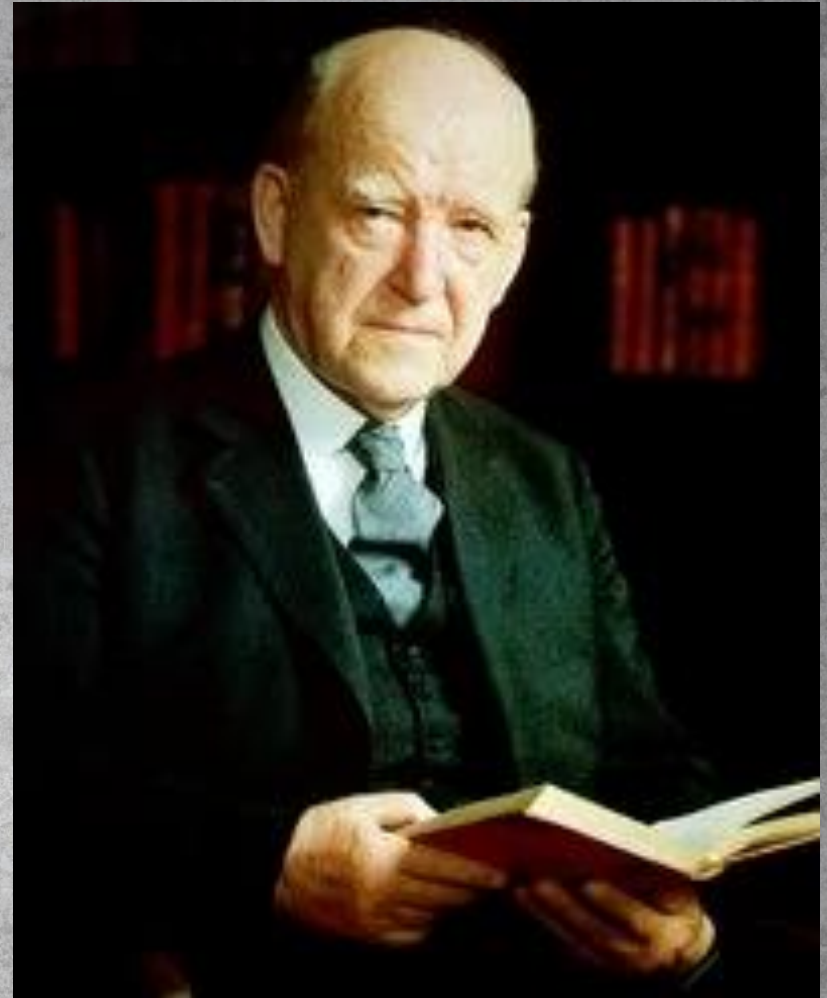


WRITTEN IN
STONE

The Third Commandment: Representation

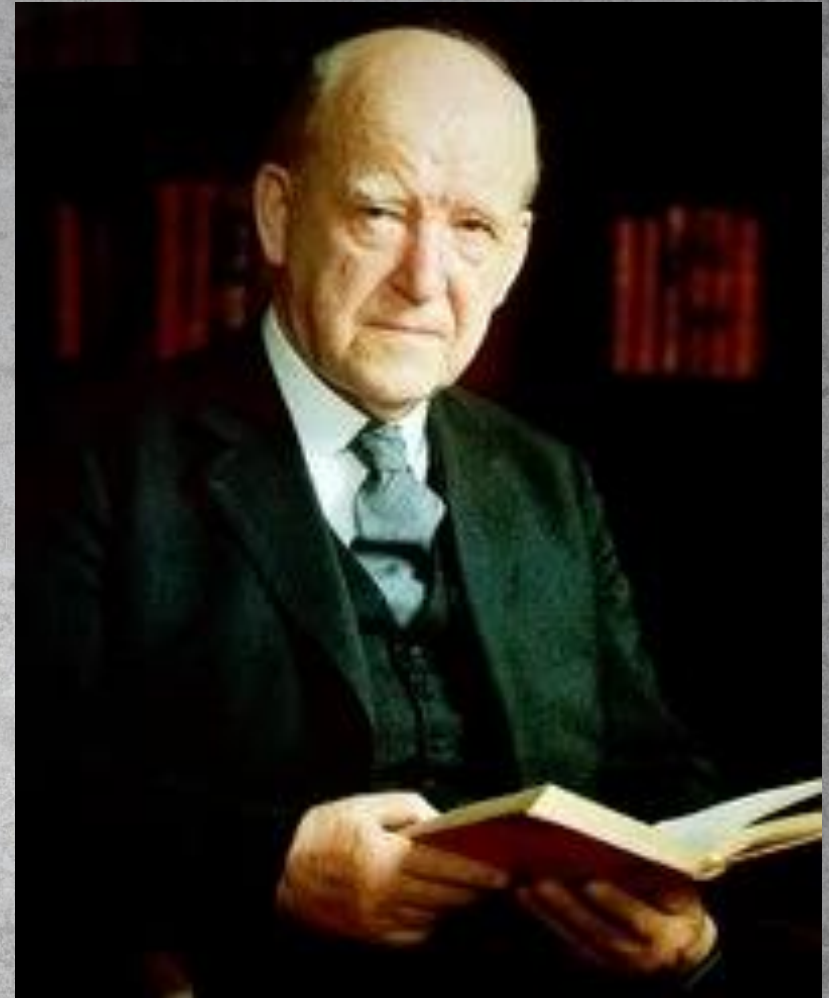
EXODUS 20:7

“What unworthy ideas and notions this world has of God! If you test your ideas of God by the teaching of the Scriptures you will see at a glance what I mean. We lack even a due sense of the greatness and the might and the majesty of God. Listen to men arguing about God, and notice how glibly they use the term... It is indeed almost alarming to observe the way in which we all tend to use the...



**MARTYN
LLOYD-JONES**

"...name of God. We obviously do not realize that we are talking about the ever blessed, eternal, and absolute, almighty God. There is a sense in which we should take our shoes off our feet whenever we use the name." (*Commentary on the Sermon on the Mount*)



**MARTYN
LLOYD-JONES**

“In truth, there is probably no country in the Western world where people use God’s name quite as much, or quite as publicly, or for quite as many purposes, as we Americans do—the Third Commandment notwithstanding. Few candidates for office are able to end their speeches without asking God to bless their audience, or the nation, or the great work we are undertaking, but everybody...



STEPHEN CARTER

