The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

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PROFANE NOT MY HOLY NAME

Nicolas Edwards

The word "profane" is used 15 times in Leviticus. Multiple times this phrase is used. The people were not to profane the name of God! Profane means "to defile, pollute, desecrate, to make common, to dishonor, to violate, to treat as common." God and His name are hallowed and holy (Lev. 22:32). The sin of profanity is often committed today. Anytime we take that which is holy, consecrated, and hallowed and we defile it, pollute it, dishonor it, and treat it as common, we have profaned it!

GOD'S NAME. God's name is "holy and reverend" (Ps. 111:9). It is set apart and hallowed! God's name is not to be treated as common. It is not to be dishonored or defiled. It is to be upheld and used with the greatest of respect! God's name is used loosely in many ways today. May we never partake in this profanity! If we do not keep ourselves holy, through the things we say and do, we can profane God's holy name (Lev. 18:21; 19:12; 20:3; 21:6; 22:2, 32).

GOD. God is holy (Lev. 11:44-45; 1 Pet. 1:15-16). As God is holy, He requires His

people to be holy. If we put no difference between clean and unclean and defile ourselves by partaking in the unclean thing, we profane God (Ezek. 22:26). As God is holy, He deserves the very best and the greatest reverence in all things. When we fail to honor God, we dishonor Him, and make Him common, we commit profanity! "...I will be hallowed among the children of Israel" (Lev. 22:32). I am afraid God has become common among many. This is expressed in their disrespectful and unholy conversation.

THE CHURCH. The church built by Christ is holy (Eph. 2:19-21; Eph. 5:27; 1 Pet. 2:5). It is not to be defiled, dishonored, nor treated as common. The church is to be kept pure! If one member of the body defiles himself with sin, the church is profaned and must be cleansed! (1 Cor. 5). Could it be the church is treated as common by many members today? "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God" (Eccl. 5:1).

THE SCRIPTURES. The word of God is holy (2 Tim. 2:15). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Tim. 3:16). The word of God is not to be polluted, dishonored, or treated as common! If we do this we are guilty of profanity! "I will have respect unto thy

statutes continually" (Ps. 119:117).

SELF. Before becoming a Christian, we are unholy, polluted, and defiled. We are unclean (1 Cor. 6:9-11). When we obey the gospel, our soul is purified (1 Pet. 1:22) and we escape the pollutions of the world (2 Pet. 2:20). As Christians we now must be "holy in all manner of conversation" (1 Pet. 1:15-16) and "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1-2). That means be separate, set apart. We must be separate from the unclean thing in all manner of conversation! In all manner of life, we must do the will of God and not the lust of the flesh (1 Pet. 4:1-4) and not be "again entangled" in the pollutions of the world. If we touch the unclean thing, we not only defile ourself, but the Scriptures, the church, God, and His name! "Reverence my sanctuary" (Lev. 19:30). "Holy and reverend is His name" (Ps. 111:9). "God is greatly to be feared and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him" (Ps. 89:7). "Serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear" (Heb. 12:28). Let us never be guilty of treating these things as common but may our reverence for God be seen in all manner of our life by giving God the best in complete obedience to Him!

IT TAKES BOTH

John Edwards

Your attention is being directed to some areas of a spiritual nature in which It Takes Both.

BELIEF AND BAPTISM.

The Lord proclaimed, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). Faith, without baptism, is no better than baptism without faith. Upon whatever basis vou eliminate baptism from being essential to salvation, upon that same basis, you eliminate faith from being essential as well: for Jesus said it takes both!

SPIRIT AND TRUTH. The conversation of Jesus with the woman of Samaria records. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). To worship with the right attitude but not according to the word of God (Jn. 17:17), or to worship in truth but not in spirit, is to worship in vain (Mt. 15:8-9). It takes both!

ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE.

The record of Paul concerning Israel was, "that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). The same problem exists today. Some have zeal, but no knowledge. Others have knowledge, but no zeal. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). There's knowledge. In Titus 2:14 we read, "zealous of good works." There's zeal. It takes both!

GRACE AND FAITH. Some would have us believe that we are saved by grace alone or by faith alone. The Bible teaches it takes both. "For by grace are ve saved through faith..." (Eph. 2:8). When you learn that grace saves (Titus 2:11) and faith saves (Jn. 8:24), you will learn it takes both. Otherwise, you have a man saved without something the Lord said saves. Imagine that!

REPENTANCE AND **BAPTISM.** As it takes both belief and baptism to save in Mark 16:16, it takes both repentance and baptism to receive remission of sins in Acts 2:38. Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the

remission of sins...." In Acts 3:19, a parallel passage, Peter said, "Repent ve therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...." One could have the remission of sins without being baptized, no more than he could have his sins blotted out without being converted!

FAITH AND WORKS. Some may try to separate faith and works, but the Bible puts them together. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:17). "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (Jas. 2:20). "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Jas. 2:26). A man can be alive spiritually by faith alone without works no more than a man can live physically with the body alone apart from the spirit!

Have you learned It Takes Both?

EVERY MEMBER

AT

EVERY SERVICE!

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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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