

# EUPHEMISMS

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AN IMPORTANT TOPIC HAS COME UP IN THE CHURCH, I THINK, BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LIBERALISM AND DILUTING AND A CASUALNESS WHICH BEGAN TO INFILTRATE THE CHURCH OF GOD A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO. THINGS THAT HAD BEEN TAUGHT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME SIMPLY WERE NOT BEING STRESSED. BUT NOW THEY'RE BEING STRESSED AGAIN. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS ONE ASPECT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THE APPLICATION OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT. IT HAS BEEN A LITTLE BIT BLURRED, AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN. THE THIRD COMMANDMENT TELLS US THAT WE ARE TO RESPECT THE NAME OF GOD. WE'RE NOT TO TRIFLE WITH GOD'S NAME, BECAUSE NAMES ARE IMPORTANT TO HIM. HE EVEN CHANGES YOUR NAME IF HE DOESN'T THINK IT'S GOOD OR APPROPRIATE OR IT MEANS THE RIGHT THING. SAUL BECAME PAUL AFTER CONVERSION AND ABRAM BECAME ABRAHAM. AND IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD SOME OF YOU WILL HAVE A NEW NAME BECAUSE GOD MAY NOT CARE FOR THE NAME YOU HAVE NOW. AND MAYBE HE'LL LET YOU MAINTAIN IT OR RETAIN IT, I DON'T KNOW. THAT'LL DEPEND ON WHAT GOD WANTS. BECAUSE NAMES ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD, THEY SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.

GOD'S NAMES, OF COURSE, ARE VERY IMPORTANT. HE HAS MANY, AND THEY REVEAL HIS AUTHORITY AND HIS LOVE. THEY REVEAL GOD'S CHARACTER. EVERY NAME OF GOD THAT HE APPLIES TO HIMSELF HAS SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING. AND TO BLUR THOSE NAMES OR TO OBSCURE HIS NAME, TO MINIMIZE THE NAME OF GOD, OR TO DEBASE GOD BY DEBASING ONE OF HIS NAMES IS SOMEHOW TANTAMOUNT TO SACRILEGE! AND SOME OF YOU DO THAT UNWITTINGLY.

I REMEMBER AS A CHILD, VERY FEW PEOPLE REGULARLY USED THE NAME OF GOD IN A TRIVIAL WAY. IT WASN'T DONE. IT IS NOWADAYS. TO LET GOD'S NAME COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH AS AN EXCLAMATION OR AS A REMARK OR A SIGN OF SURPRISE WAS RARE WHEN I WAS A KID, TO USE IT AS A CURSE WORD WAS RARE. BUT ON OCCASION, I KNOW THAT THE WORKING CLASS MEN OF A CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL LEVEL DID USE THOSE NAMES ON THE JOB. BUT EVEN THOSE GENTLEMEN WOULD NEVER USE THE NAME OF GOD IN FRONT OF THEIR WIVES OR IN FRONT OF THEIR KIDS BECAUSE WOMEN WERE NOT TO HEAR THE NAME OF GOD. AND EVEN MEN WHO MIGHT USE IT AMONGST OTHER MEN IN A BAR OR SOMEPLACE LIKE THAT,

WERE VERY CAREFUL WHERE THEY USED IT. SOMEHOW THE CONCEPT THAT YOU MUST RESPECT AND HONOR THE NAME OF GOD WAS VERY POWERFUL, EVEN UP TO ABOUT 20 TO 25 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A HEAVY TABOO. AND EVEN NON-RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T GO TO CHURCH FELT IT INAPPROPRIATE TO USE THE NAME OF GOD. EVEN THEY HAD REQUIRED THE TABOO AND THEY WOULD NOT USE IT.

