

06 - The Third Commandment - Exodus 20:7 - 2014-03-02

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:1

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:46-49

Sermon: "The Third Commandment" Exodus 20:7

Benediction: Psalm 113:2-3

By God's grace, with the help of His Spirit, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now resume a study of God's Ten Commandments, which He spoken Himself and wrote in stone Himself.

Recall that in the first introductory study we learned that a study of the Ten Commandments is essentially a study of love for God, and of the new birth, and of faith in Jesus Christ. For those who have been born again, who trust in Jesus Christ, the commandments are neither a threat nor a burden, but are a delight to the regenerated heart.

Recall that in the second introductory study we learned how the Lord God gave us help in understanding the Ten Commandments by how He gave them, speaking them Himself and writing them in stone Himself; and how He also Gave us help in obeying the Ten Commandments by how He identified Himself as our God, and as our Redeemer, our Savior.

Recall that as we studied the First Commandment, we came to understand that God commands us not to worship anything else as if it were a god; worshipping it either instead of God or with God, nor to commit any other sin of that kind, in which we give to something else the trust and affection we should have for God alone. It also requires us to be devoted to God to the highest degree in every area of life.

Recall also that that our study of the Second Commandment, over the past two weeks, led us to understand that we are to obey the Lord's second commandment---worshipping the Lord God according to His Word, doing only what He has commanded us to do as worship, and doing it all through faith in Jesus Christ.

Today we consider the third of God's Ten Commandments---matters pertaining to the Name of the Lord.

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.

But for each of you who does not turn away from sin; for each of you who stubbornly refuses to trust in Jesus Christ, preferring instead to trust in something else, perhaps trusting that you are good enough to escape God's wrath against evildoers, perhaps believing that your ideas about God, which do not include wrath and vengeance, are true, while the bible is wrong, each of you stands under the law. You are locked up under the law as a guilty criminal, with all the others. These commandments, as they are read and preached to you, are the indictment of the prosecutor against you; they are the formal charges being pressed against you. Remaining like you are, in unbelief, your doom is to face God on the day of the great judgment, and suffer all the penalty for your sin, which God, in His mighty wrath, will pour out on your every minute of every day for all eternity, without the least relief and without end. But there is forgiveness still to be had, that you may be saved from the wrath of God to come. The Lord Jesus has taken the punishment of sinners upon Himself--why will you insist or remaining apart from Him, and taking it all on yourself? Today turn away from your sins to serve God; trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to save you; become His disciple; love Him and live by His commands; in place of everlasting death, enjoy all the blessings of everlasting life.

Read the text: Exodus 20:7

What does the third commandment forbid?

Shorter Catechism: all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes himself known

JRY: You are forbidden to take up the name of the Lord in worship or for any other purpose, without due reverence for Him as God, especially as to repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

What does the third commandment require?

Shorter Catechism: the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

JRY: You are required to consider God's Name and everything else about Him as holy, so that in all of your thoughts, words, and actions, you live in proper fear of Him, which can be done only by repentance toward God, and faith in Jesus Christ.

OR

JRY: All worship of God must be done not in outward form and words only, but from the heart, through faith in Jesus Christ.

OR

JRY: You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

BODY

Read the text: Exodus 20:7

As with our previous study in the second commandment, I have been greatly helped by reading a passage of scripture that describes Israel's disobedience to the Third Commandment. Today I will put this Third Commandment to you according to that passage, which is Jeremiah 7:1-15.

Read the text: Jeremiah 7:1-15

I. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment requires you to listen attentively to His Word (2)

Of course you are tempted to come into the assembly of the church of Jesus Christ, taking up the name of the Lord as a worshiper, then have little interest in the reading and preaching of God's Word.

II. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment requires you to repent of sin, then live a lifestyle in keeping with that repentance (3)

You are tempted to take the name "Christian," or sing praises to the Lord, or talk about God as if you love Him, but never turn from your wicked ways to serve God.

III. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment forbids you to trust in the saying of God's name instead of in Him (4)

See how Judah was doing this.

You must not say the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father, which art in heaven . . ." trusting that the saying of that prayer will save you or gain you forgiveness of sins or God's favor. Instead, you must have your faith in Him rather than in your praying to Him.

You must not treat the name of Jesus Christ as a magic spell, like “abracadabra” or “open sesame.” The bible teaches us to pray in the name of Jesus. But you must not pray whatever you want to pray, however you want to pray, then claim the name of Jesus as if saying His name in prayer makes it all work.

