



19 Minutes with Luther

The Second Commandment

- 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

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

1. What two meanings does the word *name* have in this commandment, and what, therefore, is God protecting in this commandment?
2. What does it mean to "curse by God's name"? What does it mean to "swear"?
3. When is swearing a sinful misuse of God's name? When is swearing permitted?
4. How do people use God's name to "lie"? What are such people called?
5. How do people use God's name to "deceive"? What are such people called?
6. What does God forbid in the following passages? How does this apply to us today?

"Let no one be found among you . . . who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

"Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:31).
7. What are the four ways in which God wants us to use his name? Give examples from the Bible when God's name was used in these ways.

8. First Peter 2:9 reads: *“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”* What light does this verse shed on the meaning of the word *praise*?

9. Evaluate the following:

Reading your horoscope isn't wrong if you really don't believe in it.

A TV evangelist promises that all who pray to Jesus will be healed of their illnesses.

It's okay not to share your faith with others if you don't feel comfortable doing so.

10. Second Corinthians 5:21 reads: *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* What does this verse say Jesus did to save us from our sins against the Second Commandment? What does that truth move us to do with regard to this commandment?

Luther said:

“Children should be constantly urged and incited to honor God's name and to have it always upon their lips in everything that may happen to them or come to their notice. For that is the true honor of his name, to look to it and implore it for all consolation, so that first the heart by faith gives God the honor due him and afterwards the lips by confession. This is also a blessed and useful habit and very effectual against the devil, who cannot remain long where God's name is uttered and called upon from the heart.” (Tappert, p. 374.)

Closing Prayer

Lord God, we thank and praise you. Lead us to respond to your mercy and goodness by sharing the message of your salvation with others and by using your name in ways that please you. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the Second Commandment and its meaning.
- Share God with an unchurched person this week.

Helps

(1) God is protecting the use of his titles as well as his reputation (that is, everything he reveals to us about himself in the Bible). (2) To curse is to call down God's wrath on (damn) someone or something. To swear is to take an oath. (3) God forbids needless swearing, false swearing (called perjury in a court of law), and swearing in uncertain things. God allows us to use his name to swear when the government demands that we do so (for example, in court) and when our swearing glorifies him (a confirmation vow) or benefits others (a marriage vow, the president's oath). (4) False prophets and teachers use God's name to lie and to cover up their false teachings. (5) Hypocrites use God's name to deceive others, leading them to think that they are actually believers. (6) God forbids that we be involved in the occult arts (even something as “innocent” as a Ouija board), or that we seek the help of someone involved in the superstitious arts (psychics, those who write horoscopes). (7) God wants us to use his name to call on him in trouble, to pray, praise, and give thanks. Examples from the Bible will vary. (8) Praise means to use his name to tell others of his blessings and gift of salvation. (9) Even playing with something that God forbids (Ouija boards, horoscopes) is sinful. While it is true that God wants us to pray to him in faith, it is wrong to claim something from God that he does not promise. It is also wrong and sinful to neglect our responsibility to tell others about their Savior. (10) Jesus took our sins upon himself and suffered and died for them, paying the penalty God demands for sin. He also lived perfectly in our place, keeping the Second Commandment for us, so that we might be righteous before God. Jesus' work in our behalf moves us to respond with obedience.