"...is sure that the other side in insincere... Athletes thank God, often on television, after scoring the winning touchdown, because, like politicians, they like to think God is on their side. Churches erect huge billboards and take out ads in the paper... God's will is cited as a reason to be against gay rights. And a reason to be for them. God is said to not tolerate poverty...



STEPHEN CARTER

“...Or abortion. Or nuclear weapons... Everybody who wants to change America, and everybody who wants not to, understands the nation's love affair with God's name, which is why everybody invokes it.” (*God's Name in Vain*)



STEPHEN CARTER

G
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D

#1 – Lordship

#2 – Idolatry

#3 – Representation

#4 – Sabbath

#5 – Honor #6 – Murder #7 – Adultery

MAN

#8 – Stealing #9 – Lying #10 – Coveting

DIVIDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I. We can represent God's name with our life's allegiance
- II. We can represent God's name with the power of our integrity
- III. We can represent God's name with the motivation of our fear

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

I. We can represent God's name with our life's allegiance

- "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God..."(Exodus 20:7)

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Definition – “to lift up” or “to raise”
- Exodus 3:14-15 - “I Am”
 - God’s self-sufficiency, self-existence, and sovereignty
- Examples of violating God’s character
 - Lying – sin against His truthfulness
 - Coveting – sin against His gracious provisions
 - Laziness – sin against God’s omnipotence

“TAKE”