I WASN'T RAISED IN A "CHURCHY" ENVIRONMENT AT ALL. AND WHEN I WAS A KID, WESTERN CANADA WAS PROBABLY ABOUT THE MOST IRRELIGIOUS PLACE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. I DON'T COME FROM THE BIBLE BELT. AND NOBODY I KNEW EVER WENT TO CHURCH ALL THAT MUCH. BUT, YOU KNOW, THEY DIDN'T USE GOD'S NAME VERY OFTEN. I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I HEARD AN ADULT WOMAN USE GOD'S NAME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VERB, "TO DAMN." I WAS ABOUT 15 YEARS OF AGE, AND WE WERE VISITING A RELATION OF MINE, AND A NEIGHBOR CAME IN AND SHE USED THE NAME OF GOD WHEN I WAS A YOUNG ADULT. SHE COMBINED IT WITH THE VERB, "TO DAMN," AND YOU KNOW HOW THAT WOULD BE USED. MY EARS BURNED FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS! I REMEMBER GOING TO BED A COUPLE OF TIMES THINKING ABOUT THAT AND BEING SO BOTHERED AND TORMENTED BY IT THAT I HAD A HARD TIME FALLING ASLEEP. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WOMEN COULD BE SO LOW-CLASSED AND SO TRASHY, BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED VERY LOW-CLASS AND TRASHY TO DO THAT TYPE OF THING IN PUBLIC. AND I WAS SORT OF SHOCKED.

NOW IN 1981, OF COURSE, EVERYBODY DOES IT. IT'S DONE ALL THE TIME. IT'S DONE ON TV AND YOU HEAR IT CONTINUALLY. THE SAD THING IS SOME OF OUR OWN BRETHREN DO IT, AND I HAVE HEARD THEM DO IT! SOME OF YOUR KIDS DO IT, BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD SOME OF YOUR KIDS DO IT. AND I'VE TOLD MY CHILDREN, AND I CAN TELL YOU PUBLICLY, IF THEY EVER DO THAT IN FRONT OF ME NO MATTER WHAT THEIR AGE IS, I WILL REQUIRE AN APOLOGY AND PROBABLY ADMINISTER DISCIPLINE. OTHERWISE I WILL SHOW THEM THE DOOR. BECAUSE THE NAME OF GOD WILL NOT BE PROFANED IN MY HOME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. I SIMPLY WILL NOT ALLOW IT. AND NEITHER DO I THINK YOU SHOULD.

NOW, OF COURSE, MOST OF OUR MEMBERS KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD NOT USE THE NAME OF GOD IN A LITERAL WAY. BUT SOME OF YOU STILL USE EUPHEMISMS QUITE A LOT. THAT IS A FANCY WORD

WHICH SIMPLY MEANS A TERM OF PROFANITY THAT HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY ALTERED SO THAT YOU DON'T FULLY RECOGNIZE IT AS A FORM OF GOD'S NAME. YOU ALTER A COUPLE OF LETTERS TO HIDE THE OFFENSIVE SOUND AND YET BEHIND THAT ALTERATION OF A COUPLE OF LETTERS, YOU SEE THE WORD IS STILL THERE. AND GOD KNOWS THAT IT'S STILL THERE. USING WORDS LIKE "GAD" OR "GOSH," OF COURSE, IS AN ALTERATION OF THE NAME OF GOD. AND THAT IS USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN. TO USE THE VERB, "DARN" IN PLACE OF "TO DAMN" OR "TO CONDEMN" AND THEN TO TAKE ON GOD'S NAME, OR TO LEAVE IT OFF IS THE SAME PRINCIPLE. YOU SEE, YOU'RE STILL CALLING UPON THE DIVINITY, THE SUPREME GOD, EVEN USING THE VERB, "TO DARN."

I HOPE YOU REALIZE THE VERB, "TO DARN," D-A-R-N, ISN'T WITH A NEEDLE, FIXING UP A HOLE IN YOUR SOCK, THOUGH IT CAN BE THAT. IT IS USED MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS AND YOU CALL UPON GOD "TO DARN IT," YOU'RE NOT ASKING GOD TO GET OUT HIS NEEDLE AND TO FIX UP A HOLE! YOU'RE ASKING GOD TO CURSE IT. AND YOU'VE CHANGED THE VERB, "TO DAMN" VERY, VERY SLIGHTLY. D-A-M-N HAS BECOME D-A-R-N, BUT TO GOD, IT MEANS THE SAME THING. AND THAT IS NOT SOMETHING MINOR. THAT IS SOMETHING IN GOD'S EYES WHICH IS MAJOR.

