GOD’S NAME

**DATE: 2/11/2018 am**

**TEXT: Exodus 20:7**

**INTRODUCTION**

We pick up again this morning where we last left off in our Study of the 10 Commandments

We are looking at God’s Perfect 10 for a Perfect Life

Today we will be looking at the 3rd Commandment

***“Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain;”***

What exactly does that mean?

If you listen to some people, you would think that the name *Jesus* and *God* were nothing more than swearwords

The way they throw His Name around is unbelievable!

The name of *Jesus* is everything but a swearword

I join with the songwriter in saying …

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,*

*And He’s just the same as His lovely name,*

*And that’s the reason why I love Him so;*

*Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know.*

So, let’s consider the 3rd Commandment and the importance of **“God’s Name”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “SACREDNESS OF USING” GOD’S NAME**

Let me begin by saying that most people don’t believe that anything is Sacred anymore

**Sacred** speaks of God being *worthy of our Worship, or our very special attention*

And I want to say that there should be a Sacredness to the Name of God!

There are 63 references in the Book of Palms alone of the Praise that is due unto God’s Name

**Psalm 7:17 *– “I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness: and will sing praise to the Name of the LORD most high”***

It has been said that there are more than 300 Names for God in the Bible

The 3rd Commandment tells us the Name of God is to be Sacred and Special

**Quote:** Someone once said – *“The Name of the Lord should be a precious jewel in the cabinet of our heart, to be taken out only at great times and with loving care”*

Why should we treat the Name of the LORD with such loving care? (Let’s see)

When it comes to the Sacredness of the Name of God

Let’s first look at …

**A. The ‘Revelation we see’ in God’s Name**

God has Revealed Himself to us in His Name

As we learn about God we find that He is called by many Names

One Commentator said - *“What the telescope is to the scientist, the Name of God is to His children”*

The Names of God Reveal Who He is

And Each Name Reveals a different aspect of God

**Quote:** Herbert Lockyer stated - *“But if we would know what God says about Himself, it is necessary to study the revelation found in the great names and titles He has given of Himself.”*

For example, 5 times in our text (**Exodus 20**)

God speaks of Himself as the ***“LORD thy God”***

They are found in **vs. 1, 5, 7, 10**, and **12**

The adjective ***“thy”*** shows *possession, belonging or relating to you*

The point here is that the Name of God is Personal

First, let’s look at …

**1.** The Name ***“God”***

The Name ***“God”*** is the Hebrew word *Elohim*

This Name Reveals God as *the Mighty One*

It is the First Name we are given of Him in the Bible

**Genesis 1:1** says - ***“In the beginning God …”***

In **Genesis 1** we see the Creation of the Heaven and Earth

Creation demonstrates the Mighty Power and Ability of God

It is also a plural word, thus it speaks of the multiplicity of God’s Strength and Power

In this Name, God Revealed that He is a Mighty Powerful God (And that’s an under estimation)

Then, there’s …

**2.** The Name ***“LORD”***

If you notice carefully, the name ***“LORD”*** is written in all capital letters which indicates that it is the translation of the Hebrew word *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*

This is the Personal Name of God and speaks of Him as the God *who was, is, and ever shall be*

In this name, God Reveals that He is the Eternal Self-Existing One

When you put the 2 Names together, God is Revealing Himself as *the Eternal One who is Mighty in Power and Strength*

Each Name that we have of God in the Bible …

… Reveals something about His Person

His Names are a Revelation of the kind of God He is!

In fact, the word ***“name”*** that is used here in **v.** **7** is a word that speaks of *a mark or memorial of an individual*

God’s Names are a Remembrance of Who He is!

