

Commandment III

Scripture: Exod. 20:1-7; Deut. 5:11

Intro: This command and first petition of the Lord's prayer (Mt. 6:9) are to be considered inseparably ("Hallowed by Thy Name"). What it implies.

1. Set apart from common use to sacred end.
2. Set Him highest in our thoughts and talk.
 - a. Can profane by talk. (Lev. 24:10-12)
 - b. Can profane by walk. (Heb. 12:16-17)

I. The Member Involved. (James 3:1,6,8)

- A. Negative approach: "Thou shalt not." (Deut. 5:11)
 1. Absolute demand. (Lev. 19:12; 22:32)
 2. Authority defied. (Ps. 139:20) (action of enemies) (Mt. 26:74)
 - a. If men of authority find it disgraceful to abuse their name. What about God?
 - b. Of men in authority, who is greatest? What about God?
 3. Arrogant defamation. (Ps. 74:18) "the foolish people have blasphemed Thy name."
 - a. Madness to presume to profane God's name. (Mal. 3:13) stout words.
 - b. Meanness to defame and damn God's fame: Worse to blaspheme Him who is in Heaven than for Jews to crucify Him on earth. (plan vs. profanity)
- B. Positive approach: "Hallowed by Thy name." (Mt. 6:9)
 1. Reverence His name. (Ps. 111:9; Deut. 28:58) Talk
 2. Regard His name. (Lev. 19:37) Thoughts
 - a. The mentality disclosed: Vocabulary useable. (Mt. 12:36; Lk. 6:45)
 - b. The maturity displayed: value uncovered.
 - c. The morality discovered: virtue unveiled.

II. The Menace Invoked. (Deut. 5:11)

- A. Personally: the inner menialness. (Tit. 1:16)
 1. The scene in God's court. (Ex. 20:7)
 - a. The Judge: Jehovah. Sovereign.
 - b. The Charge: Swearing. Sinful.
 - c. The Criminal: Guilty. Sentence. (Ex. 21:17) ("He that curseth his father of his mother shall surely be put to death.")
 2. The scandal in God's cause. (Mt. 26:74)
 - a. The Lord on the lips. (Rom. 3:14)
 - b. The devil in the heart.
- B. Practically: The outer mischief. (Mt. 5:34; Zech 5:3)
 1. Vain swearing to bind one: an honest, honorable person will be believed on the strength of his word. His bare word is his authority. (James 5:12; Mt. 5:37)
 2. Vile swearing will blind one: a disrespect and disregard of the innocence and decency of others. (Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29; Rom. 12:14)

III. The Memoir Invited. (Prov. 4:23; 23:7; 15:1)

- A. The record you project: Biography. (Heb. 12:16-17; Jer. 23:11)
 - 1. Remembered for vicious mouth. (Rom. 3:14)
 - a. Spewing blasphemous venom on God's sacred majesty.
 - b. Stinging blasphemy, villainy in God's creation.
 - 2. Member of communication vilely misused. (James 3:10)
- B. The reward you reject: Blessing.
 - 1. Revering God's name.
 - 2. Respecting God's people.