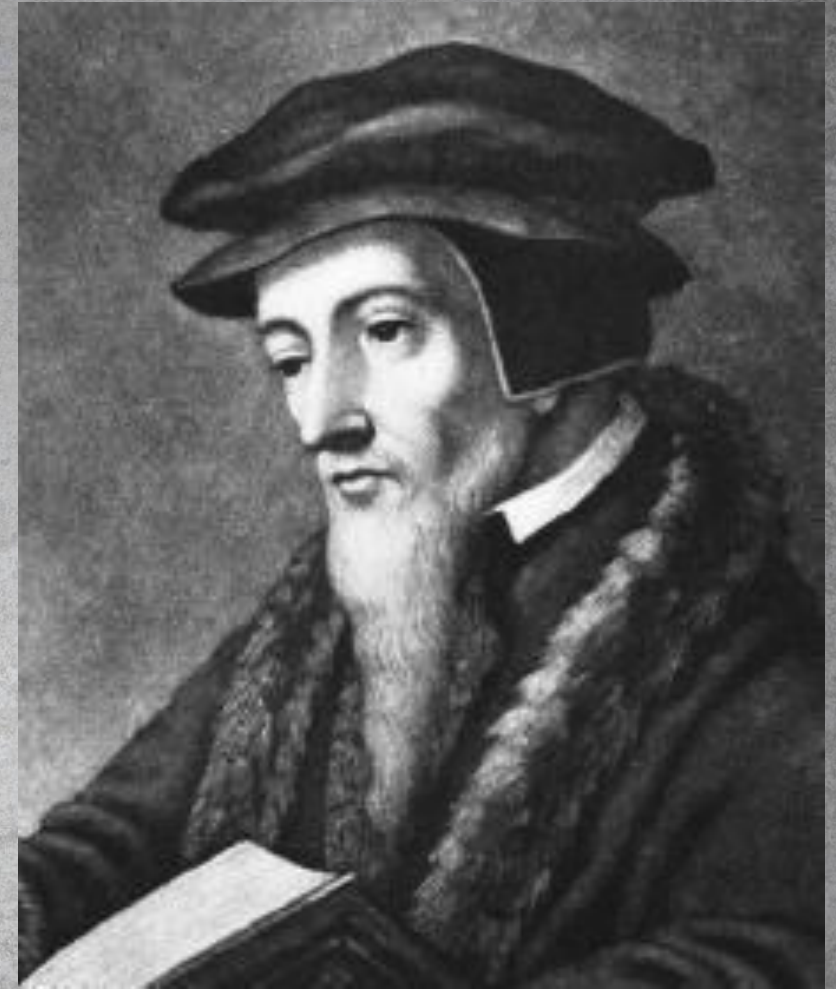
- I. We can represent God's name with our life's allegiance
- II. We can represent God's name with the power of our integrity
 - "in vain"

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Definition – “unreal” or “nothingness” or “false”
- Adding some emptiness to God’s name
- Not just profanity

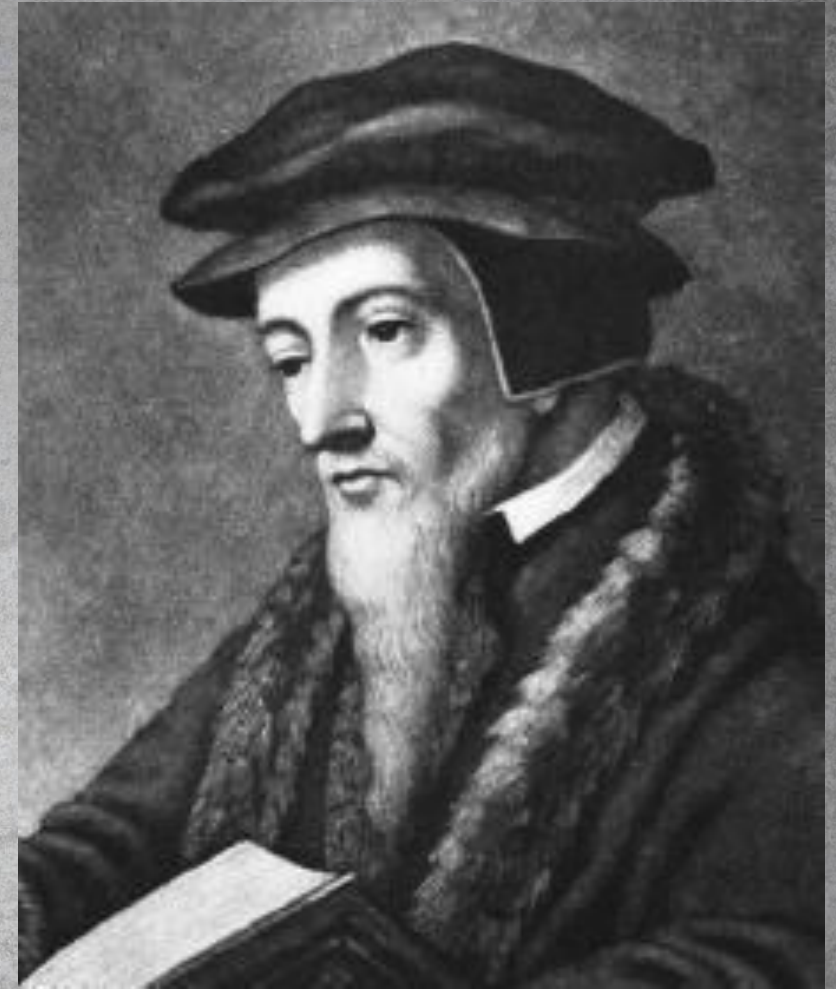
“VAIN”

"If we were well-advised we would not need to be taught to act reverently toward God, for nature ought to bring us to that end. For [after all] what reason are we created in this world? Why do we live here if it isn't for the purpose of paying homage to him from whom we received every good and to apply ourselves to glorify His majesty?...



