**

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

*77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge*

*36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman*

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|--|--|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God             | 26. Joseph and His Brethren                        |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God  | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph                          |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry                            |
| 04. A Gracious Promise                     | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush                     |
| 05. Cain and Abel                          | 30. Let My People Go                               |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace                  | 31. Deliverance                                    |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape   | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People       |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant                    | <b>33. Keeping the Law: Not Merit/Thankfulness</b> |
| 09. The Tower of Babel                     | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People               |
| 10. Abram: Called by God                   | 35. A Priest for the People                        |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot               | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People       |
| 12. Melchizadek                            | 37. Worshiping God Rightly                         |
| 13. Righteous by Faith                     | 38. Walk Not According to the World                |
| 14. Two Sons                               | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude                          |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life                | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming                         |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God       | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up                 |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision       | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath              |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah                      | 43. Cities of Refuge                               |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau       | 44. A New Generation                               |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver                     | 45. Moses' Last Days                               |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob                    | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled                 |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el               | 47. A Promise to Rahab                             |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated            | 48. The Rise of Judges                             |
| 24. An Eye upon God                        | 49. Gideon—God with Him                            |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison            | 50. Samson   |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

## Lesson 33

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# Keeping the Law: Not to Merit but to Show Thankfulness

## The Book of Exodus, chapters 18 through 24

### Memory Verse

*“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”*

Exodus 20:1–2

### God’s Goodness and Mercy

The Ten Commandments given by God are a display of his goodness and mercy. In Paradise, there was no need for the commandments to be written on tables of stone, for the law of God was written on their heart. However, when Adam transgressed the command of God and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the image of God in Adam, whereby man knew the law in his heart, became corrupt. We see how the knowledge of the law has completely deteriorated by the wickedness of the first world, the wickedness that followed upon a renewed world after the flood, and even when we look at the world around us today.

How many disregard the commandments of God in their daily life? How often are the commands of God cast aside? How much better it would be if in this life people took the commands of God to heart and sought to live by them, even in an outward way. Much of the misery, suffering, and sorrow of this life are caused by forsaking God’s commands, rather than keeping of them.

There are three views of the law, which we would like to look at in this lesson:

- The law as a covenant of works.
- The law as the fruit of God’s gracious dealings.
- The law as a teacher.

### Not a Covenant of Works

There are many people who misunderstand the Ten Commandments as they are revealed in Exodus chapter 20. To them they are a rule and pattern that they seek to live by, believing that if they do so, God will deliver them for their well-doing. They look upon their good works as the ground of their salvation. That is like the covenant of works.

The covenant of works was given to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The covenant of works proved faulty when Adam and Eve broke the covenant by eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In that day, their nature and the nature of all Adam’s posterity

became corrupt. It is for that reason that we know it is impossible to merit God's favor by our own works: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin: (Romans 3:20).

Having broken the covenant of works, God brought forth a better covenant—the covenant of grace. This covenant is unbreakable, for the head of this covenant is Jesus Christ. In this covenant, every believer's salvation is secure in Christ's perfect obedience and righteousness: "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises" (Hebrews 8:6).

The first revelation of this covenant appeared in Genesis 3:15, when God promised that he would put enmity between Satan and the woman, and between the seed of Satan and the woman's seed: "I will put enmity between thee [the serpent, Satan] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). It has continued from that moment, and is the thread that runs throughout the whole Bible.

### **Right Keeping: Evidence of God's Gracious Dealings**

For the believer, the law of God is not kept to merit salvation. He is already saved. He endeavors to keep the law to show his thankfulness to God, who has graciously delivered him from all his sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In John 8, we have an account of a woman who was a sinner. She was "taken in adultery" (John 8:3). Notice that Jesus does not require her to stop sinning before he forgives her. No, he first says, "Neither do I condemn thee." After this, he says, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). The grace she received was free. The change comes after and is an expression of a thankful heart.

We see this same order in the Ten Commandments found in Exodus chapter 20. The preamble to the Ten Commandments is especially important. Many people see the Ten Commandments as a covenant of works because they neglect the preamble and jump right to the commandments. However, if we are to rightly understand God's Word, then we should not leap over portions of God's Word.

If you read the preamble, you will see that Israel's deliverance is not dependent upon their keeping the law. God does not say to Israel, "Keep my commandments, and I will deliver you from Egypt." No, in fact, it is the complete opposite. He says, I "have brought thee out of the land of Egypt out of the house of bondage" (Exodus 20:2), therefore, keep my commandments. Thus we see that deliverance is not dependent upon works, but the works show the gratitude for deliverance.

### **Right Keeping: Evidence**

As we have seen the law plays a role in the gratitude of a believer. However, it also plays a role in the life of a sinner. That role is to show him his sins and his need of a savior. It is for this reason that Paul wrote, "The law was our school master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are

all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:24–26).

### **Review Questions**

1. Who told Moses that it was not good for him to sit in judgment of the people, saying, “The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away...thou art not able to perform it thyself alone”?

- a. Miriam
- b. Jethro
- c. Aaron
- d. Joshua

2. TRUE or FALSE: After others were appointed to help Moses in judging the people, it was determined that Moses would judge all the little matters, but every great matter was to be judged by the rulers that were appointed.

3. After they departed \_\_\_\_\_, the people came to the wilderness of Sinai.

- a. Ramses
- b. Pithoth
- c. Succoth
- d. Rephidem

4. Who spoke these words, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.”?

- a. Aaron
- b. Pharaoh
- c. God
- d. Moses

### Exodus 19

5. “And the LORD said unto \_\_\_\_\_, God unto the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ them to day and to morrow, and let them \_\_\_\_\_ their cothes, and be ready against the \_\_\_\_\_ day.”

6. Regarding the seventh day, it is written in Exodus 20:11, “Wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” What does it mean to be hallowed? How may we do this?

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Exodus 20

7. “And the LORD said unto \_\_\_\_\_, Thus thou shalt say unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. Ye shall not make with me god’s of \_\_\_\_\_, neither shall ye make unto you gods of \_\_\_\_\_.”

8. Which of the following is NOT one of the three feasts recorded in Exodus 23:14–18, which the Israelites were to keep every year unto the Lord?

- a. Passover
- b. Unleavened bread
- c. Ingathering
- d. Harvest

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why is the preamble to the Ten Commandments important?

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2. Why can the Ten Commandments not be viewed as part of the covenant of works?

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3. Why is the covenant of grace a better covenant than the covenant of works?

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4. Many churches have a custom of reading the Ten Commandments before the service begins. Explain why this may be a good custom.

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5. In Exodus 20:25, God said that they could not build an altar of hewn stone. If they did so, God declared that they would have polluted the altar and sacrifice. Why would it have been polluted? What lesson may we learn from this?

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