Session 3:
Another Question and Another Test
1. Does the Parable of the Good Samaritan teach that the way to inherit eternal life is to keep the Law?

2. How does Jesus’ question in verse 36 differ from the lawyer’s question in verse 25?
3. What do you think of this summary of the message of the parable? Any guesses as to whose summary this might be?

In this Samaritan, Christ pictures and shows the kindness, help, and comfort which he provides in His kingdom through the Gospel; this is just what He initially spoke to his disciples: “Blessed are the eyes which see what you see,” etc. [Luke 10:23]. He paints most comfortably what faith has in Him, and how very different His Gospel is from the teaching of the Law (which the priests and Levites also have). I have previously spoken about this abundantly. But in this picture we need to look at how we have fallen into sin against God’s commandment, lie under God’s wrath, and must die eternal death—and also at how we have been rescued by Him, so that we receive God’s grace, comfort, and life for our conscience and even begin to keep the Law.

4. What points from the text can be offered in support of such a reading of the parable?

a. 

b. 

c. 

d. 
e. __________________________________________


Looking Ahead

In light of this session’s discussion, what do you think the parable is about? What is its message for you? What difference would it make if the passage ended at verse 37a, after the lawyer’s response but before Jesus’ final words?