

XXIX. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON TWENTY-NINE
...ABOUT DISCERNING GOOD AND EVIL

INTRODUCTION

We learn from Hebrews 5:12-14 that one of the proofs of being skilled in the Word is the ability to discern both good and evil. To discern good and evil is to understand that good, all that is really good comes only from God; and that evil comes from the devil; and that we who are children of God through the new birth in Jesus Christ are to hate evil and to cleave to that which is good. Amen?

In this lesson, we would see what is good and what is evil according to the Second Commandment, in order that, we might accordingly order the course of our lives.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in Vain." Exodus 20:7.
What is God's name?

Isaiah 42:8

Matthew 1:21

Exodus 3:13-14

Isaiah 43:15

Isaiah 44:6

Isaiah 47:4

Jeremiah 32 18

Exodus 20:24

COMPOUND NAMES OF JEHOVAH

Jeremiah 23:6 - Jehovah Tsidkenu, Lord our Righteousness

Leviticus 20:8 - Jehovah M'kaddesh, Lord our Sanctifier

Exodus 15:26 - Jehovah Rapha, Lord our Healer

Genesis 22:14 - Jehovah Jirah, Lord our Provider

Judges 6:24 - Jehovah Shalom, Lord our Peace

Psalms 23:1 - Jehovah Rohi, Lord our Shepherd

Exodus 17:15 - Jehovah Nissi, Lord our Banner

Ezekiel 48:35 - Jehovah Shammah, The Lord is there

Conclusions: God's name is every name by which God has made Himself known, and every statement in which God tells us about Himself.

... DISCERNING GOOD

According to the Second Commandment, what GOOD (godly behavior) are we to discern?

Psalm 50:15

Matthew 7:7

John 15:7,8

John 14:14

Psalm 103:1

Psalm 118:1

1 Peter 3:15

Matthew 10:32

Romans 10:10

Bible examples: The ten lepers called upon Jesus in their trouble. Luke 17:11-13. - The grateful stranger thanked Jesus and glorified God for the healing. Luke 17~15,16. Hannah petitioned and thanked God for the gift of a son. 1 Samuel 1 and 2.

Conclusions: We should call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise, give thanks, and confess the true faith.

...DISCERNING EVIL

According to the second Commandment, what EVIL (ungodly behavior) are we to discern?

Exodus 20:7

Conclusion: According to this commandment it is evil (ungodly) to use the Lord's name in VAIN.

What is using God's name in vain?

Leviticus 19:12

Leviticus 24:15

Leviticus 24:16

Psalm 74:10

James 3:9,10

Romans 12:14

Psalm 24:3,4

Zechariah 8:17

Matthew 5:33-36

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

Leviticus 19:31

Jeremiah 23:31,32

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

Ezekiel 13:19

Psalm 50:16,17

Revelation 22:18,19

Matthew 5:19

Matthew 15:8

Matthew 7:21

Matthew 10:33

Mark 8:38

Bible examples: The Jew reviled Jesus when He was hanging on the cross. Matthew 27:39-43. - Rabshakeh blasphemed the God of Israel. 2 Kings 18:28-35; 19:21,22. - The Jews cursed themselves and their children. Matthew 27:25. - Goliath cursed David. 1 Samuel 17:43. - Peter cursed. Matthew 26:74. - Certain Jews swore to commit murder. Acts 23:12 - Herod swore in an unknown and unimportant matter. Matthew 14:6-9. - The Egyptian sorcerers performed supernatural things with the help of the devil. Exodus 7 and 8. King Saul sought the help of the witch of Endor. 1 Samuel 28. - The lie of a false prophet caused a prophet of God to be deceived and killed. 1 Kings 13: 1119. - The Scribes and the Pharisees were hypocrites. Matthew 23:13-33.. - Ananias and Sapphira were hypocrites. Acts 5:1-11.

Conclusions: Using God's name in vain is:

1. Employing any name of God uselessly or carelessly(My God, Good Lord, Jesus, etc.)
2. Cursing by God's name - blaspheming God by speaking evil of Him or mocking Him; - calling down the anger punishment of God upon any person or thing.
3. Swearing which is done falsely, thoughtlessly, or in sinful, uncertain, or unimportant matters.
4. Using witchcraft by God's name - using God's name in order to perform supernatural things with the help of devil, such as conjuring, fortune-telling, and consulting dead; - seeking the aid of people who practice these and similar satanic arts.
5. Lying and deceiving by God's name - teaching false doctrine and saying that it is God's Word or revelation; covering up an unbelieving heart or a sinful life by a show of piety.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What are some of the ways in which God's children, in this day and time, in light of what we have been discussing, are doing what is EVIL?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Is your fear and love for God such, that it keeps you from taking the Lord's name in vain?