

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Third Commandment
“Blessed Be The Name”
Exodus 20:7

Introduction:

1. In Psalm 113:1-3 - We Read These Words:
 - About The Name Of The Lord:
 - “Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. / Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. / From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’S name is to be praised!”
 - The Name Of The Lord:
 - Is To Be Blessed!
2. This Means That The Name & Names:
 - The Lord Reveals Himself Through - Are:
 - To Be Honored:
 - As He Is To Be Honored!
 - And:
 - To Be Glorified:
 - As He Is To Be Glorified!
 - And:
 - To Be Spoken Well Of:
 - As He Is To Be Spoken Well Of!
3. And Yet:
 - How Is God Treated:
 - By The Majority Of The World Today?
 - Not Just:
 - His Nature!
 - But Especially:
 - In His Names?
 - All You Need To Do:
 - Is Turn On The TV - Or Watch A Movie:
 - And Neither God Nor His Names:
 - Are Blessed Or Praised!
 - Instead - His Name Is Frequently Taken In Vain:
 - In All Of Its Forms!
 - How Many Times:
 - Do We Hear:
 - The Name Of God:
 - Being Used As A Common Swear Word!
 - Even Though:
 - It Adds Nothing To The Plot:
 - Or - To The Movement Of The Story:
 - Vain And Profane References To God Abound!
4. Yet - Many:
 - If They Even Think About It:
 - Will Ask - “What’s The Big Deal?”
 - After All - Everyone Does It!
 - It’s Something So Common In The Mouths Of Men:
 - That You Can’t Escape It!
 - In Some Offices:
 - You Might Even Find:
 - A “Swear Jar” - Where - If Someone Curses Or Uses The Names Of God In Vain:
 - They Have To Put Some Money In It - Yet - Still Laughing And Making Light Of It:
 - The Whole Time!
 - They Think - Perhaps Even You Might Think:
 - “Its Really No Big Deal!”

5. Well - As We Will See Tonight:
 - It Is A Big Deal:
 - To The One Who's Name:
 - And Names - Are Being:
 - Used & Misused In Those Ways!
 - Because - In The Third Commandment:
 - That We Find In Exodus 20:7:
 - God Himself Says This:
 - "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!"
6. Now - We Will Be Looking:
 - At This Commandment:
 - The Same Way We've Looked:
 - At The First Two Commandments:
 - Through The Lense Of 2 Timothy 3:16 - Which Tells Us That:
 - All Of God's Words & All Of God's Laws Are **Still**:
 - Profitable For Us!
 - Even Though They Were Recorded For Us Thousands Of Years Ago:
 - They Are **Still** Profitable For:
 - Doctrine, For Reproof, For Correction, And For Instruction In Righteousness!
 - 7. And So - To Begin Our Look:
 - At This Third Commandment:
 - I Want For Us To Consider Tonight:
 - Its **Reproof!**
 - That Is - What It Tells Us:
 - About Ourselves & Our Sin!
 - You See:
 - You & I May Not:
 - Make Up Or Worship:
 - Many Idols Or Images Today!
 - Because - We Have Become:
 - A Bit More Sophisticated In Our Idolatry!
 - But:
 - When It Comes To:
 - Taking The Lord's Name In Vain:
 - We Are Not Sophisticated At All!
 - We Are Still As Crass As Ever!
 - 8. So Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Look At:
 - The Many Ways In Which This Commandment:
 - Is Broken!
 - And Perhaps - Some Of These Ways:
 - Will Even Apply To You!
 - And - If So:
 - Let This Law:
 - Reprove You!
 - And Prod You On To The Lord:
 - For His Forgiveness & For The Ability To "Bless" His Name Instead Of Cursing His Name!
 - 9. First - You Can Take:
 - The Name Of The Lord In Vain:
 - In Public Ways:
 - That Is - In the Hearing Of Others!
 - This Is - Perhaps - What We First Think Of:
 - When We Think About This Commandment!
 - It's What Happens When You Use Any Of God's Names:
 - 1. ***In A Profane Way!***

- When You Use God's Name:
 - As Just Another Ordinary Curse Word:
 - Or Expletive:
 - When You Are Angry About Something Or When Something Doesn't Go Your Way - Like When You Hit Your Thumb With A Hammer!
- And Even Though This Is Something:
 - That Is Very Common In Our Society Today:
 - It Is Still A Very Serious Sin:
 - And Offence Toward God!
- In Leviticus 24:
 - We Find The Story Of A Young Man:
 - Who Used God's Personal Name:
 - In A Profane Way!
 - 24:10-16 - "And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp; / And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:) / And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be shewed them. / And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, / Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him. / And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin. / And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death!"
- In That Jewish Society & Under That Divine Economy:
 - To Use The Lord's Name:
 - Who Was Their King:
 - In A Profane Way:
 - Was A Capital Offense!
 - It Was Then - And Still Is Now:
 - ***That*** Serious!
- And - When You Think About It:
 - Does Anyone Profane The Names:
 - Of The Gods Of Other Religions?
 - Such As - The God Of The Muslims? Or The Gods Of The Hindus?
 - If Someone Does:
 - The Followers Of Those Gods:
 - Won't Stand For It!
- But - How Many Of Those:
 - Who Consider The God Of The Bible:
 - As ***The*** God Or Even As ***Their*** God:
 - Not Only Tolerate It - Joke About It, As Another Dollar Is Put Into The Swear Jar - Or Even Do So Themselves!
- Even With Such Common-Place Phrases:
 - Like - "Oh My God" Or "Oh My Lord!"
 - We Consider Them To Be:
 - Just "Slips Of The Tongue!"
 - But - In Reality - Its Because We Are Not Guarding Our Thoughts:
 - About God Himself!
- Because:
 - ***How You Treat The Name Of The Lord:***
 - ***Will Reveal What You Think About:***
 - ***The Nature Of The Lord!***
- The Lord Says:
 - "Thou Shalt Not Take The Name Of The LORD Thy God In Vain!"
 - Not In A Profane Way:
 - But Also - Not:

2. ***In A Perjurious Way!***

- There Are Times:
 - When It May Be Appropriate:
 - To Publically Call Upon The Name Of God:
 - To Be A Witness To Something That Is True:
 - With An Oath!
 - We Find This Several Times:
 - In The Bible - And Will Even Do So Ourselves:
 - Like If You Are Called To Be A Witness In A Court Of Law!
 - **IE:** And Are Called Upon To “Tell The Truth, The Whole Truth, And Nothing But The Truth, So Help You God!”
- But - When A Person:
 - Calls On God To Be A Witness:
 - To Something They Know Is *Not* True:
 - Not Only Do They Perjure Themselves:
 - But They Have Taken The Lord’s Name In Vain!
- In Leviticus 19:12 - The Third Commandment:
 - Is Given Even More Clarity:
 - When It Says - “And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD!”
 - No Man Is Permitted To:
 - Take The Name Of The Lord In Vain!
 - Not In A Profane Way!
 - Not In A Perjurious Way! And - Not:

3. *In A Presumptuous Way!*

- There Are Other Oaths That Are Made:
 - While Invoking The Name Of The Lord:
 - As Well!
 - For Example:
- In Politics:
 - After Making A Pledge:
 - To “Support And Defend The Constitution Of The United States” - Politicians:
 - From The President On Down - Following The Example Of Our First President - George Washington - Will Often Add - “So Help Me God!”
 - This Is Nothing Less:
 - Than A Solemn Call:
 - For The Grace & Help Of God:
 - To Perform Their Duty!
 - Yet - How Many Of Those Same Politicians:
 - Promote Things That Are Clearly Contrary To The Will Of God:
 - Like Abortion & Homosexuality!
 - They Are Taking God’s Name:
 - In Vain!
 - But What About Something Closer To Home? Like:
- In Marriage:
 - Where - In Many Traditional Marriage Vows:
 - Both The Bride & Groom Say They Will Commit Themselves To Each Other:
 - “In The Name Of God!”
 - And Yet - When The Times:
 - Are Worse:
 - Instead Of Better - Or:
 - Are Poorer:
 - Instead Of Richer - Or:
 - Are More In Sickness:
 - Than In Health:
 - They Break Their Vows To Each Other:
 - As Well As Their Covenant Before The Lord:
 - Not Even Considering That They Took The Lord’s Name In Vain!

- The Third Commandment:
 - Is Still There To Reprove Us:
 - Because - The Lord Says - “Thou Shalt Not Take The Name Of The LORD Thy God In Vain!”
 - Not In A Profane Way!
 - Not In A Perjurious Way!
 - Not In A Presumptuous Way!
 - But Also - Not:

4. *In A Popular Way!*

- That Is - In A Way - That Everyone Else Is Using God’s Name!
 - Even Today:
 - Millions & Billions Of Dollars:
 - Are Exchanged Between Individuals:
 - With This Motto Emblazoned On Each Bill:
 - “In God We Trust!”
 - Yet - How Many:
 - Who Use That Money:
 - Would Subscribe:
 - To That Motto?
 - Let Alone:
 - The United States Government:
 - That Prints It!
 - In Fact - Every Single Day:
 - About 541 Million Dollars Worth Of Currency Is Printed!
 - And Each Bill, By Law, Displays That Motto!
 - Yet - Do We:
 - *As A Nation:*
 - Really Believe It?
 - Really Follow It?
 - Really Live According To It?
 - The Answer Is Clearly *No!*
 - “*In God We Trust*” Is Used:
 - Over & Over Again:
 - With Little Or No Regard:
 - For The Name Of God:
 - Which Is Displayed On Each Bill!
 - Would It Not - Perhaps:
 - Be Better For Our Country:
 - To *Not* Have A Motto:
 - That Takes The Lord’s Name In Vain - By The Nation That Prints It & By The People Who Disregard It?
 - After All:
 - What Else Does The Third Commandment Tell Us?
 - Exodus 20:7b - “For the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain!”
 - How Guilty:
 - Does This Make:
 - Us - As A People? As A Nation?
 - But - Are We Better Off:
 - In Our Own State?
 - When The State Of Indiana:
 - Along With Other States:
 - Offered The Same Motto On A License Plate:
 - I Was One Of The First To Get Our Plates Changed!
 - After All - What Better Way:
 - To Show That You Are A Christian:
 - Than To Have “In God We Trust” Printed:
 - In Your License Plate?
 - But Can’t We Say:

- The Same Thing:
 - About Our License Plates:
 - As We Do About:
 - Our Dollar Bills?
- Is There More Trust In God:
 - On Our Cars:
 - Than In Our Hearts?
 - If So - Then:
 - We Are Taking God's Name In Vain Every Time We Go For A Drive!
- Now - When We Are Confronted:
 - And Reproved By:
 - These Very Public Ways:
 - Of Taking God's Name In Vain:
 - Some Might Think:
 - I'd Never Do Those Things!
 - Well - That's Good!
 - But - There Are Other:
 - More Private & Personal Ways:
 - To Take God's Name In Vain As Well! Even:

5. ***In A Pious Way!***

- "Piety" - Simply Means Acts Of Devotion To God!
 - But - We Often Use It:
 - In A Negative Way - Like When You Do:
 - What Is Right - But:
 - With The Wrong Heart!
 - As Paul Tells Timothy:
 - Its When You Have - "A a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof!"
 - Yes - You Can Take:
 - The Lord's Name In Vain:
 - Even When You Are Doing:
 - Pious & Religious Things! Like:
- Our Prayers!
 - As Thomas Watson Once Wrote:
 - "When We Pray To Him, But Do Not Believe In Him" - We:
 - Take The Lord's Name In Vain!
 - We Begin Our Prayers:
 - With The Name Of God The Father:
 - And Pray - "Dear Heavenly Father" Or - As Jesus Taught Us To Pray:
 - "Our Father Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name!"
 - We Then End Our Prayers:
 - In The Name Of God The Son:
 - And Pray - "In Jesus Name, Amen!"
 - And Yet - If We Use Those Names:
 - Lightly - Or Pray In Those Names:
 - Without Faith & Trust:
 - In The God Those Names Reveal:
 - We Have Taken His Name In Vain!
 - Or - What About:
- Our Profession!
 - Paul Writes To Timothy:
 - In 2 Timothy 2:19 - "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity!"
 - As Christians - We Love & Worship Our Savior:
 - Jesus Christ!
 - And We Want The Whole World:
 - To See & To Know:
 - Him & That We Are His Followers!
 - So - We Try To Make:

- Our Personal Profession:
 - As Public As Possible!
 - Even Using Symbols - Like The Fish Or The Cross - Which Represent The Name Of Christ Himself!
- We Take The Name Of Christ Upon Us:
 - Gladly!
 - But - Do We Do The Other Part:
 - Of That Verse?
 - Do We :
 - “Depart From Iniquity?”
- Again - Thomas Watson Writes:
 - “When We Profess God’s Name, But Do Not Live Answerably To It, We Take It In Vain!”

Conclusion:

1. There May Be Many Other Ways:
 - In Which You & I:
 - May Take The Name Or Names:
 - Of The Lord In Vain!
 - But - Instead Of:
 - Putting Another Dollar:
 - In The Swear Jar:
 - Each Time We Do:
 - We Need To See It For What It Is! A Serious Offense To God!
 - The God Who Has Revealed Himself To Us In And Through Those Names!
2. And We Also Need To Recognize - That:
 - ***How You Treat The Name Of God:***
 - ***Reveals What You Think About:***
 - ***The Nature Of God!***
 - Because - As Jesus Said:
 - In Matthew 12:34 - “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh!”
3. So - The Problem:
 - Is Not With Just:
 - The Habits:
 - Of Our Mouths!
 - The Problem Goes Much Deeper Than That!
 - The Problem:
 - Is With Our Hearts!
 - And We Need:
 - Our Hearts Clean:
 - Before Our Mouths Can Ever Be Truly Clean!
 - 4. So - Tonight:
 - Let This Commandment:
 - Reprove:
 - Not Just How You:
 - **Treat** The Name Of God:
 - But - Especially:
 - What You **Think** About Him!
 - And Repent!
 - Taking The Lord’s Name In Vain:
 - Is A Serious Matter!
 - It Is Part Of The “Dungeon Of Depravity” That We Looked At This Morning!
 - 5. But - Then:
 - Let Your Sin:
 - Drive You To The Savior:
 - Who Alone Can:
 - Cleanse Your Heart!
 - Even As He Did:

- For The Prophet Isaiah:
 - In Isaiah 6:5-7 - “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”
 - And What Did The Lord Do For Him?
 - “Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: / And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged!”
- 6. The Altar Of The Cross Of Christ:
 - Is Powerful Enough:
 - To Cleanse You!
 - From How You ***Treat***:
 - The ***Name*** Of God - As Well As:
 - From What You ***Think*** About:
 - The ***Nature*** Of God!
- 7. And Then - Remember To:
 - Keep The Name Of The Lord:
 - In “Reverence And Godly Fear!”
 - Even As We Began In Psalm 113:
 - “Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. / From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’S name is to be praised!”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com