

The Third Commandment

References:

Ex. 20:7

Notes For Servants:

1. The Ten Commandments are the basics of life. We must understand them memorize them and teach them to our children
2. We as servants should remember to apply them in our lives.

Objectives:

General: Learn why did God give us these Commandments and why should we worship Him alone.

Specific:

1. We should understand the Holiness of God.
2. We should not use the name of God in our day to day affairs other than worship.
3. We must make people to believe us without swearing.

Instructions:

1. Church occasion.
2. Introduce the topic by talking about Holiness of God.
3. Talk about how people in the past use to do when they mentioned Gods= name

Bible Verse:

Alf ye love me, keep my commandments.@

(John 14:15)

Lesson:

The Third Commandment

AThou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.@

[Ex. 20:7]

His Name is Holy, Great and Wonderful...

- t Solomon said, AYour name is perfume poured out.@ [Sol. 1:3]
- t St. Mary said in her hymn, AFor the Mighty One has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name.@ [Lk. 1:49]
- t The Lord told us to pray saying, AHallowed be Your name.@ [Mt. 6:9]
- t Jeremiah the Prophet speaks to Him AYour name is great in might.@ [Jer. 10:6]
- t If we remember God is Holy, we shall mention His name with all respect and awe saying all the time AHallowed be Your name.@
- t When we utter the word Holy (Agios) in the Church we bow down with reverence; for it is God=s name.
- t The Seraphim, Athe angelic rank@ sang to Him AHoly Holy Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.@ They uttered His great name with reverence while standing before His throne covering their faces with two wings, and covering their legs with two.

By His Name Wonders and Signs are Performed...

- t How beautiful was the answer of St. Peter the Apostle when the cripple asked him alms, he said to him, AI have no silver or gold, but what I have I give to you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth stand up and walk...@ [Acts 3:6] , and the man stood and began to walk.
- t More wonderful still is the fact that the power of this name was effective even when used by some evildoers who perished and who-many as they were will say to the Lord on the last day, ALord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many deeds of power in Your name?@ [Mt. 7:22]

His Name is Frightful to the Demons...

- t The seventy apostles returned with joy saying to the Lord, AIn Your name even the demons submit to us!@ [Lk. 10:17]
- t So, the holy apostles practised this gift as we read about St. Paul the Apostle that he was very much annoyed of the evil spirit that was in the slave girl of Philippi and said to the spirit, AI order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.@ And it came out that very hour.@ [Acts 16:18]

Our Duty Towards God=s Name:

- t We should fear and venerate this holy name and use it with awe and respect.
- t It is not proper to use God=s name in trivial matters. But we should use it rather in prayers and praise with longing and joy.

- t We may also use God=s name wrongfully in prayers when our minds are distracted with something else, then the words of the Lord apply to us, AThis people honours Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.@ [Mk. 7:6]
- t Are they not using God=s name wrongfully, those of whom the Lord said, ANot everyone who says to Me, >Lord, Lord= will enter the kingdom of heaven.@
- t In any work we do, our objective should be the glorification of the Lord=s name saying with David, ANot to us, O Lord, but to Your name give glory.@ [Ps. 115:1]

Swearing...

- t The wicked use God=s name without due respect, making light of it - in whatever talk they make even obscene talk. They even use God=s name in insults and cursing and in their jokes and amusement. They do not revere God=s name neither in their serious time or pastime.
- t A Story: There was a Christian who worked as a servant in the house of a person who swears often. Whenever the master swore, the servant used to bow and cross himself with the sign of the cross. The master often swore and every time he swore, the servant bowed and crossed himself. The master was greatly amazed and asked for the reason and the servant replied, AHow can I not bow when I hear the name of my Great God, to whom every glory and reverence is due?@ The master was thus ashamed of not giving due reverence to God. He compared himself to that humble servant and abstained from using God=s name wrongfully.
- t A person who swears often, in addition to his using God=s name wrongfully, admits that his words have no value to those who hear him and that they do not trust him.
- t The Lord Jesus Christ prohibited swearing completely ADo not swear at all...Let your word be >Yes, Yes= or >No, No=; anything more than this comes from the evil one.@ [Mt. 5:34-37]

Conclusion:

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Have I profaned the holy name of God in any way? Have I cursed anyone or anything, or sworn a false oath? Have I failed to give proper reverence to holy persons and things? Have I had due respect for the clergy of the Church or hindered them in performing God=s work? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into any unlawful contract or made an unlawful promise?