

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT: DO NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME LIGHTLY

Exodus 20:7

Introduction: In the first commandment we are forbidden to make God one of many which we might make up, when He is the only God.

In the second commandment we are forbidden to make images and bow before them in any type of worship. Now in this third commandment we are forbidden very strongly not to take His name lightly. "Thou shalt not utter the name of Jehovah to falsehood." "Thou shalt not attribute (carry) nothingness to the name of Jehovah, thy God." "Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God upon a vain thing, a trifling, frivolous occasion."

Names don't mean very much if anything today. It has been told about a mother of a new baby girl naming the little one "Padge-a-may." When asked where in the world did she get such a name, she said she saw it in a catalogue where baby sleeping things were shown. The word she saw was "pajama." True? Could be as we don't attach meanings to the names we give our children today. Just name them after a relative of somebody we liked or whatever. There are some strange names of people today. However in the Bible days names were very important. "Abraham" meant "Father of the Faithful." "Jacob" meant "Supplanter" or "Uprooter." "Israel" meant

"Prince with God." "John" meant "Jehovah's gift." "Peter" meant "rock." So having taken Jehovah for their God and when Israel would

make mention of their God, it was to be in a way of showing honor and recognition to swear by His name. They were, however, in no way to mention God's name in vain or in a light way or careless way. God's name, "Jehovah" means "the self-existent and unchangeable one."

"Elohim" means "the one filled with Majesty, the one to be feared."

I. THIS COMMANDMENT IS A STRICT PROHIBITION

1. It is violated/broken by Hypocrisy. Making a profession of God's name but not living up to that profession. To make a promise to God and then not keep that promise. To talk and sing about our love for Christ and not love Him at all.
2. It is violated/broken by Profanity. By rash swearing, mentioning the name of God or any of His attributes, in the form of an oath, without any just occasion for it, as a "by-word," to no purpose at all, or to no good purpose. Many are not even aware that they are being profane. Ever hear anyone say "God, did you see that?" or "Oh God...." Even small children use God's name in senseless, empty, phrases. The name of "Jesus" is equally misused. "Oh Jesus Christ..." Hearing such use of God's name or the name of Jesus should make a Christian cringe and say something to the offending person. God doesn't go around "damning" people, He wants them to be saved through His Son Jesus Christ.
3. It is violated/broken by Frivolousness. Using the name of God and of Jesus Christ in jokes. Using terms such as "The Man upstairs," "The Great White Father," "The Man," or "That Somebody Upstairs," etc.
4. It is violated/broken by Swearing. The Jews were taught to pay God their religious regard by swearing to His name, but if they called God "to be a witness" to a lie, instead of doing Him honor, they affronted Him. The same thing is done today in our courtrooms and it is called "perjury." Ever hear "...God is my witness...."?
5. It is violated/broken anytime we use the name of God without regard to who He is or our recognition of this commandment.

II. VIOLATORS OF THIS COMMANDMENT WILL ANSWER TO GOD, HIMSELF

1. Most people do not see the importance of keeping the name of God sacred, holy and using it only in times of prayer, worship adoration or witnessing, etc. because there doesn't seem to be any harm done to anybody or anything. However those who are guilty of breaking this commandment don't have nor give God the proper respect He deserves or demands.

God

2. People never in their remotest thoughts ever think that using God's name lightly will cause them to stand before the very
they have taken so lightly and give an account of every single time they profaned God's Holy name, person.
3. It is indeed a fearful thing to stand before the very one whom one has dishonored and violated His sacred name, the living God.

CONCLUSION:

1. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God lightly."
2. Who has not, at one time or other, made light of God and His Holy person? Have you ever told or listened to a joke about God? Have you ever, in a moment of impatience, anger, disgust, or whatever, used God's name in a way that did not bring honor and glory to Him?
3. Our God is God and there is none beside Him. Everything about Him is Holy and every living creature is to give Him proper recognition as the only God, never in any way bringing dishonor to Him in any way. We are to give His Son Jesus the same recognition, "*...for at the name of 'Jesus' every knee shall bow...*"
4. Let us, in saying the name of our God, always be mindful of WHOSE name we are speaking and encourage others to also give our God proper honor and respect.