Because His Names are **a Revelation** of Himself,

Then there’s …

**B. The ‘Reverence we should show’ for God’s Name**

Let me say that there is very little Reverence showedtodayfor God

**Reverence –** *deep respect and regard*

The Bible says in **Psalm 111:9 - *“… holy and reverend is His Name”***

Jesus taught us to pray in **Matt. 6:9** & **Lk. 11:2** -

***“Hallowed be Thy Name”***

The Name of the Lord is to be Reverenced and held in high esteem

The Names of God are to be spoken with the utmost Respect and used with the utmost Reverence

Ancient Jews Hallowed and Regarded the Name of God with great Reverence

Whenever a Scribe was to copy the Scriptures, he would perform a ceremonial cleansing (Mikvah)

Knowing that he would be writing the Name of God

They would do it, with Reverence

To even Write the Name of God was done in Holy Awe and Reverence

**Psalm 34:3** says - ***“O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His Name together”***

The Name of the Lord is to be lifted up in Praise, not lowered in Profanity

It is to be Exalted, not Debased or Disrespected

When we use God’s Name we are to do so in a Sacred way

It should be done with Reverence

**THE “SACREDNESS OF USING” GOD’S NAME**

**II. THE “SINFULNESS OF MISUSING” GOD’S NAME**

The 3rd Commandment tells us Not to take the Name of the Lord in Vain

The word ***“vain”*** means *empty of content*

It speaks of making something *void of meaning*

The word was often used to speak of *a false report*

We are not to use the Name of God in a way that does not reflect what His Name means

We are not to use His Name in a way that makes void the meaning of His Name

How do we misuse the Name of God?

Let me suggest 2 ways

First, we Misuse the Name of God when …

**A. Using His Name in ‘Profanity’**

**1.** Profanity & Cursing is Shameful

Some people think it makes them look tough to swear and curse

**Quote:** Someone once said - *“Profanity is the crutch of a conversational cripple”*

**Quote:** George Washington said - *“The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it”*

If you want to show how immature, how limited your vocabulary, and how feeble your mind is, then curse

The last thing a person with any self-respect or maturity will do … is curse

The simple truth of the matter is; what comes out of your mouth … only reveals what kind of person you really are

Jesus said in **Matt. 15:18 - *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart…”***

A filthy mouth only reveals a filthy heart!

**Quote:** Adrian Rogers said - *“Profanity reveals a feeble mind trying to express itself … a wicked heart truly expressing itself”*

All Profanity and Cursing is shameful …

**2.** But Profanity using God’s Name is Vile

It is Wicked and Disgusting

It is more than Shameful, it’s Sinful!

To use God’s Name in Vain is to slur the very character of God

It is Disrespectful to take God’s Name and drag it through the mud

I don’t know about you, but I can’t stand it when someone uses God’s Name in Vain

It grates on me (irritate)

It ought to Anger you when you hear God’s Name used in Vain

Someone ought to be embarrassed and ashamed to use God’s Name that way

You say, *“Preacher, I don’t mean anything by it, it’s just a habit”*

No, it’s a sin!

Many Christians take God’s Name in Vain and are not even aware they are doing it

Many of the little slang expressions we use are actually forms of taking God’s Name in Vain

Let me give you a few -

Etymologists tell us that *“by jove”* is a play on the name Jehovah

*“By golly”* and *“gosh”* are slang for God

Some of us older folks grew up on Dennis the Menace

His favorite expression was *“jeepers creepers”*

It sounds so innocent, but it is actually slang of Jesus Christ

The same is true for *“Jiminy Christmas”, “Gee,”* *“gee whiz,”* and *“jeeze”* are all abbreviations of Jesus

We all have said, *“For crying out loud”*

It may surprise you, but it is actually a reference …

… to Christ on the Cross

I know what some of you are thinking

What am I going to say now when I get mad?

How about Nothing?

In all seriousness, we often take God’s Name in Vain and are not even aware that we are doing it

God says - ***“Thou shalt Not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain”***

Intentionally or ignorantly, God’s Name is not to be used in a Disrespectful or Degrading way!

