

So strong and true is God's love for man, that He is ever watching lest anything should enter in to weaken or corrupt our worship. Not only because he has a right to our singlehearted and unclouded love, but also because He knows how intimately our peace and welfare are bound up with the nature of our worship and its object, is God jealous of our loyalty.

The name of God is the declaration of His character. The Third Commandment demands not only a reverent use of the name at all times, but also loyalty in all speech and conduct to a worthy conception of His nature. When we enter into covenant with God, our whole manner of speech and conduct must accord with our knowledge of His lofty character. "It is as though," writes Dr. Trumbull, "Mr. Moody were taking a

little street waif into his home to train the boy as his own son, and were formally giving to that boy the right to take and bear his name. Naturally he might say: 'Understand, now, my boy, that, wherever you go, they'll say, "There goes a young Moody." Now, I value my name, and I don't want it disgraced. See to it that you take care of that name wherever you go.' "

The Sabbath law, not less than these other great principles, is rooted deep in the constitution of mankind. Experience has shown beyond doubt that man cannot maintain himself at his highest efficiency physically without one day of rest in seven. Equally true is it that man cannot grow in moral force and spiritual vigor without using his day of rest as a day of worship.

### THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

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Before discussing each of the Ten Commandments separately, their main purpose as a whole should be made clear. Bring out the force of such statements as: "The Ten Commandments are the simple words of God's loving covenant with His people, and not arbitrary commandings of God to His subjects. They are a loving covenant that binds two parties in mutual affection and fidelity, having its statement of promises on the one hand, and responsibilities on the other" (Trumbull). "The Commandments are a law of love not only because love is the sum of them and the soul of them, but also because divine love enacted them and because they are the best possible laws for man. It is impossible to deviate from them without injury to one's self and others" (Hopkins).

Take up v. 2 as the divine side of this covenant. Bring out the teaching, that the history of God's dealings is the guarantee of God's promises. What God has been, He will be. Discuss this as an appeal for the proper observance of the Commandments.

Now get the class to discuss each Commandment separately:

1. *The supremacy of God in human life.* v. 3. Compare Jer. 25 : 6 ; Matt. 4 : 10. Raise the question, What is a man's god ? Discuss Luther's answer, "What a man loves that is his god ; he carries it in his heart, goes about with it night and day, sleeps and wakes with it, be it what it may, wealth or pelf, pleasure or renown." Bring out what it prohibits in these days (love of gold, lust, pleasure, sport, etc.) and what it demands positively in relation to God (as love, reverence, obedience, etc.). Question how it is most frequently violated.

2. *Spirituality and reality in worship,* vs. 4-6. Bring out the reasons for this ; (a) All images misrepresent God, and by degrading God, man becomes degraded. Point out how idolatry has always degraded a people. (b) Heredity so links us to the future that our sins curse, and our righteousness blesses, coming generations. Notice the supremacy of goodness compared with evil in vs. 5, 6.

3. *Reverence for God's name,* v. 7. Emphasize what it prohibits, as perjury, profanity and irreverent use of His name.

4. *Proper observance of the Sabbath,* vs. 8-11. Dwell upon the place assigned labor and rest and the two reasons for Sabbath keeping. Summarize the Lesson as the ideal of what God requires of us.