I WANT YOU TO NOTICE VERY QUICKLY SOMETHING ABOUT THE NAME OF GOD AND THE CHERISHING AND THE PROTECTION WE OUGHT TO GIVE TO HIS NAME, AND THE WAY WE USE IT, AND HOW WE CALL UPON IT IN PRAYER. WHEN IN TRIVIAL, CASUAL CONVERSATION, OR WHEN SOMETHING OCCURS AND YOU CALL UPON GOD TO BRING DAMNATION AND CONDEMNATION TO SOMEBODY, OR EVEN TO YOUR THUMB WHEN YOU WHACK IT, RATHER THAN SAYING "OUCH," YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY TRIVIAL AS FAR AS HIS NAME IS CONCERNED.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT IS A VERY IMPORTANT LAW OF GOD. WE MUST PROTECT HIS NAME AND RESPECT HIS NAME. EXODUS 20:7, "THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN [THAT IS IN A TRIVIAL, PROFANE, BELITTLING WAY; WHY?]; FOR THE ETERNAL WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLISS..." IT SAYS GOD WILL NOT HOLD HIM AS A "CLEAN HUMAN BEING," IN THE HEBREW, GUILTLISS MEANS CLEAN, THAT MEANS SPIRITUALLY CLEAN. YOU ARE NOT SPIRITUALLY CLEAN IF YOU'RE USING THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN. SO WHEN YOU PROFANE THE NAME OF GOD, YOU HAVE RENDERED YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY UNCLEAN BEFORE GOD, AND YOU MUST CLEANSE YOUR LIFE, YOU MUST CLEANSE YOUR TONGUE, YOU MUST CLEANSE YOUR VOCABULARY, THEN YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO CALL YOURSELF CLEAN BEFORE GOD AS FAR AS THE APPLICATION OF THAT LAW IS CONCERNED.

I'VE SAT IN SOME OF OUR SCHOOLS IN PHILOSOPHY CLASSES, AND I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEING DONE: TEACHERS WILL EVEN TEACH KIDS TO USE PROFANITY. THAT IS, THEY WILL TELL THEM TO SAY CERTAIN WORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, SEX TERMS, BIBLICAL TERMS, OR TERMS OF PROFANITY THAT TO THE OLDER GENERATION ARE SCATOLOGICAL TERMS. AND THEY'LL TELL YOU TO REPEAT THE WORDS UNTIL FINALLY YOU BECOME DESENSITIZED TO THE MEANING, AND THE TABOO IS GONE AND YOU DON'T FEEL GUILTY. BECAUSE, OF COURSE, YOU MUSTN'T FEEL GUILTY. GUILT IS BAD, THEY SAY. SO SAY THE WORDS, AND YOU WON'T FEEL GUILTY.

OF COURSE, EVEN SOME OF OUR OWN KIDS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD SOMETIMES SAY, WELL, WHY CAN'T WE SAY THIS WORD? IT'S JUST A WORD. NO, IT IS NOT JUST A WORD. IT IS A QUESTION OF RESPECT AND HONOR AND AWE. AND THERE MUST BE TABOOS. AND THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME GUILT ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE WRONG. GUILT ISN'T BAD WHEN IT DOESN'T BECOME OBSESSIVE. AND THE NAME OF GOD MUST BE PROTECTED. OUR LANGUAGE MUST BE CLEANED UP AND THE NAME OF GOD MUST BE RESPECTED.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 6, VERSE 9, WHERE CHRIST MENTIONS THIS AS WELL AND IS VERY CLEAR IN HIS FOCUS UPON IT, AND HE SHOULD BE, AND SO SHOULD WE BE. WE WEREN'T FOR A WHILE. WE WEREN'T CLEAR IN OUR FOCUS SO MUCH IN ANYTHING, IT SEEMED FOR A WHILE. AT LEAST I'M GLAD THAT ERA IS OVER. IN MATTHEW 6:9 THE MODEL PRAYER, NOTICE THE FOCUS ON THE NAME OF GOD. "AFTER THIS MANNER THEREFORE PRAY YOU [WHEN YOU PRAY SAY]: OUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN [AND YOU BEGIN BY CALLING HIM BY ONE OF HIS NAMES, WHICH IS FATHER AND FATHER IS A NAME THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN HONORABLE NAME], HALLOWED BE..." NOT HALLOWED IS, BECAUSE HIS NAME ISN'T HALLOWED, HALLOWED MEANS "RESPECTED" AND "REVERED" AND "HONORED BE," NOT "IS," BECAUSE IT ISN'T BEING HONORED BY MOST PEOPLE, THIS IS A SUBJUNCTIVE FORM OF THE VERB IN THE GREEK. IT ISN'T PRESENT. "HALLOWED IS" IS PRESENT, "HALLOWED BE" IS A DIFFERENT FORM OF THE VERB. "HALLOWED BE" MEANS, "LET YOUR NAME BE HALLOWED." IT IS A FORM OF A COMMAND. CAUSE YOUR NAME TO BE HALLOWED. IT IS SUBJUNCTIVE AND IMPLIES A PROCESS BY WHICH THE NAME OF GOD WILL SOMEDAY BE HALLOWED AND HONORED AND RESPECTED. IT CERTAINLY ISN'T NOW. WHEN WILL THAT HAPPEN? IN VERSE 10, IT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD COMES.

