

"The Third Commandment"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 12, 2022.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Third Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:7—"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

Four main points

In the study, I presented four main ideas about not taking the name of the Lord in vain.

"Sacred Names" in general usage

The first idea is that some people believe that the Third Commandment encourages people to use the "Sacred Names" when referring to the Father and the Son. (Although I do not feel compelled to use the "Sacred Names," I support people following their convictions.)

Although I personally use the names "God" and "Jesus," I have friends who prefer to use the names "Yahweh" and "Yahshua."

Notice the following quote from gotquestions.org: "Related to the Hebrew Roots Movement, the Sacred Name Movement developed from the Church of God (Seventh Day) in the 1930s . . . The Sacred Name Movement teaches that only 'Yahweh' is to be used as the name for God and only 'Yahshua' is to be used as the name for Jesus . . . From the original Sacred Name Movement, several subgroups have formed, including the Assemblies of Yahweh, the Assembly of Yahweh, the House of Yahweh and Yahweh's Restoration Ministry."

Blaspheming the name of the Lord

The second idea is a reminder not to blaspheme the name of the Lord.

- Leviticus 24:10-16
- Revelation 13:5-6
- Revelation 16:9
- Revelation 16:11
- Revelation 16:21

Swearing and vows

The third idea is a reminder not to swear, but to fulfill our vows.

- Deuteronomy 23:21-23
- Matthew 5:33-37
- James 5:12

Dishonoring the family name by our actions

The fourth idea is accepting the family name, but dishonoring the family name by our actions.

Leviticus 18:21—" . . . Nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord."

Leviticus 21:6—"They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God."

Ezekiel 36:20—"When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name."

Ezekiel 36:21—"But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went."

Ezekiel 36:22-23—"Thus says the Lord God: 'I do not do this for your sake,

O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord' says the Lord God, when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.' "

Malachi 1:6-8—"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? 'Would he accept you favorably?' says the Lord of hosts."

Titus 1:16—"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

Revelation 3:8—"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."