JOHN CALVIN

“...That is the end and whole sum of this life. Nevertheless instead of honoring our God and applying ourselves to that end, it appears that we have conspired the very opposite.” (*Sermon on the Ten Commandments*)



JOHN CALVIN

1. Using God's name superstitiously
2. Breaking an oath with God
3. Having a wrong view of God
4. Using God's name for personal gain
5. Giving God hollow worship
6. Not acknowledging God for His works
7. Speaking Christian clichés with no real thought
8. Living hypocritically

***EXAMPLES OF USING GOD'S NAME
“IN VAIN”***

- I Samuel 4:3-5

***USING GOD'S NAME
SUPERSTITIOUSLY***

And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, 'Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.' So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim...

1 SAMUEL 4:3-5

...And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded.

1 SAMUEL 4:3-5

- “any time that we make a vow to God that we do not keep.”
- Examples:
 - Perjury in a court of law
 - Saying something like “I swear to God”
 - Not living according to your wedding vows

BREAKING AN OATH

- “When we fail to study the character and attributes of God, we will make false assumptions about who He is”
- Popular misconceptions:
 - God changes His mind or forgets
 - God won't judge us this side of heaven
 - God is apathetic because He allows evil things to happen in this world
 - Jeremiah 23:23-31

WRONG VIEW OF GOD

- “boost our own credibility by invoking the name of God.”
- Examples:
 - Looking for a church based on personal preferences instead of real characteristics of the Church
 - Giving motivated by tax write-offs
 - Politicians using God's name for personal gain
 - As a sales tactic
 - Faith and prosperity teachers

***GOD'S NAME FOR PERSONAL
GAIN***

- Coming to God not “dressed in our best”
- Examples:
 - Haphazard worship
 - Not preparing for worship - laziness
 - Distracting others from worship
 - Worship with body, not soul, in spirit and truth

GIVING GOD HOLLOW WORSHIP

- In first four chapters of Exodus
- Examples:
 - Think our job promotion was all about our hard work
 - Don't give Him immediate credit when things are done in our life for our good

***NOT ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S
WORKS***

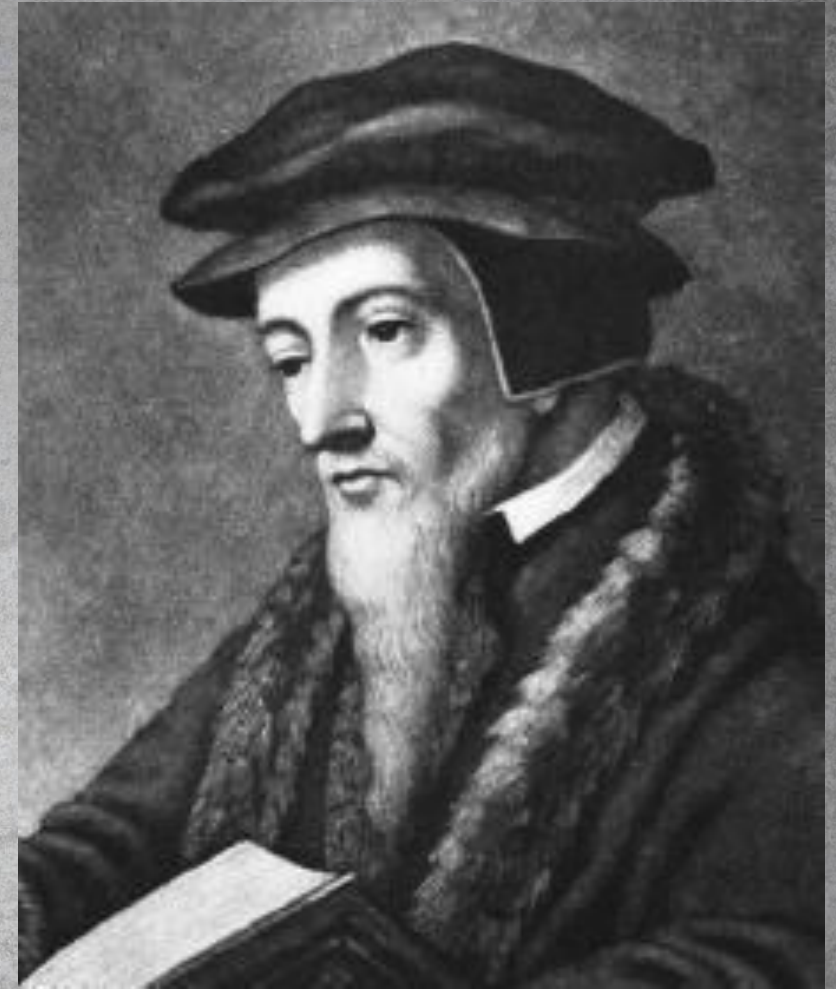
- Illustrations:
 - “Praise the Lord” but not actually attributing worship
 - “God bless you” when you don’t really know if God will or should
 - Closing your prayer with “in Jesus’ name” when He may not endorse what you prayed

