

## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (Continued)

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)*

God’s name is not to be taken in vain. Just how does someone do that? It is vain when someone offers a false oath or swears falsely (Lev. 19:12). It happens every time someone uses profanity. So often we hear others using vulgar, coarse language which shows no respect for God. Sometimes joking, when the words and nature of the joke is coarse, crude, or vulgar, it takes the Lord’s name in vain. This is not the language God would have His people using. This would also include certain literature. Much of the literature being fought for in our communities is vain. Much of the language, the message and the content of literature written and promoted today is vain.

There must be a deep reverence and respect for God and everything surrounding God that must be held in high regard. Take a moment to read the commentary Jesus gives on this subject (Matt. 5:33-37; Matt. 6:5-9; Matt. 23:16-22). The words of Christians should never need oaths or swearing. However, this does not condemn Christians from answering under oath. For example, Paul answered under oath (Rom. 9:1; Gal. 1:20; cf. I Thess. 5:27). Jesus answered under oath (Matt. 26:63,64; study also Lev. 5:1; Deut. 6:13; Deut. 10:20). All one must do is study the model prayer (Matt. 6:9-13), to see the reverence one must show to God and His name. Hallowing His name is the opposite of profaning or taking His name in vain. God’s name has meaning. Let us take the time to notice the names given to God. These names had meaning and tell us much about the nature of God. The first of these is when Abraham is being sorely tested by God (Gen. 22). He must offer his son, his only son Isaac, and when all is ready and Abraham’s hand is raised with knife in hand, God stops him. Here God is called **Jehovah-Jireh**, which means *God will provide*. Here we see Abraham’s obedient faith, Isaac’s willing submission and Jehovah’s gracious provision. Whenever we think of God, we must remember Him as our Provider. When we serve Him in faith, He always rewards us by providing what we need. Abraham and his only begotten son, Isaac are a type of God and His Son, Jesus. God was teaching us through Abraham that He would provide him with a lamb, and He will provide us with the Lamb of God (John 3:16; Rom. 4:25). He is our Jehovah-Jireh – Jehovah sees, and He will provide. And never forget that we have waiting for us the tree of life which heals forever (Rev. 22:1,2). By these we are healed and made sweet.

The children of Israel leave Marah and enter Elim and then the Wilderness of Sin and finally they come to Rephidim. Again, they suffer without water and begin to murmur against Moses. Here Moses takes his rod and smites the rock for them to have water. The Amalekites take this as an opportunity to attack God’s people and war ensues. Aaron and Hur had to hold up the hands of Moses as Joshua fought the battle against the enemy. God gave them victory; He was their **Jehovah-Nissi** (Exo. 17:15,16), meaning God is our banner.

With God as their banner in battle, they would defeat every enemy.

*(Continued on page 3)*

The Christian is constantly battling (2 Cor. 10:3-5; I Tim. 6:12). We put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10ff). The Lord is our banner and our strength (Eph. 1:18-22; Phil. 4:13; I Cor. 15:58). As we hold Him up before the world we charge into battle with every confidence because we fight under the banner of Christ and the captain of our salvation will be victorious.

In Genesis God is our provider and in Exodus He is our healer and our banner. Now in Leviticus God is our sanctifier. He is **Jehovah-M’Kaddesh**, God who sanctifies (cf. Lev. 21,22). To sanctify means to set apart (Exo. 13:2,12). This is the sanctifying of days, feasts, utensils, etc. These are all holy. This causes Isaiah to cry out, holy, holy, holy (Isa. 6:1-3). In Isaiah God is called the “Holy One of Israel” about 30 times. This is even what the angels are singing in Rev. 4:8. God’s holiness is transcendent and so we must also present ourselves in this way (Psalm 110:3). God has always expected His children to be partake of His holiness (2 Pet. 1:3,4). What God was to them, Christ is to us. He sanctified himself (Jn. 17:19), so that He might be sanctified (Heb. 10:9,10) and thereby He expects His church to be sanctified (Eph. 5:25-27).

Later they have entered the land and possessed their inheritance, but they have forgotten their sanctification—they have sinned. God raises up Gideon to deliver them. God promises to be their peace, He is **Jehovah-Shalom**, God is peace (Jud. 6:24). The meaning is *He is our recompense, He is our peace-offering*. It carries the meaning of restoring fellowship. There is no peace for the wicked (Isa. 57:18). Jesus is the perfection and fullness of our peace. After all He is the prince of peace (Isa. 9:6). He is our peace (Eph. 2:17). He leaves us peace (John 14:27; John 16:33). That peace is made through the blood of the cross (Col. 1:19,20). In times of great wickedness and with captivity threatening the future of God’s people, Jeremiah is reminded that God is **Jehovah-Tsidkenu**, God our righteousness (Jer. 23:5,6). God is the source of our righteousness (Psa. 89:14; Psa. 97:2). Righteousness is determined by and belongs to God (Dan. 9:7,8). Christ is our righteousness; He is the righteous one (Acts 3:14,15). He rules with His throne and sceptre in hand (Heb. 1:8,9). Jesus was made righteousness for us (I Cor. 1:30ff; 2 Cor. 5:21) and He was created in righteousness (Eph. 4:24).

