

— Exodus 20.7 —
Exodus Series 32
The Third Word

Ex 20⁷ “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.”

► **We typically think** the third word concerns misusing the LORD’s name in our _____, but that’s only a small part of what it’s about, which is _____ the LORD’s name faithfully in all we are and do.

Gn 47³⁰ “[Y]ou shall carry me out of Egypt”

Ex 28¹² So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders ...²⁹ Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate ... over his heart

Mt 28¹⁹ ... baptizing them in [lit., into] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Num 6²³ Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:
²⁴ ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.’
²⁷ So they shall put My name on the children of Israel”

We bear the LORD’s name. That’s not a command, it’s a _____.

► **The LORD’s name** represents the presence and _____ of the LORD, particularly as manifested in the glory cloud, the whirlwind or pillar of cloud and fire, which was really angels radiating the glory of the LORD.

Ex 3² [T]he Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush ... and behold, ... the bush was burning, but the bush was not consumed.

Ez 1⁴ I looked, and behold, a whirlwind ..., a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was ... radiating out of its midst ...⁵ Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures ...¹³ ... [T]heir appearance was like ... torches going back and forth ...¹⁴ ... like a flash of lightning ...²⁶ And above ... was the likeness of a throne ... with the appearance of a man high above it ...²⁷ ... [with] the appearance of fire ...²⁸ ... This was the appearance ... of the glory of the LORD.

Dt 4¹¹ [Y]ou ... stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven ...
¹² [T]he LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire.

Gn 28¹² Then [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it

Jn 1⁵¹ “[Y]ou shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” ...
3¹³ “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”

Dt 12¹¹ [T]he place ... the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide ... [t]here you shall bring ... your sacrifices

Ex 40³⁴ Then ... the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle

Acts 2³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

1Cor 10⁴ [The] Rock that followed them ... was Christ.

► **The Corinthians were** _____ God’s name empty, which is the meaning of the Hebrew, “in vain.”

1Cor 3¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ... 6¹⁹ [D]o you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

• Whatever we worship _____ us, and whatever _____ us is what we worship.

Ps 115⁸ Those who make [idols] are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

• Unbelieving culture with its faith, values, and lifestyles is what the John is referring to when he tells us, “Do not love the _____ or the things in the _____.”

1Jn 2¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him ...
¹⁷ And the world is passing away ...; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

► **Like the Corinthians**, we tend to assume culture is largely _____, so we imbibe the culture, view life through its _____, and view God's word as a set of arbitrary "thou shalt not's." That's why the Corinthians were eating at _____ temples.

1Cor 10 ²⁰ [T]he things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

• Once you hear Paul explain it biblically, you realize it is not arbitrary, it makes total _____, and you will never view that issue or activity the same.

► **Bearing God's name** weightily on the one hand, or emptily on the other, is the difference between _____ and _____.

Ps 1 ⁴ The ungodly are ... like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Mt 3 ¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

► **The Colossians were** falling into a more subtle form of the same problem. They were approaching Christian spirituality through the _____ of Greco-Roman spirituality, and so they were engaging in ascetic practices as a _____ form of Christian spirituality. Paul tells them that asceticism is just another form of _____ paganism.

Col 2 ²³ These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

1Tm 4 ¹ [S]ome will ... giv[e] heed to ... doctrines of demons, ... ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving

► To bear the name of God weightily so it shapes us, we must view and assess our _____, not on its own terms, but through the _____ of God's word. Big picture, we were created for _____ forms of monogamy – spiritually toward the one true God forever, and sexually toward one member of the opposite sex for life. And God has _____ the two so that when a culture turns away from one, it will inevitably turn away from the other. The downward _____ spiral of a culture toward hell on earth is a spiritual-sexual two-step.

Rm 1 ²³ [They] changed the glory of... God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator ... ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions ... ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind ... ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who ... not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

► **The true path** of life and blessing lies in quite the opposite direction from the quest of modern _____ for radical individual autonomy, self-definition, and self-gratification, and from his utopian belief that he is capable of playing _____ and producing the perfect society.

► Jesus commands us to make all nations his disciples so that they _____ the Triune name and observe all he has commanded, i.e., so that they bear his name, not emptily, but with the weight of _____.