

is one God who has made all things, who rules heaven and earth, and has power to do what He will; and knowing that we are helpless, sinful creatures in the hands of a pure and holy God, we must fear Him. But when we think how much He cares for us, and how He has given His dear Son to die for us, surely our hearts will be filled with love. It is not enough to keep from false gods; we must worship the true God. We must thank Him for His goodness: put ourselves in His care, and serve Him as long as we live.

**Second commandment.** This commandment teaches us that it is very wrong to make any image or picture, to help us to pray to God with. When we worship God we must not forget that He is a spirit, and Jesus tells us we must worship him in spirit and in truth. A graven image is a figure made of brass, or wood, or anything of that sort. Perhaps you have heard of the golden calf which the Israelites prayed to when they fell into sin! We must not use anything of this kind to help us to worship God, nor the picture of anything, whether it is in heaven, or in earth, or down in the waters. God calls Himself a jealous God, and He means that He will have us pray with our whole hearts to Him alone. The Lord speaks of those who hate Him, and says He will surely punish their sins, unto the third and fourth generation. Do you understand what a generation is? Supposing a man has children and grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He would be the first generation, his children the second, his grandchildren the third, his great grandchildren the fourth, and so on. The Lord says he will punish a man who sins, and his children will suffer too, and his children's children. But about those who love Him He says He will have mercy upon thousands of them, that shew their love to Him by keeping His commandments.

**Third commandment.** There are several ways in which we may break this commandment. We may break it in our prayers,—when we pray to God and do not think of what we are saying. We praise Him then with our lips, but all the time our hearts are far away from Him. It is very easy to sin in this way, because when we are on our knees, the devil likes to steal away our good thoughts, and before we know it we will be thinking of some other thing, and only praying with our lips. But God will not hear these prayers. He will punish those who take His name in vain.

We may break this commandment with our words: by swearing or using the name of God in light or foolish talk. When we speak the name of God we must put aside all nonsense and carelessness, if we would keep from the great sin of taking God's name in vain. Another way in which we may do this is by behaving badly when we go to church. My dear children, I hope you will always try to keep from doing this when you go to the house of God. Remember what we go for: whose house it is; that Jesus has promised to be there too. Do not talk to any of your friends while you

are in church; try and keep all thoughts of the world out of your minds. When you pray to God kneel down on your knees, and do not half sit as, I am sorry to say, so many do.

We kneel when we pray to God because it shows best that we feel ourselves to be sinners. Do not begin to put on your wraps before the service is quite finished; you must find time to do that afterwards. I have spoken of this here because there are many who are very careless about the way they act in church, and do not think there is any harm in these little things: but we cannot be too particular how we behave in the house of God. There are often others who are ready to do as they see us do, and when we remember that in heaven the holy angels veil their faces before God, how very careful it should make us to be reverent when we draw near to Him. Every thing belonging to God must be treated as holy. The Lord threatens those who break His commandments by saying He will not hold them guiltless, that is, He will surely punish them.

**The Fourth Commandment.** I think you can understand this commandment without much trouble. Out of the seven days of the week God would have us keep one day holy. A day set apart, not only as a rest to ourselves, but one on which we should worship the Lord and spend it in His service.

In six days we are to do our work; we are to do all that we have to do, so that the Sabbath may be kept holy. A man is not only to keep from working himself, but he is to see that every one under his care does the same; and even his cattle are to be allowed to rest.

And how should we spend our time on this day? Should we go to church? Perhaps you have heard some one say, if we stay quietly at home and read the Bible, it will do just as well as going to church; but if we read it we will see that we are told not to forget to go together to worship God. So we should certainly go to church on that day. And we should not let a small thing keep us from going, such as to stay at home when we think the weather is not as fine as usual, or because our clothes are not as good as we could wish. When we are going to some place for pleasure we do not let a little storm stop us; and it will please God more if we go to His house with a heart ready to worship Him, than if we had nice clothes on, and if we please God we need not mind what any one else says of us. What else may we do on the Lord's day? We must try as much as we can to do things that will make us better, and others too. I think you can tell yourselves when you are doing right. Always think if what you wish to do will make you any better, or will do any one else good before you do it. It may seem hard to you to be so careful of what you do on Sunday, but remember God gives you six days to spend on your own work, and surely you can spend one on His. If you do your duty on this day, you will always feel better and nearer to God for it.

*(To be continued.)*