

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN

Introduction:

1. Throughout this study, it must be emphasized that man today is not under the Law of Moses – including the Ten Commandments.
2. However, the things that “were written aforetime were written for our learning” (Rom. 15:4).
3. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME
4. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE

I. The Purity of God’s Name

- A. This command builds upon the first two.
 1. God exists and He alone is God.
 2. God is to be worshipped – but only as He is and as He commands.
 3. God is to be held in the highest reverence.
- B. “Whatever in any sense belongs to God is sacred, and, if it is mentioned, should be mentioned reverently” (Pulpit Commentary).
- C. The Jews took this command so seriously that they would not pronounce the name Jehovah (YHWH), using instead “Lord” or “God.”
- D. The name of God stands for God Himself; thus, it must be used with reverence.
- E. “Holy and reverend (fearful) is His name” (Psalm 111:9).

II. The Profanity of Vanity

- A. This commandment covers four aspects of this sin.
- B. Blasphemy
 1. Blasphemy is to speak evil of things that are holy.
 2. When one curses or speaks evil of God, he has taken his name in vain.
 3. Cf. Leviticus 24:10-16; 2 Kings 18:30; 19:6; Matt. 12:24, 31; Mark 2:5-7; John 10:33; 1 Tim. 1:13
- C. Profanity
 1. Profanity is speaking of something holy as though it were common.
 2. To turn the name of God into a curse or mere exclamation is to use it in vain!
 - a. “O my God” (Ezra 9:6; Neh. 13:14; Psa. 3:7; 25:2; Dan. 9:19)
 - b. “Have mercy” (Psa. 4:1; 6:2; 27:7; etc.)
 - c. Euphemisms – “Lordy,” “Gosh,” “Jeez,” “Good Heavens,” etc.
 3. God’s name can be profaned in prayer (Matt. 6:5-15).
 4. God’s name is profaned when applied to men as a religious title (Matt. 23:5-12).
- D. Dishonesty
 1. Another application of this phrase is to “swear falsely” using God’s name (cf. Lev. 19:12; Matt. 5:33-37; 23:16ff).
 2. Many claim to follow God but only use His name for personal gain (Lev. 6:3; Jer. 5:2; 7:9; etc.).
 3. The crime of perjury is also a sin in the eyes of God (Matt. 26:59, 63).
 4. To break one’s oath is to take God’s name in vain (cf. marriage).

- 5. Teaching false doctrine is taking God's name in vain.
- E. Hypocrisy
 - 1. To claim to belong to God and to wear His name, but to live in disobedience to Him is taking His name in vain.
 - 2. Prov. 30:7-9; Titus 1:16; Matt. 7:21-23; 15:7-9
- F. Clearly, this is a sin that is committed far too often by those who should know better.

III. The Punishment of Sin

- A. The one who commits this sin will not be held "guiltless."
- B. This means that he is guilty of sin and is viewed as such by God.
- C. It is just as sinful to take God's name in vain as it is to steal or murder!
- D. One who is guilty of this sin needs to seek forgiveness by obeying the will of God.