You must not trust in the saying of a prayer to God instead of trusting in Him, Himself. Many of us have been told, “If you want to be saved, if you want to have a relationship with God, if you want to go to heaven, if you want to be a Christian, then pray asking Jesus into your heart. If you don’t know what to pray, then repeat this prayer after me.” After praying, we were assured, “If you prayed that prayer just now and really meant it, then you are saved, and don’t let anyone make you doubt it.”

Friends, I do not doubt that some of us came to true faith in Christ in spite of such a mess of doctrine. But to tell people that, and to practice that, is to trust in prayers said to God rather than trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The Son of God left heaven and came down here with us, becoming a man like us. He lived a perfect life, obeying God’s commands flawlessly in perfect love. Then He took the guilt of sinners upon Himself and submitted to cruel death on the cross, taking the punishment for the sins of others. God now requires that you trust in Jesus Christ crucified for you, not in a prayer you say. You must trust in Jesus Christ’s perfect obedience to the Father in His whole life and death, not your obedience in saying a prayer to Him.

IV. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God’s third commandment forbids you to trust in the institutions of God instead of in Him (4)

In the case of Judah, the people were trusting in the temple

In your case, you might be trusting in God’s church

You might be trusting in the family God has created

V. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God’s third commandment requires that your treatment of the weak be in keeping with your claiming the name of the Lord (5-7)

VI. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God’s third commandment forbids you to trust in false teaching about God (8)

Whatever doctrines would teach you that you are pleasing to God when you are not.

Whatever doctrines would teach you that you are not pleasing to God when you are.

VII. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment forbids you to say God that has saved you so you can live in sin (9-10)

It seems a little crazy that anyone would say that, right? Imagine it, "Hey, do you know why God saved me? He saved me so I could disobey Him in everything and do everything He hates and live for my own selfish desires." Indeed, no one would actually say that. But the bible teaches us here, in verses 9-10, that if you live a certain way, you actually say that by your actions even if you wouldn't dare say it with words.

God says to the people of Judah that if they break His commandments, then come worship in the temple called by His name, it is as much as if to say, "God has saved us from our enemies so that we can be free to do all these things that He hates."

It seems crazy that they would live like that, doesn't it? But that's what they did.

If you are lazy in your work, or if you have hateful thoughts toward other people, or if you look at good-looking women or men lustfully, or if you say things about other people to run them down, or if you love the things of this world more than Jesus Christ in heaven, and then you come to the assembly of the church and think all of that is somehow okay or covered up because you go to church, do you understand what you are saying by all of that? You are saying, "God has healed me from every sickness I've ever had and protected me from every car wreck and done many other things to keep me safe, so that I can break all His commandments."

If you supposedly pray to ask Jesus into your heart, or you say you trust in Jesus, and even get baptized in His name, then you just keep living in every kind of sin with no regard for God's commandments, do you understand what you are saying by all of that? You are saying, "God has saved me from hell, so I can break all of His commandments all I want to and still go to heaven."

VIII. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment forbids you to make His church into something else besides what He made it to be (11a)

IX. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God's third commandment requires you to understand that God sees through all your worship to what is in your heart (11b)

X. You may not deal with God lightly, but must deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith, therefore:

God third commandment threatens you with destruction for taking God's name in vain

refer again to Exodus 20:7b

see Jeremiah 7:12-15

Look and see what happens to people who take God's name in vain

1. God may be pleased at first to make His Name known among a group of people (12)

2. they take His name in vain (13a)

3. He speaks to them early and late, but they do not hear; he calls, but they do not answer (14)

4. He finally casts them out of His sight (15)

God does this to nations; He does it to churches; He does it to families; He does it to individuals

If you take God's name in vain, and continue to do so, refusing to repent, refusing to trust yourself to the Lord Jesus, you will be destroyed by God when He takes His vengeance upon you, when He crushes you, when He shatters you, when He throws you into the lake of ever-burning fire.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, you shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain by profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes himself known; and

You shall worship God not in outward form and words only, without faith and reverence

You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in worship or for any other purpose, without due reverence for Him as God, especially as to repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

You shall not deal with God lightly,

Instead, you shall maintain a holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works; and

You shall consider God's Name and everything else about Him as holy, so that in all of your thoughts, words, and actions, you live in proper fear of Him, which can be done only by repentance toward God, and faith in Jesus Christ.

You shall deal with Him according to the full weight of His Name, in fear and in faith.

This is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ.