

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 10: THE THIRD COMMANDMENT - PART I

Review

In discussing law and gospel, we talked about the *ceremonial* law. What was the purpose of the ceremonial law? Is the ceremonial law still in effect for us today?

Old and New Testament Observance

Write the Third Commandment *without* Luther's explanation:

What did this commandment require of the Old Testament people?

Exodus 16:22-30

Leviticus 23:3 (177)

The word *Sabbath* means _____ .

The Sabbath Day was an Old Testament law designed to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. This day of rest was to remind them that the Christ was coming who would give them true rest for their souls. The Sabbath was on Saturday. The Jews were to use that day for worship, sacrifice, and learning about Jesus.

Is it still necessary for us today to follow the Sabbath laws and regulations?

Colossians 2:16-17 (178)

Since Christ has come, the Sabbath Day laws are no longer in effect. We are not required to worship on Saturday and to do no regular work. *God does, however, still want us to worship Him and set time aside to learn about Jesus.*

The Jews were to abstain from hard work and to rest, so that both man and beast might be refreshed and not exhausted by constant labor. In time, however, the Jews interpreted this commandment to narrowly and grossly misused it. They slandered Christ and would not permit Him to do what they were in the habit of doing" (Mt 12:1-14; Lk 13:10-17, 14:1-6).

- from Luther's
Large Catechism

Christ's Coming Sets Us Free

- Since Christ has come, we are set free from the ceremonial laws that were only in place to *prepare people for His coming*. We are free from the original Sabbath Day regulations. Other Old Testament laws from which we are also free include place restrictions (John 4:21-24) and food restrictions (Matthew 7:14-19; Acts 10:9-16).
- Some teach that we must still obey the Sabbath even though Jesus has already come. Those who teach this do not teach correctly.

The Seventh Day Adventists teach: "The seventh day of the week is the eternal sign of Christ's power as Creator and Redeemer, and is therefore the Lord's day, or the Christian Sabbath, constituting the seal of the living God. It should be observed from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday" (From *Summary of Doctrinal Beliefs*).

- Jesus was often accused of "working" on the Sabbath. At least seven times He healed people on the Sabbath.

Mark 1:21-28
Mark 1:29-31
John 5:1-18
Mark 3:1-6
Luke 13:10-17
Luke 14:1-6
John 9:1-16

- Is it commanded for us Christians always to observe Sunday or another day of the week as a holy day of rest like the Israelites did?
- Although God doesn't tell us we *have* to worship on Sunday, why do you think it is a good idea to set aside a day of the week for church services? Why do you think the early Christians chose Sunday as their day of worship?

"In itself no one day is better than another. Actually, there should be worship daily. However, since this is more than common people can do, at least one day in the week must be set apart for it. Since from ancient times Sunday has been appointed for this purpose, we should not change it" (from Luther's *Large Catechism*).

- According to Col 2:16-17, the Old Testament Sabbath pointed to _____.
- What kind of rest does Jesus give us?

Matthew 9:2

Matthew 11:28-29

"According to its literal, outward sense, this commandment does not concern us Christians. It is an entirely external matter, like the other ordinances of the Old Testament connected with particular customs, persons, times, and places, from all of which we are now set free through Christ"

- from Luther's
Large Catechism

- How does He give us this rest?

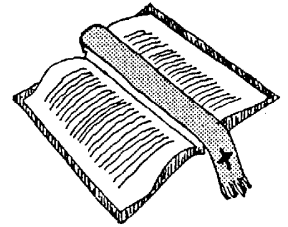
Luke 10:38-42

James 1:21 (184)

- What, then, does the Third Commandment mean for us New Testament Christians (see the summary to Question 39)?

What the Third Commandment Means For Us

Write Luther's explanation to the Third Commandment:



For us New Testament Christians, what does God forbid by the Third Commandment?

Review

1. What did God command to the Israelites in the Third Commandment?
2. What is the Sabbath Day?
3. What day of the week did God set apart for His Old Testament people?
4. How did they keep the Sabbath holy?
5. Of what was the outward peace of that day to remind them?
6. Why do we no longer observe the seventh day as did the Israelites before Christ?
7. Did God in the New Testament command us to keep any certain holy day?
8. Why, then, is one day in the week generally observed as a religious day?

Assignment

- Bible Reading Schedule 7 from the book of Luke (Mon-Fri)
- Memorize the Third Commandment with Explanation (p. 56)