

INTRODUCTION

It is a delight to our souls to hear the reading from Philippians 2, about our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ having the name at which every knee should bow and which every tongue should confess.

When we pray according to the Lord's Prayer, the first thing we pray is, "Hallowed be Thy name."

We have spoken to one another countless times in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, saying

 "Praise the name of the Lord" and

 "Blessed be the name of the Lord"

Meanwhile, we have mourned at the way the name of God, and of Jesus Christ, have become meaningless, trite expressions, and even curses, under the fingers and on the lips of our fellow men.

It is with joy, then, that we take up this favorite theme in the third commandment.

Oh, and what joy it is for the Christian to think of the Name of the Lord, because you who believe in Jesus Christ were sinners, breakers of God's law, unjust, unrighteous in God's judgment. But by the grace of God you were washed clean from your guilt in the blood of the Redeemer; you were made holy to be servants of the Most High, through faith you were justified by the Spirit of God in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

As we study the Ten Commandments today, you are not terrified at their threatenings. You are not under their curses. The Lord Jesus has freed you from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us when He was crucified. Instead, as you hear the righteousness of God's commandments, you rejoice in how the Lord Jesus kept them all, and how God has counted His obedience for you through faith! You bow down your hearts in worship at the feet of One so righteous, so full of grace, the One who has loved you so much as to do all this for you when you were a sinner. You listen to these commandments for instruction as to what pleases the Lord, that you may delight in doing it. These commandments are no burden to you, but the delight of your inner man, and a great help in the struggle to put the flesh to death and live by the Spirit.

TEXT

Exodus 20:7 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.

BODY

I. Its Place In the Ten Commandments

A. It is in the first table

B. In the first table

1. First: the object of worship: that it be God alone, nothing else
2. Second: the means of worship: that they be the means that God has ordained; nothing that we have imagined
3. Third: the manner of worship: that we worship God in a reverent manner
4. Fourth: the time of worship

II. What Sin Is Expressly Forbidden

-remember that every one of the ten commandments is head of a category...

-to take the name of the Lord your God in vain

A. the name of the LORD your God H3068

1. see how God identifies Himself by this name in verse 2
2. see how God repeats this name in each of the first four commandments
3. in each of these places the Hebrew is 4 letters: YHWH
 - a) often people today say something like Yahweh
 - (1) trying to recreate how it would have sounded
 - (2) but not really knowing
 - (a) exactly what those consonants sounded like when spoke by God and by Moses
 - (b) at all what the vowels were originally
 - b) in translating the Hebrew into English, William Tyndale used Jehovah
4. in the NT, our Lord Jesus and His apostles expressed this in Greek by *kurios*, which means "Lord"
5. so our translators, learning from our Lord Jesus and His apostles, normally express the word in our language as Lord
6. beginning with the KJV, the word LORD is printed in all caps, so the reader can know each time what the Hebrew original is
7. because our Lord and His apostles taught us that the four-letter name can be expressed by the common word "Lord," we realize that the commandment regarding the four-letter Hebrew name extends to whatever terms we use to refer to God

B. take

1. to speak - this commandment is mostly about what comes out of our mouths regarding the name of God
2. to make any other use

C. in vain

1. H7723
2. falsely - Exodus 23:1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.
3. as if it were not what it is
4. as if it were empty of meaning; lightly, as if it were a light thing

D. So, what is expressly forbidden is to take the name of the LORD thy God in vain

E. To take the name of the LORD in vain would be to worship God in an unfitting manner

III. What Duty Is Most Clearly Implied

- A. Remember that in every commandment that forbids some sin, by implication it also requires the opposite; it shows us what duty is required in righteousness
- B. In the third commandment, the duty most strongly implied is: to show reverence for God in what use we make of His name, or in what we do in His name
- C. Reverence
 - 1. honor, fear, affection, respect, veneration, esteem
 - 2. especially as deserved by one who is in office above us

IV. The Truth Upon Which It Is Based

- A. About God: To deal with God's name is to deal with Him; to deal with those words whereby He makes Himself known to us is to deal with Him
- B. About us: controlling what we say is very difficult, and is much of what is to control the whole person - James 3:1-10

CONCLUSION

In the third commandment, find joy to your soul, the delight of honoring the name of the Lord our Savior and our God.

In the third commandment, find comfort, knowing that God will deal with all taking of His name in vain.

In the third commandment, find good news, that although there is salvation in no other name, there is salvation in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. (11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Stephen - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 119:169-176

Willie - Scripture Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

Alex - Congregational Prayer

Rita - Prelude

Journey - Trinity 725 "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" - Andrew lead

Haven - Trinity 447 "Blest Are the Undefined in Heart"

Rita - Trinity 705 "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Spurgeon:

A reverence for the very name of God is demanded and all things that are connected with his worship are to be kept sacred.

Jack Sidebottom memorial -

Aug 26th 2:00 informal coffee finger foods