Also, we Misuse the Name of God when …

**B. Using His Name in ‘Pretense’**

**Pretense –** *insincere or feigned (fake) behavior*

As I said earlier, the word ***“vain”*** means *empty of content*

I also spoke of how it was often used to speak *of a false report*

Do you realize that when we use God’s Name and we do so without meaning and purpose …

We are taking God’s Name in Vain

Sunday after Sunday, people come to Church and …

… sing the Name of God, speak the Name of God, and pray in the Name of God, but do so without any real Meaning and Significance

When we use God’s Name, but never intend to do anything for Him …

We are using God’s Name in Vain

The Profanity on the street is one thing

But the Profanity in the Church House is a far more insidious thing

The Bible has a lot to say about the phony

People act one way, but in their hearts are just the opposite

-- When we Sing the Name of God, we should do it with all our heart

-- When we Speak the Name of God, it should be done with great feeling and meaning

-- When we Preach the Name of God we must do so with purpose

Otherwise, we are guilty of taking God’s Name in Vain

**THE “SACREDNESS OF USING” GOD’S NAME**

**THE “SINFULNESS OF MISUSING” GOD’S NAME**

Then Lastly …

**III. THE “SERIOUSNESS OF ABUSING” GOD’S NAME**

Notice that the 3rd Commandment says ***- “…the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in Vain”***

We may excuse the taking of God’s Name as slip-up’s, silly habits, and casual mistakes …

But God does not view it lightly, nor does He ignore it

The 3rd Commandment tells us that God takes it very seriously

The 3rd Commandment tells us How serious God takes using His Name in Vain

First, let me point out …

**A. The ‘Defilement’ it Brings**

The 3rd Commandment tells us that God will not ***“hold him guiltless”*** that uses God’s Name in Vain

The word ***“guiltless”*** is also translated elsewhere in the Bible as *clean, innocent, clear* and *blameless*

The word literally means *to be clean*

When we take the Lord’s Name in Vain, the Bible is saying that we are Not Clean before God

To have a dirty mouth is bad enough

But to be dirty in the eyes of God is even worse

You say - *“Oh, preacher, I didn’t really mean anything by it. It is just a bad habit I have”*

Bad habit or not, when you take God’s Name in Vain you are Unclean and Dirty before God

Furthermore, we see the Seriousness of taking God’s Name in Vain in …

**B. The ‘Discipline’ it Brings**

**Proverbs 16:5** tells us - ***“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished”***

I point out the word ***“unpunished”***

It is the same word translated ***“guiltless”*** in **v. 7** where God says that those who take His Name in Vain He will not hold ***“guiltless”***

God says that the person who takes His Name is Vain will not go ***“unpunished”***

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:36 - *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment”***

There will come a day when we will give an account for what we say and the words we use

So you call it a slip-up? So you call it an oops?

You ought to remember that God says that one day the taking of His Name will be punished

I recently came across a list of *mom-isms*

You know; those famous sayings of mothers

A few of the mom-isms on the list were …

- A little “birdy” told me!

- Close the door! You don’t live in a barn

- Do you think I’m made of money?

- Always wear clean underwear in case you get in an accident

- Don’t cross your eyes or they’ll freeze that way

- Don’t put that in your mouth, you don’t know where it’s been

- I hope someday you have children just like you

- If God had wanted you to have holes in your ears, He would have put them there

- I would have never talked to MY mother like that

- If you don’t stop crying, I’m going to give you something to cry about!

- I’m going to give you to the count of three…

- There’s enough dirt in your ears to grow potatoes!

- Now, say you’re sorry…and MEAN it!

- What if everybody jumped off a cliff? Would you do it, too?

- I’m not always going to be around to do these things for you

- You had better wipe that smile off your face before I do it for you

Of course there is the one all mom’s used to strike terror in the heart of their children

*“Say that again and I’ll wash your mouth out with soap”*

I know some children that grew up thinking Lifebuoy and Dial were cheese

It is possible that some need their mouth washed out

Not necessarily with soap, but with a good ole time confession and cleansing - Why?

**I John 1:9 *– “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”***

The 3rd Commandment says - ***“Thou 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”***

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “SACREDNESS OF USING” GOD’S NAME**

**THE “SINFULNESS OF MISUSING” GOD’S NAME**

**THE “SERIOUSNESS OF ABUSING” GOD’S NAME**