

# The Third Commandment

Take the name of the Lord in vain

Exodus 20:3-17 / Matthew 5:34

## Intro

- Basics: God's moral law written on the hearts of every man.
- Posted: In your house, and in your heart.
- N.T. - Not to destroy the law but to fulfill it.
- Schoolmaster (bus driver) to bring (drive) us to Christ.

## Review

1. Convict & Correct
2. Protect & Direct

Impossible to Keep! So why try?

Can you obey one at a time? Then you can obey all of them.

*"Be holy for I am holy."*

*"Without me you can do nothing."*

This morning we look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 10 Commandments.

Remember the first four are about honoring God, the last 6 are about honoring men.

## **The Ten Commandments** **(The List)**

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
  
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

# The Third Commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord  
Your God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him  
guiltless that takes his name in vain.

## **I. The Name of the Lord**

What did the name of the Lord mean to a Jew?

What does the name of the Lord mean to them today?

His Name: Elohim, I Am, Yahwey, Jehovah, El Shaddai

Jews, even today, in writing his name will not write G-O-D but G-D, out of reverence, respect and fear for His name.

### Use of His Name

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run in to it and are safe” Prov 18:10

### **Prayer, Praise, Proclamation**

- Called by thy name
- Call upon thy name
- Magnify thy name
- Glorify thy name
- Declare thy name
- Sing praises to thy name
- Give thanks to thy name
- Praise thy thy name
- Confess thy name
- Know thy name,
- I will lift up my hands in thy name
- Minister in thy name - Deut 18:5, 7
- Anoint in the Name
- Baptized in the Name
- Do everything in the Name
- Pray in the Name
- Trust in his Name
- Called by his Name
- Cast out demons in the Name
- Ask anything in the Name

### Holy Is His Name

“Holy is your name.” - Matthew 6:9 “Hallowed be thy name.”

Holy = without blemish, spot, wrinkle, flaw. Jesus reminded his disciples in the Lord’s Prayer that God’s name was to be held high and holy. “Hallowed be thy name.”

Awesome is thy name. Not to use his name in crude, curses, irreverent, coarse,

## **II. To “Take” His Name**

(ie) Marriage - my wife took on my name, bears my name, honors my name.

Israel was known by His name. They took on his name. Their God was Yahwey. They were the people of Yahwey.

To Bear His Name

### III In Vain

Leviticus 19:12 And ye shall not swear <07650> by my name falsely , neither shalt thou profane <02490> the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD .

#### His Name in Vain

Now what does that mean. Some groups, including traditional orthodox Jews will not utter the name of the Lord. In fact, when writing today they write G-d, rather than write or utter his name, lest they utter it in vain. Is that the meaning of the law of God.

#### What did Jesus say about it?

Jesus again interprets for us. “*But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:*” - Matthew 5:34

What is the purpose of the command, “*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain?*”

- 1) Blasphemy - that his name is not a byword, a curse word to be bantered about carelessly trampling it under foot. (*imprecate*) → Leviticus 24:11 *blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed.* → Leviticus. 24:16 (Elisha cursed [condemned]them in the name of the Lord... 2 Kings 2:24) **Trample it under foot** (Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?)
- 2) Lying oaths taken to cover one’s own deceit in the name of the Lord are misuses of his holy name. Jesus referred to this as “foreswear not at all.” “Let your yes be yes, and your no be no.” If you are honest you need no oath to prove it. You live will be proof enough. Jesus - “Swear not at all!” → Matthew 5:33-37
- 3) Prophecy Falsely (presumptuously) in the name of the Lord. -→ Deuteronomy 18:22  
“The Lord told me...thus and so...”  
22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.
- 4) Unholy Living by those who profess his name - Holiness shall accompany his name. To take on the name of the Lord, or be called by his name (Christian, child of God) and not live like a child of God is to take on his name in vain. It is an abuse of his name, causes his shame, and causes men to blaspheme that holy name. We have all heard people say, “*If that is what a Christian is I don’t want to be one.*” This is why the New Testament exhorts, “*Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*” → Isaiah 48:1

1 Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, *but* not in truth, nor in righteousness.

Casual Reference - But what of other uses of God's name? Some say expletives such as "Oh God!" or "Good God!" or "God help us!" or "Lord have mercy!" or "Lord help us!" breaks the third commandment. How about a sneeze, "God bless you!" Is that in vain? What do you mean by it?

- Is it honoring to His Name?
- Is it mocking his name or holy things?
- Is it used as a swear word? Is it vulgar? Irreverent?
- Would you be ashamed in the presence of Jesus saying it?
- Is it a bad testimony to the unsaved?

Another says any **joke** or anecdote using God's name or referencing holy things is sacrilege and breaks the command to keep his name holy.

I grew up under strict discipline of conversation - **no slang at all**. We were never allowed to say "Gee" "Gee whiz," "Jeepers," "Gosh" "Golly" and certainly never "Good God!" Yet the same strict commandants of King James English usage said things like, "Darn it", "Shoot" "Dog goneit!"

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

### Be Careful You Who Judge Another

Let each man judge his own heart in this matter.

The purpose of the 10 Commandments is not so that you can stand as judge of another man but that you should judge your own heart. You do not know another man's motives or heart. You cannot see his intents. You do not know what motivates him. You may question it to yourself but you are not to condemn or be his judge. Judge righteous judgement! Judge yourself, for with the same measure that you measure, you shall be measured. By the same standard that you judge another man you should also be judged.

*Thus Jesus is the interpreter of the law. That is, he gives us the intent of the letter of the law and explains the reason and point for which it was given. That point supercedes whether one is under Old Testament law or New Testament grace.*

## **USEFUL PRACTICES**

1. **Pray in the Name** - LORD I need you! Lord help me!
2. **Praise the Name** - Praise the LORD!
3. **Shout Thanksgiving** - Thank God!
4. **Declare his Name** - The Lord did thus and so for me...
5. **Sing of his Name** -
6. **Bless in his Name** - prayer of blessing, benediction

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3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

# The Ten Commandments

(FULL VERSION - KJV)

**Exodus 20:3-17**

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 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.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But 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:

11 For 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.

12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.