

Introduction:

In our study of the Ten Commandments we have seen why they were given and what office they occupied. We have seen that the first group speaks of our relation to God while the second tells of our relationship with others. Having established this broad pattern we examined the first two commands and noted that they teach us positively to honor God's Person and His worship. He is the delivering God who can tolerate not rivals and when we find we are in error on His law, we do not despair but rather look for the forgiveness He gives to those who will confess their need and place their trust in Him.

The Third Commandment

This third law says: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7) The implications of the Word are many and we must first remind ourselves that the "name" is not just a title or "handle" such as we use today. The name of the deity is an implicit expression of His actual person so when the name is used it involves the character of the one identified as well as the mere pronouncing of a few syllables. To honor His name, or to defile it, is to show a similar regard or disregard to His entire Person.

In our culture names are often used very shabbily but in official documents, etc., the name appended is the force of the document. This is not due to the alphabetic letters used in the name but is due to the authority the name indicates. Yet the identification of the authority and the actual name are so closely linked as to be virtually inseparable.