Another that is not translated this way is **Jehovah-Rohi**. This is the reference in Psalm 23. Jehovah is our shepherd. Here it is used figuratively of this beautiful relationship we have with God. He was the shepherd of His people throughout history. He brought them back from captivity as a Shepherd (Ezek. 34:11-16). Jesus is our Shepherd today (John 10:11). He is qualified to be such a Shepherd (cf. Heb. 2:9-16). Therefore, He is the Shepherd of our souls (Heb. 13:20; I Pet. 2:26).

Finally, we look at Ezekiel’s reference to God. He calls God **Jehovah-Shamman** (Ezek. 48:35). The meaning here is *God is there*. Ezekiel uses this in reference to the city of God and of His people. Israel is to return and the city to be built. God lives among His people. His presence can be seen in the church today (Eph. 2:19ff; Heb. 13:5; 2 Cor. 6:16).

If we can stop for a few minutes and reflect on the name of God and remember that His name has meaning, we can start to understand how great and wonderful His name is. Surely a name that is so great and wonderful as the names of God and Christ should be and would be held in reverence and never, never, never taken in vain.

This is why the Psalmist can say, “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his name” (Psalm 111:9). Let us always and forever allow His name to be holy and reverend every time it falls from our lips. His name has meaning! If we stop to remember His name, we will not ever take it in vain.

Remember the third commandment.

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

*Gerald George* is home doing well after his heart surgery.  
*Lou Ann Baugh* is home after being diagnosed with Covid.  
*Ryan Hopkins, son of Jan Hopkins*, is home and having out-patient rehabilitation.  
*Sandra Sherman* is now in the Constant Care Unit at St. Bernard’s Hospital.  
*Wanda Cashion* is in NEA Baptist suffering with pneumonia and weakness. She is now in rehab and has moved to room 5211.  
*Joyce Slankard*, the mother of Patti Dodson is suffering with pneumonia and heart problems.  
*Our Sympathies* are extended to Gary and Jamie Holland in the loss of Gary’s brother, Mike Holland and also to Stacy Eddleman in the loss of his nephew this past week.

*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.

*Day Of Exhortation* will be next Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> with Ivie Powell from West Plains, Missouri. We will have a chili and soup lunch after the morning services. There is a sign-up sheet on the table under the picture board.

| <i>Those Privileged To Serve</i><br>December 26, 2021  |   | NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK<br>Week Of<br>December 19, 2021  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>SUNDAY MORNING</b><br>Song Leader: Ben Johns<br>Opening Prayer: J. L. May<br>Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley<br>Bible Reading: Stacy Eddleman<br>Preacher: Terry Joe Kee | <b>SUNDAY EVENING</b><br>Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard<br>Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh<br>Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris<br>Preacher: Terry Joe Kee | Sunday Bible Study 80<br>Sunday AM Worship 111<br>Sunday PM Worship 79<br>Wednesday Bible Study 99<br>Contribution \$8943               |
| <b>LORD’S TABLE</b><br>Presiding: Jerry Dodson<br>Reginald Read Mike Felts<br>David Loggins Scott Pratt<br>Hal Baugh James Johnson                                       | <b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT</b><br>December 29, 2021<br>Song Leader: Hayden Roush<br>Opening Prayer: Barry Roush<br>Closing Prayer: Logan Snyder           | <p><b>“A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.”</b></p> <p><b>Proverbs 26:28</b></p> |
| <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br>Dan Nichols  | <b>DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER</b><br>December 29, 2021<br>Dan Nichols   |   |

# The Friend of Truth



Vol. XXX, No. 1

January 2, 2022

## KeeNotes

I trust that everyone has had a good beginning to the holidays. Times with family and friends should never be taken for granted. I hope everyone has thought to remember all those who have an empty seat at the table this year and every year moving forward. I always think of Jonathan’s words to David, “...thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty” (I Samuel 20:18). It seems to me that around the holidays we have some who are suffering with loss. I pray that these days will be merry for everyone, and our new year will be even better as we move forward.

Remember that next Lord’s Day we will have brother Ivie Powell visiting with us. Ivie was supposed to be with us much earlier in the year, but because of a heart issue had to postpone his time with us. We are thankful he will be here. This is a day for encouragement and a time to exhort us to better, greater service in the Lord’s vineyard. Hopefully, everyone can be present to begin 2022 and determined to work harder and do everything we can to build up, strengthen and ground ourselves in the most precious faith.

Tonight, we will conclude our series of sermons on moral issues. The new year will bring an emphasis on focusing on the Lord. We will be studying lessons from the book of John. We intend to focus our attentions upon Jesus as the Son of God. In believing we will enjoy the life that Jesus offers (John 20:30,31).

With the coming of a new year, we stop and think of the things we want to be better, new, or renewed in the coming year. We look back, but we also look ahead to a better year with greater possibilities, higher goals, and more determination. We commonly have a slogan each year and the one we have decided for the coming year will be “Living anew in 2022.” This idea comes from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” We will work to be new and reach new heights in the coming year. Have a great last week of the year and get ready for 2022.

**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**