

## The Third Commandment

Terry Joe Kee

*“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 third of the ten commandments was a requirement for all to be reverent and sincere. Throughout Bible times names meant something and were very significant. For example, Abram means *exalted father*, but Abraham means *father of a multitude*. Isaac means *laughter* and Israel means *striven with God and persevered*. These names all meant something. The name stands for the person himself and all that he is, not simply characteristics or what we may think of him.

God’s name stands for Himself and all that He is (cf. Psa. 111:9; Neh. 9:5). So often the expression “the name” carried great significance with Israel. The third commandment follows closely the first two in guarding the holiness of one spiritual God.

God, El or Elohim, means *to be strong* and is the most frequent term used to describe deity in the Old and New Testaments. He is the creative and governing power where this term is used 35 times (Gen. 1:1–2:3). This is the power and majesty referred to in Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” This is the God Paul sought to reveal in Athens (Acts 17:24-29).

Jehovah is the distinctive name used by Israel to refer to His nature and eternal presence. God had made known the glory of His nature in His name (cf. Exo. 3:14,15; Exo. 6:2,3). Jehovah is first used in scripture in Genesis 15:1,2, literally *Debar Jehovah*, indicating His divine, eternal presence. This was a divinely given name, given to Israel. I do not know of any place where He was “my Jehovah” or “the Jehovah.”

God is sometimes called the Almighty, El Shaddai. There are two ideas expressed in this name. First, meaning to destroy and to terrify. This name was used signifying God being manifested in His terrifying acts. The second way this word is used is as a nourisher. This is used of Abraham when he was 100 years and Sarah was also old in Genesis 17. God here is the term El Shaddai.

Another name used to describe God is Adoni, Lord or Master. This is referring to the One who has the right to claim all service. This is the term used by God when calling Isaiah to service (cf. Isa. 6:1-8).

He is also referred to as the Rock. He is the steadfast retreat, a fortress, or a refuge (cf. 2 Sam. 22:2,47). He is called our refuge and a place that is “higher than I” (Psalm 94:22; Psalm 61:1). Christ is referred to in this way by Paul who calls Him the Rock that followed them in the wilderness (I Cor. 10:4).

When we stop to consider who God is we can understand why His name cannot be taken in vain. The word vain means empty and useless. It is taking God’s name lightly. How do we do this? Whenever one offers a false oath or swears falsely (Lev. 19:12). Surely, we know that vulgar, common, and profane language shows disrespect to God. Far too often we hear the profanity and God’s name being used vainly. His name and His nature are often joked about and His name and His Word used vainly. Paul strongly condemned this language (Eph. 4:29,30; Eph. 5:3-5). Literature, television, popular songs, movies and the like are often scoffing, ridiculing and making light of God’s name. Scoffing at those things pertaining to God is not wise and His name must be held in reverence.

Jesus warns us to be careful we do not use this kind of language (Matt. 5:33-37; Matt. 23:16-22). It is unnecessary for Christians to use this kind of language, to add oaths, or to make our speech common. Notice the model prayer and the language that is used and how God’s name is held high (Matt. 6:5-9). Do not let Satan tempt you into using God’s name in vain.

## Life With A Purpose

Author Unknown

Our life upon this earth is of few days and full of trouble. Some days are the best of times; some days are the worst of times. There are moments that look like the spring of hope; others look like the winter of despair. Through it all we need to live a life with purpose and meaning. We all seek happiness as the world lashes about us.

**Something to Do...** Paul wrote: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phi. 3:13-14). Paul says he was pressing toward the mark. The pursuit is no groping after something undefined. He was pressing on with contentment. He had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content (Phi. 4:11). To be happy in life we all need something to do; we need a mission to fill. As preachers we blow the trumpet clear so people will know the battle for truth is on. Do not be disarmed by the smiling tolerance of the new school of peaceful coexistence. Let us stand for the right and not lose sight of our duty to serve the Lord, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

**Someone to Love...** “We love him, because he first loved us” (I John 4:19). It brings happiness to love God. We are to love the Lord with all our heart. He first loved us and we should return our love. We also need our family and friends to love. To visit with friends and enjoy good times together brings sunshine into our days.

