



III

THE THIRD
COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:7

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.



Exodus 20:2

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.



Exodus 2:23-25

²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.



1 John 5:3

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.



1. The Prohibition (20:7a)

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain...”



Psalm 8:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.



2 Timothy 3:2-5

² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

2. The Warning (20:7b)

“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.”



1 Samuel 16:7

**“...For the LORD sees not as man sees:
man looks on the outward appearance, but
the LORD looks on the heart.”**

Galatians 6:7-8

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”



The Implications



1 Samuel 12:22

“For the LORD will not forsake his people, *for his great name’s sake*, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.”



Psalm 23:3

“He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness *for his name’s sake.*”



James 1:22-25

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”



1 Corinthians 11:27-28

“27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

“God promises that he will write his law on our hearts. He will move each commandment from the pages of the Bible down into the deepest instincts of our personalities.”

– Ray Ortlund





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