

INTRODUCTION

We come again, this morning, to God's moral law, as "delivered by God upon Mt. Sinai, in ten commandments" (1689.19.2).

We do not come to The Ten Commandments to try to be saved by them. They cannot do that for us. They have no power to justify us before God. God has put power into The Ten Commandments, but not the power to save sinners from His wrath. If you try to get The Ten Commandments to save you by justifying you in God's sight, they only will do the very opposite: they will condemn you. The Ten Commandments inform us of the will of God and our duty toward Him and toward other people, how we are to love God and to love our neighbors. When we compare what God commands us with how we really are, His commandments revealing the sinful pollutions of our lives, and of our very hearts. We do not come to The Ten Commandments this morning to try to be saved by them.

But we do come to The Ten Commandments to receive good things from God.

For one thing, we come to receive a clearer sight of the need we have of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through The Ten Commandments, we see clearly how great is our guilt, and how much we deserve to be punished by God, and so how welcome to us is the gospel of forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ. Through the lens of The Ten Commandments, we perceive how polluted we are by the filth of our sins, and so how much we need to be purified by washing in the blood of Jesus Christ. Through The Ten Commandments, we see how perfect Jesus Christ's obedience to God's will is, and how much we need His righteousness to be counted for us. With this clearer sight of the need we have of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, those of you still in your sins may believe in Jesus Christ to save you; you may repent of your sins, turning from them to follow Jesus Christ, and so be forgiven all your sins in His name. Those of you already in Jesus Christ through faith may be renewed in repentance and strengthened in faith.

For another thing, we come to The Ten Commandments to find help in resisting temptation, just as our Lord Jesus Christ Himself did. He was tempted by the devil in person, and answered that temptation by the commands of God's law. We are normally tempted by sin in our own flesh, and by the alluring things in the sinful world around us. We come to The Ten Commandments to hide God's word in our hearts, so that we might not sin against Him; so that we may, like our Lord Jesus, answer each temptation with God's law.

So, to receive these good things, and other benefits from the hand of the Lord, come with me to The Ten Commandments. I speak to you again today from the third commandment, continuing in the theme of taking the name of the Lord, but not in vain.

TEXT

Deuteronomy 5:11

BODY

We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

- I. Give Praise and Thanks to His Name By Jesus Christ from the Heart - Hebrews 13:15
 - A. In the days of the Old Covenant, when worshippers came to worship the Lord, they offered sacrifices of the fruit of their farms: grain; olive oil; goats, sheep, and cattle; the worshippers brought their sacrifices to the tabernacle or temple and offered them by the priests God had appointed, who were descended from Aaron
 - B. But now, in the days of the New Covenant, those ceremonial offerings are all abrogated, ended, done away with. To worship God now, we offer sacrifices of praise to God by Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
 - C. Much of this praising and thanking God is done as we sing to the Lord together
Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 - D. But it is possible for a person to offer praise and thanksgiving to the name of the Lord, but only in vain
 1. to try to praise the Lord, but with no reference to Jesus Christ, with no idea that our praises to God are by Him, as if praising Him were a mere ceremony or ritual, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
 2. to give thanks for those things God does that please you, but to refuse to be thankful to God for all things He does, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
 - a) illus. When my children were little, I used to require them to say "thank you" when they received their plate of food.
 3. to sing songs with your mouth for people to hear, but not in your heart to the Lord, as if the name of God indicates something only physical, not spiritual, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
 - E. God's commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain? We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when, from the heart, we give praise and thanks to His name by Jesus Christ.

We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

II. Read and Hear the Word of the Lord and Keep It

- A. You heard one of the brothers read the words of our Lord Jesus a few minutes ago:
Luke 6:46 But why do you call me, "Lord, Lord," and not do the things which I say?
1. our Lord Jesus said that to call Him "Lord" and to hear His word, then not to keep it, is like building your house on sand
 2. this is taking the name of the Lord in vain
- B. James wrote about this: James 1:22-24 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
1. again, this is taking the name of the Lord in vain
- C. It is a matter of the second commandment that we worship by reading and hearing the word of the Lord; it is a matter of the third commandment that we hear the word of the Lord and keep it
- D. Taking the name of the Lord, but not in vain, involves obeying what He commands, and believing in the truth that He proclaims
1. John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
 2. Acts 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.
- E. When we hear the word of the Lord and keep it, we attribute that to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
1. Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.
- F. It is a very foolish and dangerous thing to hear the word of the Lord and not to keep it.
1. remember that God, in the third commandment, warns us
 2. Luke 22:66-70 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, (67) Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: (68) And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. (69) Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. (70) Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.
 3. those men heard the word of the Lord Jesus Christ, but would neither believe Him nor obey Him
 4. but He sits at the right hand of God in power; and it is by Him that they will be judged for giving no weight to the very Word of God
 5. Do not repeat such foolishness, having been warned!
- G. But blessing is pronounced on those who hear the word of the Lord and keep it.
Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
- H. God's commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain? We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we hear the word of the Lord and keep it.

We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

III. Serve the Saints As a Labor of Love Toward His Name

- A. As the disciples of Jesus Christ, who take His name upon ourselves, we labour for Him out of love; we love by the love with which He loves us.

Revelation 2:1-3 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; (2) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: (3) And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

- B. That labor is often the work of serving or ministering to the saints, to our fellow Christians. That labor of love toward the saints, our Lord Jesus considers labor of love shown to His name.

1. Serve the Saints in His Name - Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

- C. If we were to take the name of Jesus Christ upon ourselves, but never labor for His name's sake, that would be taking the name of the Lord in vain.

- D. If we were to labor for the saints, but only to gain a good reputation for ourselves, or only grudgingly because we have to, with no love in our hearts toward the name of Jesus Christ, and His saints, that would be taking the name of the Lord in vain.

CONCLUSION

God's commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain?

Call on the name of the Lord in faith

Repent and find forgiveness in His name

Baptize and receive baptism in His name

Take the Lord's Supper remembering His body and blood

Gather in the name of the Lord reverently

Pray in the name of Jesus Christ in faith

Give praise and thanks to His name through Jesus Christ from the heart

Read and hear the word of the Lord and keep it

Serve the saints as a labor of love toward His name

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Colossians 3:16-17

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Luke 6:45-49

~~Stephen~~ Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 685 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" - Alex lead

Audrey - Trinity 286 "We Gather Together"

Haven - Trinity 403 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

CONCLUSION

In the future, possibly I should address those things that the New Testament mentions being done “in the Lord.”

-marry someone who is “in the Lord”

-obey your parents “in the Lord”

Revelation 15:3-4 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. (4) Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.