NOW YOU AND I MUST RESPECT THE NAME OF GOD, AND SO SHOULD OUR KIDS. OUR KIDS HAVE A SPECIAL PROBLEM IN THAT DIRECTION BECAUSE THE SCHOOLS, SOCIETY, TV, EVERYTHING IS CON-

TRIVED NOWADAYS TO DE-SENSITIZE YOUNG PEOPLE TO THAT KIND OF RESPECT TOWARDS THE NAME OF GOD. AND IF YOUR KIDS LET SOMETHING BLURT OUT, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY REACT AND ADMINISTER VERY SPECIFIC, STRONG, LOVING PUNISHMENT ON THE SPOT. I'VE ALREADY TOLD THE KIDS IN Y.O.U. THAT IF I HEAR GOD'S NAME COME OUT OF THEIR MOUTH OR PROFANITY COME OUT OF THEIR MOUTH IN A Y.O.U. ACTIVITY, I WILL AUTOMATICALLY EXPEL THEM FROM Y.O.U. FOR A MONTH. I KNOW THE PROBLEM, BECAUSE IT IS AROUND THEM ALL THE TIME; SO I DON'T SAY A YEAR, BUT I DO SAY A MONTH. NOW I KNOW SOME PARENTS THINK THAT IS TERRIBLY HARSH, BUT SOME OF YOU MAKE ME FEEL SAD BECAUSE SOME OF YOU PARENTS, NO MATTER WHAT DISCIPLINE Y.O.U. ADMINISTERS, YOU ALWAYS FEEL IT IS TOO HARSH. SOME OF YOU ARE MARSHMALLOWS WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR KIDS; JUST MARSHMALLOWS! IF WE EVEN LIFT OUR EYEBROW TO YOUR PERFECT CHILD YOU'RE SAYING, OH, DON'T TOUCH MY CHILD! SOME OF YOU ARE SO SILLY! YOUR KID ISN'T PERFECT AND NEITHER ARE MINE. SO DISCIPLINE MUST BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH Y.O.U. LOVINGLY, COLLECTIVELY; IT MUST BE DONE. IF THEY USE THE NAME OF GOD OR PROFANITY, WE WILL EXPEL THEM. THE KIDS KNOW THAT, AND THEY'RE NOT TEARING THEIR HAIR OUT. BUT SOME PARENTS DO.

ANYWAY, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO USE PROFANITY THAT I WANT TO DISCUSS VERY BRIEFLY BECAUSE THEY POP OUT VERY, VERY OFTEN. AND REMEMBER, EUPHEMISM IS A SLIGHTLY ALTERED FORM OF PROFANITY; ALTERED GENERALLY IF YOU GO BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS, 20, 50, 200, 500, ALTERED BY WOMEN, ALTERED BY CHILDREN, ALTERED BY PEOPLE THAT HAD CERTAIN COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT USING THE WORD SO THEY WOULD CHANGE KIND OF A RAW TERM INTO A TERM THAT SOUNDED A LITTLE BIT NICER IN THE MOUTH OF A WOMAN OR A CHILD OR SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN OPEN PROFANITY. WHEN I WAS A KID, AS AN EXAMPLE, WOMEN RARELY SAID THE NAME OF GOD OUTSIDE OF THE CONTEXT THAT INVOLVED RELIGION. BUT MANY OF THEM SAID, "GOSH." WELL, YOU SEE, "GOSH," G-O-S-H IS SIMPLY GOD WITH THE "D" REMOVED AND AN "S-H" ADDED ON TO MAKE IT SOUND MORE INNOCUOUS, BUT IT IS NOT. WHEN YOU SAY, "GOSH" YOU HAVE PROFANED THE NAME OF GOD. AND HE KNOWS IT, EVEN IF YOU DON'T.

