

The 3rd Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

1. God set aside the seventh day of the week to be a day of rest and worship: Exodus 35:2; Leviticus 23:3.
2. Sabbath (meaning rest) points to Jesus, our rest. Since Jesus has come to save us, God no longer requires us to honor a specific day because Christ has fulfilled the Law. The ceremonial Law no longer applies: Matthew 11:28; 12:8; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 4:9-10.
3. Christian worship
 - a. God requires Christian worship: Acts 2:42-46; Hebrews 10:25.
 - b. He has not specified a particular day: Romans 14:5-6; Galatians 4:10-11.
 - c. The church worships especially on Sunday because that's the day Christ arose from the dead: Luke 24:1-2; Acts 20:7; (cf. John 20:19-31).
4. We sin against the Third Commandment when we despise preaching and the Word of God by:
 - a. By not attending public worship,
 - b. By not using the Word of God and the Sacraments,
 - c. By using the Word of God and the Sacraments negligently or carelessly: John 8:47; Luke 10:16 (cf. Luke 7:30; 1 Samuel 15:10-23).
5. God requires us to honor preaching and the Word of God by:
 - a. Holding them sacred: Isaiah 66:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
 - b. By gladly hearing it, learning it, and meditating on it: Joshua 1:8; Psalm 26:8; Luke 11:28; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16 (cf. Luke 2:19, 41-52; 10:39; Acts 17:11).
 - c. By honoring and supporting the preaching and teaching of the Word of God: Galatians 6:6-7 (cf. Mark 12:41-44).
 - d. By diligently spreading the Word of God: Mark 16:15.

The First Commandment had to do with God Himself; the Second Commandment addressed His Name; this Commandment is about the His Word.

- Sabbath means "rest." God established the seventh day of the week to be a day of rest since He rested on the seventh day of creation. His people were to worship (Lev. 23:3).
- This Commandment has two parts: Ceremonial and Moral.
 - Moral: we are to rest and worship God.
 - Ceremonial: this must be on the seventh day.
- Because Christ fulfills the Law, the Ceremonial no longer applies, but the Moral does. The Sabbath points to Christ, our Rest.
- The Church worships especially on Sunday because that's the day Christ arose from the dead.
- Our worship is focused on the Word of God, so this is a Commandment to honor His Word.
 - This is why it's a sin when we don't attend church, or misuse Word and Sacrament
 - We honor His Word by holding it sacred, gladly hearing it and learning from it, supporting the preaching and teaching of it, and spreading it.