

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 16

Loving God: Part 2 [3rd and 4th (Pt 1) Commandments]

Ecclesiastes 12:13 says “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.” This text reveals that the commandments of God are for all humanity and it contains the pattern for Christian living. That is why we need to take a close examination of God’s law of the Ten Commandments. Remember God’s Law is like a spiritual mirror. That shows us the mud of sin on our face. This mud is deadly, only Jesus Christ can clean the mud of sin off your face. In our previous lesson learned that we can not keep God’s Ten Commandment Law in our own strength. We can only keep God’s Law with the love of Jesus Christ and the strength of His Holy Spirit living within us. Then we studied the introduction to the Ten Commandments and the first two commandments found in Exodus 20:1-6. We found in the introduction of the Ten Commandments and the first two commandments that God clearly establishes His authority that He is the only one to be worshiped because He is our Creator and deliver. As our Creator, He demands our supreme devotion, our first allegiance. We learned from the first two commandments that anything which tends to decrease our love toward God, or to interfere with the service that He deserves, becomes an idol. For example, if personal Bible study, prayer, or family worship to God are being neglected because of your job, that job has become your god. In other words, anything (money, house, job, business) or anybody, including self that has priority before God is disobeying the first and second commandments.

Remember in our previous studies that we learned that the first four commandments apply to our worship and love towards God and the last six commandments deal with our relationship towards others. In our last lesson we studied the 1st and 2nd commandments. In this lesson we will look at the 3rd and 4th commandments of God.

1. What is God’s third commandment in His Law and what is its Biblical understanding?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:7; 2 Timothy 2:16; Matthew 12:36-37; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 111:9; Deuteronomy 28:9 – 10; Romans 2:21-24; Luke 6:46; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Revelation 14:1

Write Bible Answer:

The third commandment builds upon the first and second commandment and they all are still dealing with our love and worship towards the only true God our Creator and deliverer. In the third commandment the word “vain” in Hebrew means “emptiness of speech”, “falsehood”, “worthless conduct”, or “vanity”. The Bible teaches that we should be careful about the words that we speak or that we should not use our words carelessly or without regard. Why? Let’s go to ***2 Timothy 2:16***. Second Timothy 2:16 says, “¹⁶But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.” Profane or impure and vain words are ungodly. They corrupt the mind. What is another reason why we should be careful about what we say? Let’s turn our Bibles to ***Matthew 12:36-37***. Matthew 12:36-37 says and this is Jesus speaking, “³⁶But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” In other words, EVERY word that we speak will be judged by God. So, words of profanity or cursing should

not come out of our mouths. Those words are corrupt and displeasing to God. If our thinking is spiritually elevating, our words will also be elevating. They will be according to ***Philippians 4:8*** true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. When it comes to God's name we are to recognize who He is. He is our Creator and Redeemer. We are totally dependent on Him for life. We should stand captivated by His awesome power, love, and His Holiness. So in recognition of who He is the third commandment commands us to reverence and respect His name. Why? Let's go ***Psalm 111:9***. Psalm 111:9 says "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his name." God's name is Holy. So a careless use of God's name shows a lack of reverence for Him. In other words, those who serve God in spirit and in truth, will avoid any careless, irreverent, or unnecessary use of the God's holy name. To take the understanding of the 3rd commandment deeper we need to understand that taking God's name in vain means more than just saying the Lord's name in a careless way. As professed children of God we are called by His name. In fact ***Deuteronomy 28:9-10*** says, "The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. ¹⁰And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee." So as children of God, when we break God's law we are in essence taking His name in vain. ***Romans 2:21-24*** says ²¹"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²² Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? And what law says thou shalt not steal, commit adultery, or worship idols? God's law of the Ten Commandments. Continue on in Romans 2: 23 and 24. "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written." So when people don't obey the Ten Commandments even as professed teachers of God's law, they are taking the name of the Lord in vain. Jesus says in ***Luke 6:46*** "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" In other words Jesus teaches us here, what is the point of calling him Lord when we don't even do what He asks us to do. Many professed children of God have taken the name of the Lord in vain not only by just carelessly using His name, but by disobeying His commandments. But ***2 Chronicles 7:14*** gives us all hope. It says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That's our hope. So if we humbly come to God and pray and ask God to forgive us and turn from our wicked ways, then God will forgive us and we too can be a part of the Redeemed in ***Revelation 14:1*** standing on Mount Sion with the Father's name written in our foreheads because we did not take His name in vain but in sincerity and truth obey all that He commands us to.