MANY PEOPLE SAY, "GOLLY," G-O-L-L-Y, WHICH AGAIN IS THE NAME OF GOD, G-O-D, AND AN L-L-Y ADDED ON TO DISGUISE THE NAME OF GOD SO IT SOUNDS A LITTLE BIT BETTER. BUT GOD KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE HAVE DONE. HE WAS THERE WHEN THE ALTERATION TOOK PLACE. HE'D USE IT AS A DEMEANING, AS A MINIMIZING, AS A KIND OF A DESCRATION OF HIS NAME, AND GOD IS NOT PLEASED

WHEN WE DO THAT OR WHEN OUR KIDS DO IT. IT ISN'T CUTE. IT ISN'T INNOCUOUS. IT IS A BREAKING OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE DONE.

NOW THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF DOING THAT. A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL SAY, "GEE." IN THE COMIC BOOKS IT'S GENERALLY SPELLED G-E-E. BUT GEE IS SIMPLY THE FIRST SYLLABLE OF THE NAME OF JESUS, AND YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST EVEN IN A KIND OF A BRIEFENED FORM. AND TO SAY, "GEE," G-E-E, OUTSIDE OF A RELIGIOUS CONTEXT DEFINITELY IS A DEMEANING OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

WHEN I WAS A KID, IN ANCIENT HISTORY, A LOT OF PEOPLE USED TO SAY, "JEEPERS," OR "JEEPERS CREEPERS." AND "JEEPERS" AGAIN IS SIMPLY THE NAME OF JESUS, THE FIRST SYLLABLE AND THEN YOU ADD P-E-R-S TO MAKE IT SOUND MORE INNOCUOUS AND EVERYONE SAYS, WELL, THAT'S NOT SO BAD. AND IN THE OLD MOVIES THEY DID EVEN TRY TO MAKE IT SOUND SORT OF FUNNY BY ADDING A NONSENSE SYLLABLE ON IT, IT DID COME OUT, "JEEPERS CREEPERS," BUT AGAIN YOU HAVE THE FIRST LETTER OF THE NAMES OF JESUS CHRIST: THE FIRST LETTER OF THE NAME OF JESUS, THE FIRST LETTER OF THE NAME, CHRIST. "JEEPERS CREEPERS," J-C, YOU HAVE THE NAME OF THE SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND BEING DRAGGED THROUGH THE DUST AND BEING MADE LIGHT OF. AND OUR PEOPLE SHOULD NOT DO THINGS OF THAT TYPE. THAT IS PROFANITY AND IT IS A FUTILE, CASUAL, DEBASING USE OF THE MEANING AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ONE OF THE NAMES OF GOD. IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE!

THIS ISN'T DONE ANYMORE EITHER, BUT TO GIVE YOU THE PRINCIPLE, WHEN I WAS A KID A LOT OF PEOPLE USED TO SAY, "HOLY SMOKE." DO ANY OF YOU REMEMBER THAT? WHERE DOES "HOLY SMOKE" COME FROM? THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HOLY SMOKE. AND IT COMES FROM THAT SPECIFIC TERM. POWER OF GOD. WE SHOULDN'T SAY THAT. BUT THERE IS A HOLY SPIRIT, IT IS A MINIMIZING OF THE PEOPLE USED TO SAY, "GOOD GRIEF." SOME STILL DO. DO YOU KNOW WHERE "GOOD GRIEF" COMES FROM? IT COMES FROM "GOD'S GRIEF," BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE SAID BECAUSE THAT WAS PROFANITY, SO "GOD" BECAME "GOOD" AND THEN YOU COULD SAY, "GOOD GRIEF." BUT IS THERE ANY GOOD GRIEF? WELL, ORIGINALLY IT WAS, "GOD'S GRIEFS" GOD'S GRIEF AT THE DYING OF HIS SON. IT IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH WE SHOULD MINIMIZE AND USE IN A FORM OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE CASUAL PROFANITY. PEOPLE USED TO SAY, "GEE WHIZ." SOME PEOPLE STILL DO. I THINK YOU SEE WHERE THAT WOULD COME FROM.

