



19 Minutes with Luther

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.

1. Leviticus 23:3 reads: *“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly.”* What was God’s special will for his Old Testament people according to the Third Commandment?
2. Colossians 2:16,17 reads: *“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the things that were to come; the reality, however is found in Christ.”* Why are God’s laws for Old Testament believers no longer in effect for us today?
3. Colossians 3:16 reads: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”* The writer to the Hebrews said, *“Let us not give up meeting together [that is, going to church], as some are in the habit of doing”* (10:25). What is God’s will for us today according to the Third Commandment?
4. The early Christian church chose Sunday as its day of worship as “a remembrance.” Explain.
5. The catechism mentions a number of things we might do that would make us guilty of despising God’s Word. Explain/expound on each of the following:
 - (a) refuse to hear and learn the Word
 - (b) let the Word get crowded out of our lives
 - (c) refuse to believe and obey the Word

The Knowledge of God
Law and Gospel
Introduction to the Law
1st Commandment
2nd Commandment
▶ **3rd Commandment**
4th Commandment
5th Commandment
6th Commandment
7th Commandment
8th Commandment
9th & 10th Commandments
The Conclusion
The Gospel & the Nature of God
The Apostles’ Creed (Faith)
1st Article (Creation)
1st Article (Preservation)
1st Article (Protection)
1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
2nd Article (Christ’s Person)
2nd Article (Christ’s Office)
2nd Article (Christ’s Work)
2nd Article (Christ’s Humiliation)
2nd Article (Christ’s Exaltation)
2nd Article (Christian Life)
2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
3rd Article (Calls)
3rd Article (Enlightens)
3rd Article (Sanctifies)
3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
3rd Article (Invisible Church)
3rd Article (Visible Church)
3rd Article (Forgiveness)
3rd Article (Eternal Life)
Baptism (Part 1)
Baptism (Part 2)
Holy Communion (Part 1)
Holy Communion (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 1)
Keys & Confession (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 3)
Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer
The Address
1st Petition
2nd Petition
3rd Petition
4th Petition
5th Petition
6th Petition
7th Petition
The Doxology

6. The seasons of the church year allow Christians opportunities to review the events in the life of Christ as well as to reflect on living our Christian faith. List the seasons of the church year and the time of year and focus of each.

Season	Time of year	Focus
ADVENT	_____	_____
_____	_____	The birth of Jesus Christ
_____	Begins 1/6; 4-9 weeks	_____
LENT	_____	_____
_____	Spring; 7 weeks	The resurrection
_____	40 days after Easter	_____
_____	50 days after Easter	The coming and work of the Holy Spirit
_____	Begins 1 week after Pentecost; 22-27 weeks	_____

7. Agree or disagree: If we are in church every Sunday, we are obeying the Third Commandment.

8. Luke 4:16 reads: *“On the Sabbath day [Jesus] went into the synagogue, as was his custom.”* Apply this verse to your salvation.

Luther said:

“As God at first gives faith through the Word, so He thereafter also exercises, increases, confirms, and perfects it through the Word. Therefore the worship of God at its best and the finest keeping of the Sabbath consist in exercising oneself in piety and in dealing with the Word and hearing it. On the other hand, nothing is more dangerous than a dislike of the Word.” (Plass, Vol. 3, p. 1545.)

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.

At home

- Memorize the Third Commandment and its meaning.
- Prepare a family worship service (with hymns, prayers, Bible readings, and discussion questions) for the next time your family vacations in an area where you are unable to attend a church.

Helps

(1) God's will was that his people receive rest on the Sabbath (Saturday): rest for their bodies and rest for their souls through worship. (2) God's Old Testament worship laws are no longer in effect because Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament Sabbath. The Sabbath was merely a shadow or type of the true rest Jesus would give, namely, the forgiveness of sins. (3) God wants us to worship and receive his Word eagerly. (4) New Testament Christians are free to worship on any day they want. Sunday was chosen because it marked several great events: the beginning of creation, the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and, above all, Jesus' resurrection. (5) Answers will vary: a) refusing to take for making excuses for not taking every opportunity that presents itself to hear and study God's Word; b) allowing family, pleasure, busyness, jobs, and such, to keep us away from worship and the Word; c) hearing the Word but refusing to take it to heart or to do what it says. (6) ADVENT—December; 4 weeks—Christ's coming. CHRISTMAS—Begins 12/25; 12 days—The birth of Jesus Christ. EPIPHANY—Begins 1/6; 4-9 weeks—Jesus is the Savior of all people. LENT—Begins Ash Wed.; 40 days, not including Sundays—Christ's passion. EASTER—Spring; 7 weeks—The resurrection. ASCENSION—40 days after Easter—Jesus' return to heaven. PENTECOST—50 days after Easter—The coming and work of the Holy Spirit. TRINITY or PENTECOST—Begins 1 week after Pentecost; 22-27 weeks—The life of the Christian. (7) Agreement with the statement can lead to work-righteousness. God wants to bless us through our hearing and learning, believing and obeying of his Word. (8) Jesus saved us from our sins against this commandment by obeying it perfectly in our place; he also died as the payment for our sins.