

"GOD IN ALL"***Freed from a Worthless, Meaningless, Purposeless Life!***

- One of the hallmarks of slavery is that your life becomes increasingly trivial. Consider the people of Israel in the land of Egypt. Their slavery started out as a rather pleasant thing but over the course of time it turned increasingly unpleasant...in fact, it became down right miserable. Pharaoh did not concern himself with their individual talents and abilities, they all laboured tirelessly for building a kingdom that they would neither be a part of nor benefit from. Their lives had become entirely trivial: worthless, meaningless and purposeless.
- One of the reasons God gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments was to prevent his people from ever sliding back into that sort of tyrannical slavery again.
- The first three commandments in particular focus specifically on the LORD. In particular they show how to we are to preserve our liberty under God's righteous rule...

THE BIG PICTURE

- The first commandment compels us to put **God in Front.**
- The second commandment compels us hold **God in Truth.**

Commandment 3

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

- What I want to show you today is that obeying the third commandment compels us to fearfully work out **God in All.**
- *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"*, compels to take seriously a God of infinite worth and infinite meaning and infinite purpose, and when we do, we are liberated and freed from living worthless, meaningless purposeless lives!
- In short, when we become serious about the third commandment and fearfully working out God in All of life, we bring worth, meaning and purpose to all that we do.

NOTES**1. The third commandment compels us to use the name of the LORD reverently in our speech.**

- This would be the most literal rendering of the Commandment.
- The third commandment, in contemporary culture, is limited to the irreverent use of the LORD'S name in our speech.
 - **Profanity** – "before the temple" (using the LORD'S name as a cuss word or to add emphasis to our speech)
 - **False Vows** (invoking the LORD'S name to make a falsehood believable)
 - **Filthy Speech** (instead of using the LORD'S name reverently we invoke the powers of Satan and hell)
- But there is nothing in this commandment that limits it to such a rendering. This commandment includes our speech but is not limited to our speech...In fact, if we limit this commandment to the irreverent use of our LORD'S name in our speech we take the LORD'S name in vain.

2. The third commandment compels us to work out the word of the LORD in every area of life.

- If we are to obey the third commandment and not take the name of the LORD in vain, then we must take seriously what he says in his word about how we are to live...if we fail to do this we take the name of the LORD in vain.
- Where do I get this from...?

Proverbs 30:8-9 *"Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God."*

- Here we have the example of a poor person who apparently lacks what he needs to live.

- The writer of the Proverbs tells us that if he steals in order to meet his need that he in fact profanes the name of the LORD...he takes the LORD'S name in vain.
- But how is stealing taking the LORD'S name in vain?
 - He refuses to take seriously God's eighth commandment, **"You shall not steal".**
 - He refuses to take seriously God's fourth commandment and plan for his providence, **"Six days shall you labour and do all your work."**
 - The biblical alternative to working is begging...not stealing.
 - He says with his lips that he believes in the name of the LORD "YEHWEH Jireh" – **"I AM your provider"** but refuses to work out the word of the LORD into his life.
- So we can see from this text that the poor person who steals in fact takes the LORD'S name in vain because he does not seriously apply the word of the LORD to his life trusting in the revealed character of God and obeying the revealed word of God.

"...in vain..." = "to rush over".

- It is a word used to describe a violent or destructive tempest or gale (Hurricane Katrina)
- To have no regard or concern for the Name of the LORD.
- Therefore, to take the LORD'S name "in vain" is to do violence to the LORD. It is to treat the LORD with disregard, as if He was of no value or consequence to your life; to what you think, to what you say, and to what you do.
Ephesians 4:6 There is **"...one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."**
- God is over all and in all...he is not to be relegated to a box...he cannot be contained...and to try to contain him is to break the third commandment and so to call down his judgment upon us. The LORD is the invisible God. If he is LORD of your life, then he is LORD over every area of your life (our minds, our hearts, our bodies, our vocations, our finances, our maleness, our femaleness, our relationships, our marriages...or our singleness, our children, our time and how we spend it, our church, our governments, our eating, our drinking, our health...I could go on but you get the point)
- Dr. Cornelius Van Til once said "God's word is authoritative on all that it speaks, and it speaks on everything." Here was a an who understood that God's word is authoritative and speaks to every area of life.
- If we are to keep the third commandment and not take the name of the LORD in vain, then we need to develop a thoroughly Christian worldview that applies God's word to every area of life!
- Kneading leaven into a lump of dough.

Matthew 13:33 **"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."**

- What is the Kingdom of Heaven?
- The Kingdom of Heaven extends where ever the LORD'S name is feared and his word obeyed.
Philippians 2:12-16 **"Therefore, my beloved...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life..."**
- Working out your own salvation has everything to do with holding fast to the word of life – the Bible – and working

ACTIONS

- Getting very practical by narrowing the focus...
- The LORD has given us two scarce resources, **(1) Time** and **(2) Money**.
- In most cases, if we are settled in our calling, God has given us enough of each of them to do what he has called us to do...but not a lot extra
- Each of us has only a limited supply of each of them...that is one of the things that makes time and money so valuable.
- Each of us is to use those two resources as stewards of a heavenly kingdom who will give an account to the LORD for our use of them.
- How we use of these two resources is a good indicator of whether we take the LORD'S name in vain or not. I'm not going to talk right now about money...I'll leave that topic for Kate Thompson to cover.
- Let's talk about time...

(a) Take account of how you use the scarce resource of time.

- What uses of time are trivial?

- To help myself discern the answer to this question I ask myself this question: If I were to stand before the LORD, what are those things (worthless, meaningless, purposeless things) that you would be ashamed to say that you spent time doing.
- With out being legalistic here are some potential examples – T.V., **Internet**, Nothing.
- Not everything that begs for your attention deserves your attention.
- What uses of time are not necessarily trivial but are not the best use of time given what God has called you to do and be?
- To help myself discern the answer to this question I ask myself: If I were to stand before the LORD and give account for my time, what are those things that I could reasonably defend but know that the grounds for my defense would be shaky.

(b) Take that god and place it behind you.

(c) Identify one personal problem that you don't know how to solve biblically.

(d) Work the leaven into that area of your life.

- Personal story here...