

Lesson No. 7

What Does the Bible Say About Our Duty Toward God? (Commandments 1-3)

1. What is the summary of the first three commandments, or of the First Table of the Law?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

***Matthew 22:37.** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

The first three commandments demand perfect love to God of every one of us.

The First Commandment.

***YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

2. What is the meaning of this commandment?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

- (a) **Isaiah 42:8.** I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to **graven images**.
- (b) **John 5:23.** All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**
- (c) **Ephesians 5:5.** For this you know, that **no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- (d) **Psalms 33:8.** Let all the earth **fear** the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe** of Him.
- (d) **Genesis 39:9.** How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?
- * (e) **Proverbs 23:26.** My son, **give me your heart**, and let your eyes observe my ways.
- (f) **Proverbs 3:5.** **Trust in the LORD with all your heart.**

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

We should **NOT**

- (A) Regard or worship any creature as God;
- (B) Believe in a god who is not the Triune God;
- (C) Give the first place in our hearts and lives to any person or thing (money, pleasure, reason, etc.) by fearing, loving, or trusting in it as we should fear, love, and trust in God alone. (The sin forbidden in this commandment is called idolatry.)

We **SHOULD**

- (D) Fear God above all things; that is, we should with our whole heart revere Him as the highest Being, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him.
- (E) Love God above all things; that is, we should with our whole heart cling to Him as to our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.
- (F) Trust in God above all things; that is, we should with our whole heart commit our lives to His keeping and rely upon Him for help in every need. (The fulfillment of all commandments must flow from fear and love to God.)

The Second Commandment.

***YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IN VAIN.**

3. What is the meaning of this commandment?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

- (a) **Exodus 20:7.** You shall not take the name of the LORD your **God in vain**, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. (God's name is not only every name by which he has made Himself known--God, Lord, Jesus Christ, etc.--but also every statement in which He tells us about Himself.)
- (a) **Matthew 12:36.** But I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, **they will give account** of it in the day of judgment.
- (b) **Romans 12:14.** Bless and **do not curse**.
- (c) **Leviticus 19:12.** And you shall **not swear by My name falsely**.
- (c) **Matthew 5:34-37.** But I say to you, **do not swear at all:** neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'** For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.
- (d) **Leviticus 19:31.** Give no regard to **mediums and familiar spirits;** do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.
- (e) **Jeremiah 23:31.** Behold, I am against the prophets, says the LORD, who use their tongues and say, He says.
- (f) **Matthew 15:8.** These people draw near to Me with their **mouth**, and honor Me with their **lips, but their heart is far from Me**.
- *(g) **Matthew 10:32.** Therefore whoever **confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.
- (h) **1 Thessalonians 5:17.** **Pray** without ceasing.
- (i) **Psalms 103:1.** Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, **bless His holy name!**

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We should **NOT**

- (A) Employ any name of God uselessly or carelessly, or use any statement of the Bible in jest;
- (B) Curse by God's name; (Cursing: Speaking evil of God or mocking Him; calling down God's anger and punishment upon any person or thing.)
- (C) Swear sinful oaths by God's name; (Swearing: Calling upon God to witness the truth of what we say or promise and to punish us if we lie or break our promise. Swearing is permitted, and even required, when it is necessary for the glory of God or the welfare of our fellow man. Example: In court. But all swearing which is done falsely, thoughtlessly, or in sinful, uncertain, and unimportant matters, is forbidden.)
- (D) Use witchcraft by God's name; (Using witchcraft: Performing supernatural things with the help of the devil, or seeking the aid of people who practice such satanic arts. Examples: Fortunetelling, spiritualism, using God's name or Word without His command or promise to heal sickness.)
- (E) Lie by God's name; (Lying by God's name: Teaching false doctrine and saying that it is God's Word.-False prophets.)
- (F) Deceive by God's name. (Deceiving by God's name: Covering up an unbelieving heart or a sinful life by a show of piety.-Hypocrites.)

We **SHOULD** use the name of God by

- (G) Boldly confessing it;
- (H) Praying to God;
- (I) Praising Him.

The Third Commandment.

***YOU SHALL SANCTIFY THE HOLY DAY.**

Old Testament: **REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY.**

4. What do the Scriptures teach of the Sabbath, Sunday, and other holy days?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Matthew 12:8.** For the Son of Man is **Lord even of the Sabbath.**
- (a) **Colossians 2:16,17.** So **let no one judge you** in food or in drink, or **regarding a festival** or a new moon **or sabbaths**, which are a **shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**
- (b) **Galatians 4:10,11.** You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.
- (c) **Acts 2:42.** And they **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- (d) **Acts 20:7.** Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

- (A) The Sabbath and other holy days commanded to Israel were abolished in the New Testament by God Himself.
- (B) God did not command us Christians to keep any certain day.
- (C) We observe Sunday and other church festivals in order to have time and opportunity for public worship.
- (D) The early Christians observed the first day of the week because Christ arose from the dead on a Sunday.

5. What is the meaning of the Third Commandment?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

- (a) **John 8:47.** He who is of God hears God's words; therefore **you do not hear**, because **you are not of God.**
- * (a) **Luke 10:16.** He who hears you hears Me, **he who rejects you rejects Me**, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.
- (b) **Isaiah 66:2.** But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who **trembles at My word.**
- (c) **Psalms 26:8.** LORD, I **have loved the habitation of Your house**, and the place where Your glory dwells.
- (c) **Colossians 3:16.** Let the word of Christ **dwell in you richly.**
- (c) **Hebrews 10:24-25.** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- (d) **Hebrews 13:17.** **Obey those who rule over you**, and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
- (e) **Galatians 6:6.** Let him who is taught the word **share in all good things** with him who teaches.
- (e) **Mark 16:15.** **Go into all the world and preach** the gospel to every creature.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We should **NOT**

- (A) Neglect the use of the preached and written Word of God and the Sacraments.
We **SHOULD**
- (B) Hold preaching and the Word of God sacred;
- (C) Gladly hear, learn, and meditate upon it;
- (D) Honor and support the ministers of the Word;
- (E) Spread the Word of God by doing and supporting mission work.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 7.

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*).



READ Genesis. chapters 43-49.

Work Sheet No. 7

1.

(A) Who worships false gods according to John 5:23?

.....

(B) Name some churches which are condemned by this passage.

.....

2.

Why do you sin against the First Commandment:

(A) If you keep silent when someone ridicules your religion and there is opportunity to speak to that individual?

.....

(B) If in sickness you find your greatest comfort in the fact that you "have a good doctor"?.....

.....

(C) If you spend more for pleasure and luxuries than you contribute towards the kingdom of God?

.....

3.

(A) How does the false prophet lie by God's name.....

.....

(B) How does the hypocrite deceive by God's name?.....

.....

4.

(Check each statement, indicating whether it is true or false.)

(A) God abolished the Sabbath. True. False.

(B) God commands us to worship on Sunday. True. False.

(C) God expects us to worship as often as we have opportunity to do so. True. False.

5.

(Fill in the missing words.)

I have kept the first three commandments. I have deserved God's.....

I need