



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - September 18, 2011

### Sermon

10 Commandments:

*"The Third Commandment"*

Exodus 20:7

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember  
about this sermon...

Monday 9/19/11

Exodus 20:7

The Third Commandment is probably one of the ten that many of us know about and heard about in our experience. Do not take the Lord's name in vain. In one translation it states it this way: "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God." This appears to be pretty close to the sense of the original Hebrew language regarding this commandment. We need to be careful how we use God's name and how we call on this holy name.

Tuesday 9/20/11

Deuteronomy 5:11

Deuteronomy chapter 5 reviews the ten commandments, so in verse 11 we see this commandment stated again. It repeats the phrase that one who misuses God's name will not be acquitted. What does this mean to you? Is there no forgiveness possible if we break this third commandment? Does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross cover this sin? What do you think?

Wednesday 9/21/11

Matthew 5:33-37

Jesus speaks about this third commandment on the Sermon on the Mount. He refers to the "ancient times" when this commandment was spoken and adds that you shall not swear falsely, but, rather, carry out the vows you made to God. Then Jesus adds, "Do not swear at all... Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No.'" Some traditions and denominations declare this to mean that we should not put our hand on the Bible in a court of law and say we swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. What do you think Jesus meant by these statements? It doesn't seem to be just about swearing or using bad words. It appears to be deeper, much deeper than this. Are you careful in the words you choose to use?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

*How do you use God's name?*

*How is God's name used in wrong ways?*

*Are you keeping the 3rd commandment?*

Thursday 9/22/11  
James 5:12

This verse reiterates what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. James has quite a lot to say about the tongue and how we should use it carefully. Read James 3:1-12 to get a sample of James' thoughts on the tongue. "The tongue is a fire... no one can tame the tongue..." These sound like pretty harsh words, but do you know anyone who seems to always be wagging their tongues? We always have to be careful what we say and how we say it!

Friday 9/23/11  
Colossians 4:5-6

Paul puts a positive spin on the thoughts about how we ought to speak. "Conduct yourself wisely toward outsiders... Let your speech always be gracious." My grandmother often said, "If you don't have anything good to say, then don't say anything at all." This seems to be in keeping with Paul's thoughts about how we treat visitors and even what we say to each other.

Saturday 9/24/11  
Ephesians 4:29-32

"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths..." Wow, this is hard isn't it? Gossip is such fun! We like talking about other people who are different and even strange! We enjoy pointing our finger toward things we don't like. "Did you hear about..." Wow, this is so easy to get caught up in and Paul knew it! We need to carefully weigh our words and really think about what we are saying. Don't be that person who always seems to put his foot in his mouth! Choose your words wisely and always be careful. Regardless of that old saying, "Sticks and stone can break my bones, but words can never hurt me;" words can hurt people! Don't be hurtful with your words.