

# 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

Exodus 20:7

Psalms 99:3 - Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. "Holy and reverend is His name. {Psalm 111:9} All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character; and His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity.<sup>1</sup>

Never should that name be spoken lightly or thoughtlessly. Even in prayer its frequent or needless repetition should be avoided.<sup>2</sup> Swearing, and all words spoken in the form of an oath, are dishonoring to God. The Lord sees, the Lord hears, and He will not hold the transgressor guiltless. He will not be mocked. Those who take the name of the Lord in vain will find it a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.<sup>3</sup>

"Holy and reverend is His name." We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High, and we should come before Him with holy awe.<sup>4</sup> God must receive the honor and praise due to his name.<sup>5</sup>

It is when we are faithful in exalting the name of God that our impulses are under divine supervision, and we are enabled to develop spiritual and intellectual power.<sup>6</sup> As we praise God, the soul becomes strong in spiritual power.<sup>7</sup> The Lord desires us to make mention of His goodness and tell of His power. He is honored by the expression of praise and thanksgiving. He says, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me." {Psalm 50:23}<sup>8</sup> The absence of praise and thanksgiving pleases the enemy of God.<sup>9</sup>

The third commandment condemns the profane swearer, but the spirit of the precept reaches farther still, and forbids that the name of God be introduced into the conversation in a careless or irreverent manner.<sup>10</sup> Those who are brought into covenant relation with God are pledged to speak of Him in the most respectful, reverential manner.<sup>11</sup>

True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence.<sup>12</sup> In the word, God is spoken of as "the everlasting God." This name embraces past, present, and future. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the Eternal One.<sup>13</sup> Angels mention that sacred name with the greatest awe, ever veiling their faces when they speak the name of God; and the name of Christ is so sacred to them that they speak it with the greatest reverence.<sup>14</sup>

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8-11

Humility and reverence should characterize the deportment of all who come into the presence of God. In the name of Jesus we may come before Him with confidence, but we must not approach Him with the boldness of presumption, as though He were on a level with ourselves.<sup>15</sup> The Lord our God is holy, and his name is to be treated with great reverence.<sup>16</sup>