AND THEN, OF COURSE, IN THIS DAY AND

AGE PEOPLE OPENLY USE THE VERB, "TO DAMN." TRADITIONALLY THE VERB, "TO DAMN" HAS ALWAYS BEEN EMPLOYED IN COMBINATION WITH THE NAME OF GOD. AND PEOPLE CALLED UPON GOD, INVOKED THE DIVINITY, THE POWER OF GOD, TO INTERVENE AND TO ZAP OR DESTROY OR TO HARM OR TO CHASTISE A PERSON OR AN INDIVIDUAL OR AN OBJECT THAT THEY WERE ANGRY AT, SO PEOPLE WOULD CALL UPON GOD, GOD WOULD YOU PLEASE CONDEMN OR DAMN THIS OBJECT. IT BECAME SHORTENED, OR COURSE, AND THEN IN AN ABBREVIATED FORM. AND THEN BECAUSE THAT WAS STILL A VERY POWERFUL OATH, A LOT OF PEOPLE BEGAN TO USE THE VERB, "DARN" RATHER THAN "DAMN." YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY "DARN IT?" "DARN IT" IS A SUBJUNCTIVE FORM OF THE VERB, NOT "IT DARN," BUT "MAY YOU DARN." AND THEN THERE'S THE OTHER VERB, MUCH MORE POWERFUL, "IT." AND YOU HAVE NO RIGHT, BRETHREN, TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF GOD TO CONDEMN OR TO DAMN ANYTHING THAT IS NOT TO BE CONDEMNED OR TO BE DAMNED IN THAT WAY. AND THAT IS A PROFANE USE OF THE NAME OF GOD.

I WANT TO SHOW YOU A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS, AND I HOPE THE POINT WILL HAVE BEEN PUT ACROSS. MATTHEW 5:33, "AGAIN, YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT HAS BEEN SAID BY THEM OF OLD TIME, [DO NOT] FORESWEAR YOURSELF, BUT [YOU SHALL] PERFORM UNTO THE LORD [UNTO GOD ALL OF YOUR] OATHS: BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, SWEAR NOT AT ALL..." WE'RE NOT TO SWEAR, WE'RE NOT TO RAISE OUR HAND AND SAY, I THEREFORE SWEAR, MOST LATIN LANGUAGES HAVE A SIMILAR TYPE OF LINGUISTIC SET-UP. IN FRENCH PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY SAYING, OH, I SWEAR IT, YOU SAY, DID YOU REALLY DO THAT? AND EVEN LITTLE KIDS WILL SAY, OH YES, I SWEAR I DID IT, IN ENGLISH THAT'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL TO USE THE VERB, "TO SWEAR" IN THAT WAY. IN FRENCH PEOPLE GO OFF AND SAY, I SWEAR ON THE HEAD OF MY CHILDREN THAT I DID IT, IT'S A COMMON STATEMENT, THAT IS A VERY POWERFUL OATH. I WOULD USE THE VERB, "TO SWEAR" VERY INFREQUENTLY. BECAUSE IF YOU ANALYZE IT, YOU'RE CALLING UPON GOD, THERE MAY BE A FEW EXCEPTIONS WHEN YOU ARE NOT, BUT YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF THAT VERB.

DON'T SWEAR AT ALL, NEITHER BY HEAVEN; "GOOD HEAVENS" PEOPLE SAY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT "GOOD HEAVENS" MEANS? GOD'S HEAVEN. YOU CAN'T SWEAR BY HEAVEN. "LUCKY STARS," FOR THE STARS ARE IN THE HEAVENS. THAT'S AN OATH. AND DO NOT SWEAR BY THE EARTH OR BY THE LAND, THE LAND OF PROMISE. REMEMBER WAS IT IN 'LIL ABNER, HIS MOTHER USED TO SAY, "FOR LAND'S SAKE," AND I HEARD ON TELEVISION LAST WEEK AN OLD MOVIE, SOME LITTLE OLD LADY SAID, "MY LANDS." DO YOU KNOW WHAT LANDS SHE'S TALKING ABOUT? THE LAND OF PALESTINE, WHEN SOME-

BODY SAYS, "LAND SAKES," IT MEANS "FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAND." YOU CAN'T SWEAR BY THE LAND OR BY THE EARTH BECAUSE IT'S HIS FOOTSTOOL, OR BY JERUSALEM. WHILE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS PEOPLE USED TO SAY, "HOLY JERUSALEM," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT AS A KIND OF AN OATH. THAT ISN'T VERY COMMON AMONGST FLATLANDERS, BUT IT WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS. OR "DUMPING JEHOSEPHAT" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THEY WOULD HAVE THESE SORT OF FUNNY — USUALLY THEY SOUNDED FUNNY — KIND OF INNOCUOUS OATHS. AND YET IT IS A TRANSGRESSION OF THIS BASIC PRINCIPLE, FOR THIS IS THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

