



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment

## 19 Minutes in Luther's Catechism

How many of you have had to work on Sunday mornings in your life? How did you manage to balance work and God in that schedule?

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Ex. 20:8-11

1. For a moment, think only of this passage—not the rest of the Bible. Taken at face value, what is the reason for this commandment:

a. What is God doing for people?

b. What are people doing for God?

c. For what reasons might an ancient Israelite (or you) not want to follow this law?

2. What additional thing lies in this Third Commandment?

*“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly” (Leviticus 23:3).*

3. How big a deal was this command to the LORD? Take a look...

*While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day... Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron... Then the LORD said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” Numbers 15:32-35*

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4. Are we supposed to follow this commandment?

*Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

*Colossians 2:16-17*

*One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike... He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.*

*Romans 14:5-6*

Of the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath Commandment is the only one not repeated in the New Testament as a law.

5. This is Luther's brief explanation of the Third Commandment:

***THE THIRD COMMANDMENT***

***Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.***

*What does this mean?*

*We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.*

- a. How does this fulfill the original intent of the commandment?

5. Comment on these:

Excerpt from a farmer's life.

"Sunday is the New Testament Sabbath."

"You can be a Christian without going to church."

**Closing Prayer:**

Gracious Lord, forgive us for despising and neglecting your Word. Fill us with such a love for your Word that we will always regard it as holy and true, gladly hear and learn it, believe and obey it, and share its saving truths with others. Amen.