

Theme: Are You Serious?

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. (Exodus 20:7)

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God” is the third commandment of the Ten Commandments. The emphasis being on “misuse,” in that you can not use the name of God in a false and empty way, such as “Oh my God!” or blasphemy. This shows that we do not fear and trust God, but use the name of God to vent emotions. In addition, using God's name as an endorsement or false oath is also a misuse of the name of the God. This shows that we are not building credit with our own words and deeds, but using the name of God to hide our impure thoughts. Our choice of words is not serious, freely making promises and covenants with others, and then arbitrarily breaking them. This is sin in the eyes of God.

The phrase “Not taking the Lord’s name in vain” requires us to be cautious in our words. This commandment also asks us to take full responsibility for our words, because God is faithful and reliable. Therefore, we should live our daily lives with the same faithful and reliable character.

Reflection

- Do I often use the phrase “Oh my God!” to vent my emotions or as a mantra?
- Am I prone to exaggeration, embellishment, speaking tongue and cheek, and carelessly?
- Do I casually promise things to my family and friends (regardless of size) or accept responsibilities in Church, but often do not perform my duties, causing them to be disappointed with me?

Renew

- Pray the Lord will manage my words, be cautious and not exaggerated, and to speak genuinely from the heart according to God’s will.
- Pray the Lord will not let me treat people with a dismissive attitude. Rather let me give promises cautiously, perform responsibly, and be a reliable person.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a more harmonious and united relationship in the church. May we understand and tolerate each other in the face of different opinions, and have better communication for the goal of spreading the gospel.
- Pray for the church's weekly sermons and speakers. Ask the Lord to make every speaker devoted to the Lord's message, to glorify God, and to not misuse the name of God.