DON'T SWEAR BY YOUR HEAD, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE ONE HAIR WHITE OR BLACK. THIS ISN'T DONE MUCH IN ENGLISH, BUT IN THE LATIN LANGUAGES IT TENDS TO BE DONE QUITE A LOT. EVEN THOUGH WASN'T IT THE LITTLE PIG WHO SAID, "I SWEAR BY THE HAIR ON MY CHINNY-CHIN-CHIN?" WELL, HE DIDN'T SWEAR BY THE HAIR IN HIS HEAD, HE SWORE BY THE HAIR IN HIS CHIN. BUT THAT IS ALSO AN OATH, AND THAT SHOULDN'T BE DONE.

PEOPLE SAY, WHAT CAN I SAY THEN? I GOT THE HAMMER OUT, I GET A WHACK AT THE NAIL, THE HAMMER SLIPS, I WHACK MY THUMB. WHAT CAN I SAY? IF I CAN'T SAY SOMETHING, WHAT DO I SAY? GOD ANSWERS THAT, VERSE 37, "BUT LET YOUR COMMUNICATION BE [WHEN YOU WANT TO USE AN OATH, WHAT YOU SAY THEN IS], YEA, YEA; [OR] NAY, NAY..." "NOW I KNOW THE GUYS ON THE JOB WILL THINK THAT'S FUNNY. I MEAN, YOU WHACK YOUR THUMB, AND FOR ABOUT TEN SECONDS YOU'RE SAYING, YEA, YEA, YEA, YEA! HE'LL THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT FUNNY, BUT THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME. THAT'S HIS PROBLEM. THIS IS WHAT GOD SAYS. YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING.

PEOPLE SAY, YOU MEAN I JUST SORT OF SIT THERE AND SUFFER WHEN THE KNOB BREAKS OFF THE TV SET AND I CAN'T TURN IT OFF AND IT'S GOING TO BE ON ALL DAY LONG OR SOMETHING OF THE KIND? I JUST SORT OF SIT THERE, AND I CAN'T ASK GOD TO COME DOWN AND TO ZAP OR BLAST OR CONDEMN OR WIPE OUT THE TV SET? WHAT DO I DO? WELL, GOD IS VERY CLEAR AGAIN. HE SAYS YOU CAN SAY, NAY OR YOU CAN SAY YEA. FOR WHATSOEVER IS MORE THAN THAT — COMES FROM NOT NECESSARILY IN EVERY CASE, BUT IN GENERAL — AN EVIL FORM. AND WE NEED TO ANALYZE THAT. I MEAN, THERE MAY BE SOME INNOCUOUS THINGS THAT PEOPLE SAY. PEOPLE SAY WELL, YOU CAN SAY, "OH BOY," CAN'T YOU. WELL I GUESS YOU PROBABLY CAN. AND PEOPLE SAY, WHAT ABOUT, "WOW?" I REALLY SEE NO PROBLEM WITH "WOW." PEOPLE ANALYZE "GHASTLY." IS "GHASTLY" WRONG? WELL, MY REACTION IS BECAUSE OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE WORD, I WOULD TEND NOT TO USE IT. I THINK IT

WAS ONCE VERY FASHIONABLE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD, BUT IT HAS VERY QUICKLY GONE OUT OF FASHION.

ANYWAY, GOD SAYS, YEA, YEA AND NAY, NAY. WHAT WE DO NEED, BRETHREN, IS MORE RESPECT FOR GOD, MORE RESPECT FOR GOD'S LAW AND AN AWARENESS OF SOME OF THE TERMS AND THE WORDS THAT WE HAVE BEEN USING THAT ARE NOT OF GOD, BUT HAVE COME FROM SATAN IN AN ATTEMPT BY SATAN THE DEVIL TO BRING DISRESPECT AND DISCREDIT UPON THE NAME OF GOD. IT HURTS GOD TO HEAR US USE THOSE WORDS IN THOSE TERMS, WE SHOULDN'T DO IT, NEITHER SHOULD OUR CHILDREN. AND WE NEED TO BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL AND CONSCIOUS OF THAT SPECIFIC PROBLEM.

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