2. What is God's fourth commandment Law in Exodus 20:8-11?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:8 – 11

Write Bible Answer:

First let's look at Exodus 20:8, "8Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." The first thing that we must take notice of here is the word "remember" at the beginning of verse 8. If you briefly skim through all the Ten Commandments, you will find that the only commandment that begins with the word "remember" is the fourth commandment in Exodus 20:8. It is apparent that God spoke and wrote the word "remember" at

the beginning of the fourth commandment to remind us of the importance of the Sabbath day in the fourth commandment. So every time someone reads the fourth commandment the word of “remember” should remind him/her of the holiness of God’s Sabbath day. So knowing the importance of God’s fourth commandment of keeping His holy day Sabbath let’s for the next few moments briefly study on this seemingly forgotten commandment. First of all we need to find out what the word “Sabbath” means. Well the Hebrew root word meaning for Sabbath means to rest or to cease. So if we used the root word meaning for Sabbath in God’s fourth commandment it would read like this, “Remember the “rest” day to keep it holy.” Sabbath means to rest or to cease from work.

3. A. When was the Sabbath day established? B. Who created it? C. Which day of the week is it? D. What makes this day special?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Genesis 1:1, 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:11; Isaiah 58:13; Genesis 1:5,8; Luke 4:16; 1 John 2:6; Acts 18:4

Write Bible Answer:

Genesis 1:1, 2:2, 3 says “¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [Now Chapter 2 verse 2] ²And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. ³And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” So based on the Bible, it is evident that God created and established a special day six literal days after He created the world. Now according to Genesis 2:3 when was this special day created? The Seventh day of the week. Notice that this special day was created before sin entered the world and centuries before the Jews or the Israelites. What makes this day so special? Genesis 2:3 clearly mentions that God rested meaning ceased from creating; blessed, and sanctified (to set apart or to be holy) the seventh day of week at the end of His perfect creation. It is important to note that the Hebrew verb for “rested” is “shabath” which means literally “to cease” from work or activity. So from what we learned earlier “to rest” is the root word for Sabbath in Exodus 20:8. So far it has been clearly established in our study of the Bible thus far that God’s Sabbath or special “rest” day was established by God on the seventh day of His creation week and that He made this day special by ceasing from all His work of creating, blessing it, and making it holy. Now let’s go back to the fourth commandment and read it in its entirety.

Exodus 20: 8-11

⁸Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.⁹Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: ¹¹For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

So again it is clear that God’s fourth commandment not only commands us to remember His Sabbath day, but we are to keep it holy or sacred. Verse 9 and 10 tells us how and when to keep His Sabbath day holy. And verse 11; reminds us why we keep God’s Sabbath day holy. According to verse 9, how do we keep it

holy? By resting from all your WORK including anyone that works for you or serves you. ***Isaiah 58:13*** makes it very plain how we should keep God's Sabbath day Holy it says, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words. Again which day is the Sabbath according to Exodus 20:10? The seventh day of the week. When we go back to creation in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2, God only named the days by its number 1-7. Through the centuries, men attached names to the days such as Monday or Tuesday, but the number and order of the calendar days are still the same. So if you go to the standard calendar today it informs us that the seventh day of the week is Saturday. And any standard dictionary will back this up. The Webster's dictionary clearly states that "Saturday" is the seventh day of the week. The Jews who have been around for centuries also recognize that the seventh day of the week is Saturday. The measurement of a day at creation was from the "evening and the morning" or sunset to sunset when God created the world after the first day of His creation He said in ***Genesis 1:5*** the evening and the morning is the first day. At the end of the second day of His creation what did God say in Genesis 1:8? "And the evening and the morning were the second day" What did God say at the end of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth day in Genesis Chapter 1? "That the evening and the morning was the third day, and the evening and the morning was the fourth day and so on. So according to the measurement of a day defined in Genesis Chapter 1 which is sunset to sunset, the Holy Sabbath day according to the fourth commandment officially begins on Friday at sunset and officially ends on Saturday at sunset.

