New Mount Zion M.B.

Church Bible Class

April

13

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2020

*“Understanding The Ten Commandments”*

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*Commandment*

*What is the third commandment? 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.*

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*Do not misuse the name of the LORD your GOD because the LORD will punish anyone who misuses his name.*

*We do not expect the world to get this, but*

*Christians are obligated to get it. We are supposed to think about what we say. We are*

*supposed to be deliberate in our speech. Jesus*

*said, “Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of*

*judgment” (Matthew 12:36). We can very well take this as His exposition of the third*

*commandment: “The LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”*

*There is no argument left to excuse the careless speech of those who say, “Oh my God,” “Oh, Jesus Christ,” “geez” and so on. They are clearly in violation of the command. The Christian should work overtime completely expunging these expressions from his vocabulary. Every word we speak has meaning*

*whether said with intent. Our conscious thought*

*should be as Paul advised: “And whatsoever ye do in*

*word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17).*

*How do we use GOD’S name in vain?*

*False swearing or saying GOD DAWG. In everyday life as well as in court statements, claims were often*

*backed up by evoking GOD’S name. When people*

*evoked GOD’S name, they call GOD as a witness to*

*the truth of their word. Assertions made in court, in public affairs or even in ordinary conversation were often back up with the misuse of GOD’S name.*

*The reason for mentioning GOD’S name in an oath, is to emphasize to man that just as GOD’S name is truth, so should his own words be true.*

*The name of GOD should not be used for any pointless purposes. The name of GOD stands for more than the mere pronouncing of his title or*

*address. It literally includes his nature. Those that use GOD’S name that way or literally saying that GOD is nothing.*

*GOD oftentimes gave an oath, but an oath is to be accompanied by sincerity and truth. (Deut 6:13)*

*(Matthew 5: 33-37). When a person makes a vow or an oath to the LORD, he must really mean it and be faithful to carrying it out.*

*The reason why taking an oath is made necessary today, is because of the dishonesty and deception that exist in society.*

*If you swear in God’s name or lower what is Holy and perfect in His eyes, you have broken the third command.*

*The devil’s plan is to see God’s name stumbled and lowered to the lowest degree.*

*All false oaths are forbidden, all light appealing to God, all profane cursing and hypocrisy is a horrid breach of this command.*

*So what exactly is forbidden by the third commandment? The word vain (as it’s rendered in the ESV) can mean “empty,” “nothing,”*

*“worthless,” or “to no good purpose.” We are forbidden, therefore, from taking the name of*

*God (or taking up the name or bearing the name, as the phrase could be translated) in a*

*manner that is wicked, worthless, or for wrong*

*purposes. This doesn’t mean that we must avoid the divine name altogether.*

*The Old Testament identifies several ways in which the third commandment can be violated. Most obvious is to blaspheme or curse the name of God, which we*

*saw already in Leviticus 24:16. But there’s more to the commandment than that. The third commandment*

*also forbids empty or false oaths: “You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your*

*God: I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:12; cf. Hos. 10:4a). When you make a declaration, swearing by God’s name, it must not be a false promise or one you do not intend to keep.*

*The third commandment also prohibits false visions and false claims to speak on God’s behalf, for such prophets “prophesy lies in my name” (Jer. 23:25). Strangely enough, sacrificing one’s children to the false god*

*Molech was considered a violation of the third commandment because it profaned the name of God*

*(Lev. 18:21). The Israelites were to stone the man who sacrificed his children in this way. Failure to do so would*

*allow for uncleanness to permeate the camp, thereby besmirching the name of the Lord, who dwelt in the*

 *midst of his people.*

*Everywhere in Scripture the name of the*

*Lord is exalted in the highest possible terms. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is*

*your name in all the earth!” (Ps. 8:1a).*

*“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name” (Ps. 29:2a). The first petition of the Lord’s Prayer is “Hallowed be your name” (Matt. 6:9).*

*The apostles proclaimed that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Paul assured the Romans that*

*“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13). And the culminating event in all*

*of creation is when, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the*

*earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is*

*Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10–11).*

*The Bible does not want us to forget the holy importance of the divine name.*

*Name some ways the name of god is taken in vain.*

*A street slang, expression or curse name*

*In today’s world, the name of God has become like any other name even being lowered than any other. It has become a street slang, a street expression, a*

*curse name and a name which many people swear to.*

*How many times in a day will you hear people take the name of God in vain? How many times in a day will you hear someone say, ‘Oh my God’, call Jesus Christ and so on and so on?*

*Blasphemy*

 *The name of God is taken lightly and placed*

 *anywhere.* . *From men’s speech, movies, televisions,*

 *radios, music etc. God’s name is highly blasphemed.*

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*Taking the name of God in vain is not only talking about it lightly or meaningless, it is also allowing it be taken in vain in your presence. As you watch a movie, television or listen to music and the name of God is taken in vain, you have sinned by allowing that name be taken in vain.*

*You allow that name get into your ears and whoever is close. You have sinned and repercussions are on the way. If you hear the name of God taken in vain,*

*you are supposed to react and protect the name.*

*Swear and oaths*

*If you swear in God’s name or lower what is holy and perfect in God eyes you have broken the third*

*command; You shall not take the name of the LORD*

 *your God in vain. All false oaths are forbidden.*

*Effects of taking the name of God in vain Taking the name of God in vain causes;*

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*Desensitization*

*When we let the name of God be taken in vain, as a street slang, curse word, street slang expression name, people are desensitized from the power of the name.*

*Many people have been desensitized from the name of*

*God that it does not mean anything big and people can use it anyhow, anywhere. The name has been mentioned many times in a slang way that it does not hold its power and meaning.*

*Consequence of taking the name of God in vain*

*This command is unlike other commands and God puts it straight that this command is exceptionally serious.*

*He says that, ‘for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain.’.*

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*Indeed there are consequences to blasphemy and profanity (taking God’s name in vain). When you use the*

*name of God wrongly, the name still holds its power so there are repercussions. If you use the name of God*

*positively, the power in it will bring positive results but when you will use the name negatively, it will bring negative results.*