

Genesis 24; Lord's Day 37

OUR USE OF THE OATH

- I. The idea.
 - A. The setting for oaths are two things.
 - 1. One is God's gift of communication.
 - 2. Two, oaths and vows arise because of man's great proneness to lie, to be distrustful, and to be inconsistent.
 - B. Oaths are promises which appeal to God to witness what we said/promised and to judge us if we fail.
 - 1. An oath puts God before the consciousness of man in three ways.
 - 2. A vow is a promise to do or not do something (as Nazarites, Num. 30:3).
- II. Oaths have a rightful place in the life of believers.
 - A. Scripture commands us to swear by the name of God on certain occasions (Deut. 6:13).
 - B. Scripture gives many examples of those who swore – examples we are commanded to follow.
 - C. Jesus condemned the mis-use of oaths introduced by the Pharisees (Matt. 5:33-37).
- III. The proper use of oaths.
 - A. Oaths ought not be the norm for a Christian.
 - B. Sometimes they are necessary to settle controversies and put an end to strife (I Kings 8:31,32; Heb. 6:16).
 - C. Oaths and vows do have a lawful place in the believer's life. Four normal occasions for oaths: marriage, baptism, confession of faith, ordination into office.
 - D. Let us live honestly in all our dealings in life and work.