

April 15, 2020

Commandment #3

The third commandment also comes with a strong warning. Read **Exodus 20:7** and **Deuteronomy 5:11**. The author of our study says taking God's name in vain is "to use God's name in a light or careless way." I like to think of it as using God's name in a thoughtless way. Many people use God's name flippantly without giving it any thought. A popular example of this today is OMG, Oh My God. When we use this expression, we are invoking the name of God, usually without any thought about God. It is just an expression, but God condemns all those who misuse His name as guilty.

Often, when we think of taking God's name in vain, we think of swearing, cursing and profanity. Certainly, these are all forms of taking God's name in vain. Most believers would never think to use God's name in a profane way, yet they will frequently use expressions that sound less offensive as a substitute. These are called Euphemisms. While they may not sound as harsh or profane, they mean the same thing. Here are some examples: darn for dam, which is an abbreviation for damnation, gosh darn for God followed by the word dam, and gees or gee wiz for Jesus.

Unfortunately, the use of profanity and cursing is often interpreted by young people as a symbol of strength or a rite of passage. We even refer to it as "adult language." The reality, however, is that the use of such language is a sign of weakness and immaturity. Here again we see the lies and deception of Satan. Beware, lest you fall prey to this subtle, but dangerous trap. Psalm 130:20b says those who take God's name in vain are the enemies of God. Matthew 12:36 warns that we will give an account for every idle word that we speak, but there is a greater danger.

Matthew 12:34 "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The greater danger is, that the words you speak reveal what is in your heart. Taking God's name in vain reveals a heart that is abundantly out of sync with God. What do your words say about the condition of your heart and your relationship with the Lord?