When we exam the last part of God's fourth commandment in Exodus 20:11, it reminds us **why** we should keep God's Sabbath day holy. It says in verse 11 that "*in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and **rested** the seventh day: wherefore the LORD **blessed** the sabbath day, and **hallowed it**. Here in the last part of God's fourth commandment, He clearly identifies Himself as the Creator of all things. So the first reason why we should keep God's Sabbath day holy is because He is our Creator. So, each seventh-day of the week is a holy memorial or celebration of God's creation of the earth, heaven, and life. And the second reason why we should keep God's Sabbath day holy is because in the last part of verse 11 it says that He rested on the seventh day from creating, blessed it and hallowed it. Does that sound familiar? Go back to the first part of study of the fourth commandment. The Sabbath or day of rest was established at the end of the creation week on the seventh-day at the end of creation according to Genesis 2:2-3. God rested or ceased from creating, and He blessed and sanctified or made holy the seventh day. So at the end of the fourth commandment, God reminds us that we not only keep the seventh day of the week holy because He is our Creator, but we keep the seventh day holy because God made it holy, blessed it and set it apart from any other day. God did not bless and sanctify the first day of the week. What about the second or the third day or the fourth, fifth or sixth day of the week? God did not bless the second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth day. Why? Because according to the Bible, He only blessed and made holy the seventh-day of the week. There is not doubt Biblically that God set up a specific day of the week to set aside twenty-four hours to worship and recognize Him as our Creator. Why? God said it and made it holy. The seventh day Sabbath is a cathedral of time in which we rest from our weary labors and place 100 percent of our focus on God the Creator and Redeemer of this earth.

4. Who was the Sabbath made for?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Mark 2:27, 28

Write Bible Answer:

Mark 2:27&28 says, ²⁷And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: ²⁸Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. Jesus is very clear. We see here that the Sabbath was designed by God as a blessing for all humanity.

5. What did Jesus and the disciples do on the Sabbath?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Luke 4:16; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible reveals that Jesus kept the Sabbath day Holy. **Luke 4:16** says, “¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, the Sabbath day and stood up for to read. So it is clear that Jesus worshiped on the Sabbath day. And don’t you want to follow the example of Jesus? First John 2:6 says that “⁶He that saith he abideth in him [that’s Jesus] ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Now, is there any mention in the Bible that the Sabbath was changed to another day? Frankly, NO and I kindly challenge anyone to search for themselves in the Bible to find any one text that says that God changed the Biblical seventh day Sabbath to another day.

6. What day did the apostles and the early church worship after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 18:4

Write Bible Answer:

Even way after the death of Jesus the apostle Paul and the Jews and the Gentiles he taught followed the example of Jesus. This is an important text for some who may believe that Gentiles kept a different day than the Jews. **Acts 18:4 says** referring to Paul, ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. There are many other texts in the Bible to show us how valid the Sabbath is today and that it has never Biblically been changed. There is so much more we can talk about concerning God’s seventh-day Biblical Sabbath which comes every Saturday or seventh-day of the week. Next lesson we will continue our study of God’s 4th commandment, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy.

In summary, the fourth commandment completes our picture on how we should worship, honor, and love God. They all are equally important. The first four commandments makes it clear that only God is to be worshiped/ and as professed children of God we should simply obey what God has said.

We will continue this topic on the Sabbath in the next lesson.