***SPEAKING CHRISTIAN CLICHES
WITH NO REAL THOUGHT***

- “...being Christians at a supper, heathens in our shops, and devils in our closet.”
–Stephen Charnock
- Acting more like the world than like Christ

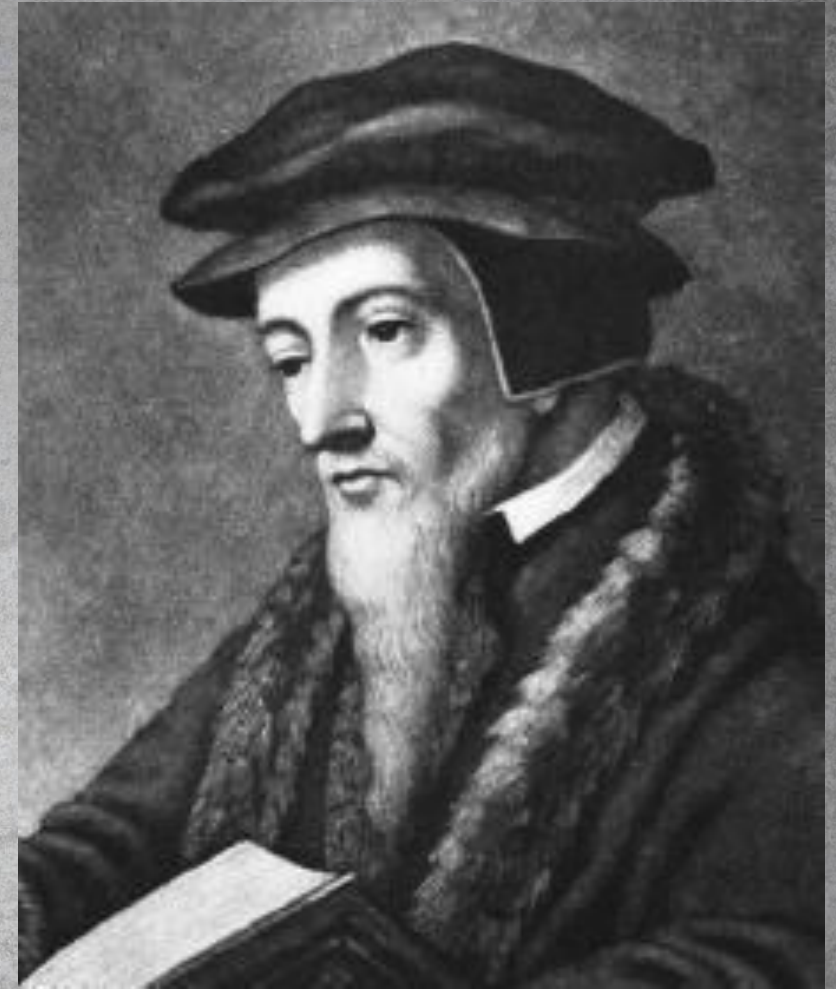
LIVING HYPOCRITICALLY

“The purpose of this commandment is that we hallow the majesty of His name. Therefore it means, in brief, that we are not to profane His name by treating it contemptuously and irreverently. To this prohibiting duly corresponds the commandment that we should be zealous and careful to honor his name with godly reverence...



JOHN CALVIN

“...Therefore, we ought to be do disposed in mind and speech that we neither think or say anything concerning God and His mysteries without reverence and with much soberness, that in estimating His works we conceive nothing but what is honorable to Him.”



JOHN CALVIN

- I. We can represent God's name with our life's allegiance
- II. We can represent God's name with the power of our integrity
- III. We can represent God's name with the motivation of our fear
 - " ... for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Definition – “not being looked over” or “dealt with”
- Example of church discipline
 - Acts 4:32-35

“*GUILTLESS*”

God is serious about those who take his name in vain

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

“We have now seen that, if the devil’s first tactic was to destroy the church by force from without, his second was to destroy it by falsehood from within. He has not given up the attempt, whether by the hypocrisy of those who profess but do not practice, or by the stubbornness of those who sin but do not repent. The church must preserve its vigilance.”



JOHN STOTT