**Something to Hope For...** “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2). The hope of heaven keeps us going through sickness, pain, disappointment, suffering, and hardship. In fact these present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. On that fair shore we shall serve the Lord with perfect bliss. There we shall be with and know (I Thessalonians 2:19) our loved ones whom we have known in this life.

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*Mud thrown is ground lost, and he who slings mud, gets his hands dirty.*

*There is no greater mistake than to suppose that Christians can impress the world by agreeing with it.*

## NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

*Gerald George* will be having double by-pass heart surgery this week at NEA Baptist.

*Ryan Hopkins, son of Jan Hopkins*, remains at NEA Baptist room 5128.

*Sandra Sherman* is now in the Constant Care Unit at St. Bernard’s Hospital.

*Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.*

## IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

*Ukraine Missions Buckets:* December items are baby powder and clothes lines.

### Those Privileged To Serve

December 19, 2021

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
Opening Prayer: Jason Garland  
Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush  
Bible Reading: Hayden Roush  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Stan Honeycutt  
Reginald Read Mike Felts  
David Loggins Scott Pratt  
Hal Baugh James Johnson

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder  
Closing Prayer: Scott Pratt  
Preacher: J. L. May

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

December 22, 2021

Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: Ben Johns  
Closing Prayer: Scottie Blanchard

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

December 22, 2021  
Mark Wooten

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

December 12, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	62
Sunday AM Worship	100
Sunday PM Worship	70
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$5267

**“Where no wood is,  
there the fire goeth  
out: so where there is  
no talebearer, the  
strife ceaseth.”  
Proverbs 26:20**

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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## Keep Notes

Every Lord’s Day is a good day. After all, it is the day the Lord hath made and we will rejoice and be glad in it as we should be (Psalm 118:24). We continue to be blessed with visitors and are always thankful for the presence of new faces to blend with the rest of us. May God bless us with open doors and opportunities to reach lost, wayward and any who are troubled in body or spirit. We should all be praying diligently for more and more open doors.

The church is seeking to help the troubled in our area who have suffered through the recent tornadoes. Monies have been given to help those in Trumann and we are always looking for more opportunities to help. Keep all who continue to suffer after the storms have passed and those who will be looking to recover and rebuild what has been lost, in your daily prayers. We will be trying to do more to spread the good news of Jesus as we help the needy.

The ladies had a good night of fun and fellowship as they gathered last Monday night. They had a large number to come and seemingly everyone enjoyed being together. Our ladies do many good things and are not mentioned enough for all the good they do each week. So, thank you ladies for being such an important asset to the church at Greensboro Road.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> brother Ivie Powell from West Plains, Missouri will be with us to help us start a new year. In Bible class we will be studying, “What Will Not Happen In 2022;” and for the worship hour we will hear a sermon entitled, “Our Number 1 Problem;” and finally on Sunday night Ivie will be preaching, “How To Measure Our Souls.” I hope everyone will be present and ready to get the new year off to a great start.

Remember that after services that Sunday morning, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be having a soup and chili lunch. Please sign the list in the foyer and bring a soup, chili, or the fixings and help us have a great encouraging day as we look to begin a new year working in the Lord’s vineyard. If you cannot be with us, then be praying fervently for every effort we are planning for the coming year. There is much to do and we need willing hands to take on the work. Come help!

#### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

#### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

#### EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

#### MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,  
Southeast Asia  
Micah Robertson,  
Montana  
Warren, PA

#### SERVICES

##### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear* the Word of God

Romans 10:17

*Believe* the Word of God

John 8:24

*Repent* of your sins

Luke 13:3

*Confess* your faith in Jesus

as the Son of God

Romans 10:9,10

*Be Baptized* for the

remission of your sins

Acts 2:38

*Live faithfully*

Revelation 2:10

*“Lift up your eyes, and*

*look on the fields; for they*

*are white already to*

*harvest.” (John 4:35)*

*Each One Invite One*

*in Twenty-One*

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