

"IN OUR TIME"

by Rev. R.M. White

[The Third in a Series on the Ten Commandments]

EXODUS 20:7 - "Thou Shalt Not Take the Name of the Lord Thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in Vain."

For a long time now, this commandment stood as a warning against profane language. However, this was not its real purpose. It has been said that habit is every man's own private secretary. If this were really true, most of us would have a secretary whose name is "god damn".

Once it was more common among men. Now women are running a close second - and sometimes a maddening first. Maybe that's part of what liberation is all about, huh?

Today, profanity seems to flavor a great part of our conversation and literature as well. Yes, it is very popular. But, in my opinion, at once silly and vulgar. I am involved with people on a regular basis everyday. I am careful to listen to how men and women express themselves. One person will show sophistication during the conversation until his/her conversation partner curses. Then, while still talking on a common subject, you begin to hear the accelerating use of profanity until you'd think they were having a "duel" with profane words!

Now the key to this scripture is simply, "Be Sincere". Seriously consider the gravity of this commandment. How tragic is swearing on the lips of one made in the image of God! YOU ARE THAT IMAGE. Yes, you were created in his likeness. Isn't that really something! How well do we emulate? This is a question that only you can answer. You know, there are intelligent men and women who swear as if they had been to hell for their schooling and had the devil, himself, to confer upon them the honorary degree of CLH (Curse Like Hell)!

So what's wrong with profanity? My answer is: It's an inner-sickness. Like a stream of urine that flows from an infected system. Yes, just that nauseous.

It's a reflection on parenthood also. When I hear a man or woman swear filthily, I say, "Mother/Father, it is not necessarily true that you were a cheap and vulgar mother or father - but how did you rear a cheap and vulgar son or daughter?"

Whoever was to blame, the loose use of "God's Name" indicates his/her moral nature.

It isn't simply God's name taken in vain that hurts. Everyday I hear, in some fashion, someone's name being taken in vain: A wife by her husband, an employee by an employer, a church member by a parishioner, a child by his parent, parents by their children, a friend by a supposed friend, etc.

Now, I do not make these allegations simply because I'm a minister of God. But I sense that through my dead mother and father and my risen christ that there should be some area of my feeble brain that cries out loudly what my father, the late Rev. M.C. White, often said - "We've not home, yet." How significant is that remark! If we're not home yet, why must we gather up all the hinderances which affect our finally reaching that heavenly place -- HOME?

So much for "bad words". The primary purpose for this command is not to warn you against cursing, but against lying. In that day, like today, there were those who in some measure had forgotten how to tell the truth. These were individuals who sought to fortify their obligation to "truth telling"; or more likely, to strengthen the confidence of their fellow listeners as to their words. They got into the stupid habit of calling God to witness what they were saying. But, in spite of this calling on God, they went right on lying.

Therefore, this rule was born. "THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THEY GOD IN VAIN." That is to say, we are not to use God's name falsely, insincerely, or by calling on him to witness to one of our lies. AMEN.

DEATHS HIGH POINT

MRS. NANCY BRANNON

Mrs. Nancy Brannon, 74, of Rt. 3, Trinity, died in High Point Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were conducted at the St. Paul United Church of God by Overseer L.E.H. Baines and the Rev. Franklin Scotton. Burial was in the Carolina Biblical Gardens. HAZLIP'S FUNERAL HOME was in charge of all arrangements.

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MRS. ANNIE TUCKER ROBERTSON

Mrs. Annie Tucker Robertson, 52, a former resident of High Point, died in Roslyn, N.Y. Funeral services were conducted at the Haizlip Funeral Home chapel by the Rev. L.L. Macon. Burial was in Green Hill Cemetery. HAZLIP'S FUNERAL HOME was in charge of all arrangements.

MR. HOMER LAWRENCE

Mr. Homer Lawrence, 80, of 307 Park Street, died in the Liberty House Nursing Center, Thomasville. Funeral services were conducted at the United House of Prayer for All People by Elder R.V. Bowden and Elder T.D. Freeman. Burial was in Green Hill Cemetery. HAZLIP'S FUNERAL HOME was in charge of all

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LEXINGTON - Hairston Clan officials inspect six acres of land behind Buncombe Baptist Church in Petersville where a rest home for the elderly will be located. From left to right are Squire Hairston, chairman of the Hairston Clan executive board; Hubert Hairston, chairman of the rest home committee and Verdeen Hairston, vice president of the organization. The men met with a representative of the federal government

Monday to start planning the facility, which is expected to have 50 rooms, each accomodating two people. Estimated cost of the building will be approximately \$169,000.00. They hope to finance a portion of the project with federal funds and the rest by contributions from the 1,200 to 1,400 members of the Hairston Clan, most of whom live in six Eastern states. The building's completion date has not been set.

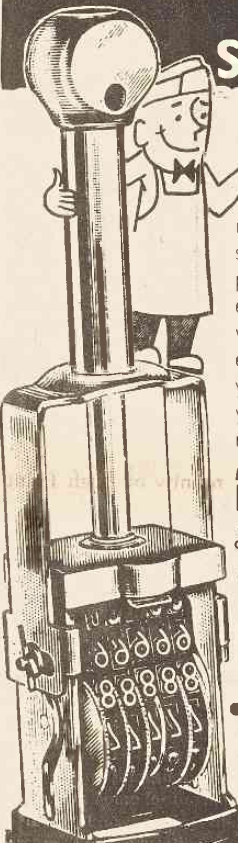
EDUCATION & RELIGION

Participated In National Conference

WINSTON-SALEM - Dr. Constance H. Johnson, Director of Counseling and Ms. Linda A. Bland, Assistant Professor of History at Winston-Salem State University were among the nearly 2,000 leaders in education, government, and human and civil rights organizations who participated in the National Education Association's National Conference on Educational Neglect in Washington, D.C. NEA president James A. Harris has declared that

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Table listing various grocery items and their prices, including Blueberry Muffin Mix, Taster's Choice Coffee, Cooked Prunes, Dream Whip Topping, Tenderleaf Tea Bags, Pancake Mix, Chicken-of-the-Sea, Aunt Jemima, Pancake Syrup, Chase & Sanborn, Royal Gelatins, TV-Time Pop Corn, Fruit Cocktail, Yellow Cling Peaches, Pear Halves, Instant Ralston Cereal, Green Beans, Niblets Golden Corn, Garden Peas, Green Giant Mushrooms, El Paso Taco Sauce, Jalapeno Relish, Hot or Sw. Chow Chow, Soft Whipped Oleo, Green Giant Mushrooms, Tartar Sauce, Home Dispenser, Paper Plates, Tang Orange Drink, Luzianne Coffee, Southern Pride Biscuits, Fabric Softener, Liquid Drano, Windex Glass Cleaner, and Trash Can Liners.

Banquet Federal Food Stamp Coupons section featuring Banquet Brand products like Ground Beef, Assorted Dinners, Fruit Pies, Chicken Chow Mein, Banquet Beef Buffet, Banquet Cream Pies, and Banquet Cookin' Bags, along with Tender Young Ears Yellow Corn and Tender Young Florida Fresh Pole Beans.

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