

For Further Study March 12-18



THE THIRD COMMANDMENT Exodus 20:7

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name."

Read the following Q & A from the Heidelberg Catechism.

Q. What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

A. That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing,¹ perjury,² or unnecessary oaths,³ nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.⁴

In a word, it requires that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe,⁵ so that we may properly confess him,⁶ pray to him,⁷ and praise him in everything we do and say.⁸

Look up each of the following passages: What does each have to say to us about fulfilling the third commandment?

1 Lev. 24:10-17

2 Lev. 19:12

3 Matt. 5:37;

James 5:12

4 Lev. 5:1;

Prov. 29:24

5 Ps. 99:1-5;

Jer. 4:2

6 Matt. 10:32-33;

Rom. 10:9-10

7 Ps. 50:14-15;

1 Tim. 2:8

8 Col. 3:17

Think back to a time when you “stood by silently” when God's name was misused. How did you feel? Why did you not speak up?

How ought we as followers of Jesus respond to others when we hear God's name being dishonored?

Colossians 3:12-17 tells us to “clothe” ourselves with certain characteristics. How do these relate to honoring God's name?

How could you clothe yourselves more fully with words and actions that proclaim the name of the Lord that you serve?