



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 8: THE SECOND COMMANDMENT - PART I

Review

When we talk about each commandment having a "negative" and "positive" side, what do we mean?

The Second Commandment

Write down the second commandment with Martin Luther's explanation:

What God Requires In the Second Commandment

- The second commandment forbids us from misusing God's _____ .

What is a name used for?

How does a name *describe* a person?

- What is included in the *name of God*?

A. _____

Genesis 17:1

Isaiah 42:8 (131)

Matthew 1:21 (132)

Our names says something about who we are. It is the same way with God. God's name not only identifies who He is, but it describes what He is like and what He has done.

B. _____

Exodus 3:14

Jeremiah 23:6

- Any words that *identify* or *describe* God are part of His name. Therefore, it is proper to say that _____ is God's name too! God's name includes everything that He has told us about Himself. See also John 17:6 (133).

Using God's Name

- God *wants* us to use His name for:

Psalm 50:15 (162)

John 16:23 (166)

1 Peter 2:9 (167)

Psalm 118:1 (170)

Misusing God's Name

- What does it mean to “take God’s name in vain”?
- “It is a misuse of God’s name if we call upon the Lord God in any way whatsoever to support falsehood or wrong of any kind ... As the First Commandment has inwardly instructed the heart and taught faith, so this commandment leads

**Take God's
Name In Vain:**

To use God's
name in an
improper
manner

us outward and directs the lips and the tongue into the right relation to God" (Luther's *Large Catechism*).

- Write down the misuses of God's name that Martin Luther mentioned in his explanation to this commandment:

(1) (2) (3)
(4) (5)

Misuses of God's Name: Cursing

Cursing is a misuse of the name of God.

The Bible talks about two kinds of cursing,

1. _____ Leviticus 24:15 (141)
2. _____ 1 Samuel 17:43 (142)

Cursing means to call down evil from God upon someone or something else. Examples of curses would be "go to hell" or "damn you."

- Is cursing ever done rightly? There is record in the Scriptures of God Himself speaking with a curse. Usually, these come in situations where someone has rejected Him in unbelief and He states what the end result of their unbelief will be. There may be times when we would repeat a curse that God has already announced. See an example in Galatians 1:8-9.

Misuses of God's Name: Swearing

Swearing is different than cursing. **Swearing is asking God to witness the truth and punish the lie.**

When we "swear by God" we are asking God (calling on Him by using His name) to punish us if what we say is not true.

Some people think of any kind of crude language to be "swearing," but swearing is really a particular misuse of God's name, not just "dirty talk."

- When is swearing wrong?

1. _____ Matthew 26:69-75

It is bad enough to lie, but if we lie and then *swear* we are telling the truth, we have sinned against the second commandment as well as the eighth.

2. _____ Mark 6:21-28

Many lodges and other organizations require prospective members at their initiation to swear that they will not reveal the secrets of the organization even before they know what those secrets are.

3. _____ Matthew 5:34-36

What is the point of swearing by something that cannot witness to the truth?

4. _____ James 5:12

Swearing should not be done unless there is good reason for it.

- When is swearing right?

Matthew 26:63-64 (146)

Hebrews 6:16 (147)

We are not to swear in support of evil (that is, to a falsehood) or unnecessarily; but in support of the good and for the advantage of our neighbor are we to swear.

- Luther's *Large Catechism*

Misuses of God's Name: Superstition

People use the name of God superstitiously when they attempt to find out or do or obtain things in a manner not in agreement with the Word and will of God.

- In 1 Samuel 15:12-26 and 2 Samuel 28:13-25 Saul went to the witch of Endor for help instead of turning to God and His word.

People use the name of God superstitiously when they believe in anything that the Word of God does not give them the right to believe in.

- Faith in four-leaf clovers, amulets, etc.

As Christians we are to be on guard against and avoid all wizards, witches, spell-casters, fortune tellers, spiritists, astrologers, lying healers, and others who practice satanic arts and superstitions. The Roman Catholic Church encourages or at least permits their members to believe all kinds of superstitious nonsense (holy water, holy medals, charms, relics, etc.)

Misuses of God's Name: False Teaching

Possibly the worst misuse of God's name is when religious teachers claim to be teaching the Word of God when in reality they are not. To say, "God says this" or "God says that" when He really doesn't is to use His name for false teaching. See Jeremiah 23:31 and Matthew 7:15.

Misuses of God's Name: Hypocrisy

The word hypocrite literally means someone with a "false face." The word was used of Greek actors who wore masks during performances.

Hypocrisy is a way of deceiving others by using the name of God. If you tell someone that you trust in God but you really don't, that is hypocrisy. If you use and promote God's good name on the outside, but inside you really don't care about Him at all, that is hypocrisy. See Matthew 23:23-33 and Acts 5:1-11.

Assignment

- Bible Reading Schedule 6 from the book of Luke (Mon-Fri)
- Memorize the Second Commandment with Explanation (p. 50)