

# His Workmanship: Westside

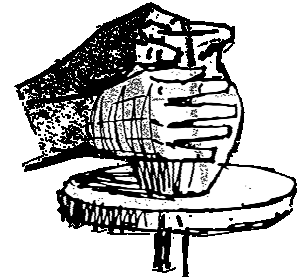
*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."*

—Ephesians 2:10

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Isaiah 64:8

## Taking God Seriously, by Ray Pritchard

*"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain,"* Ex 20:7.

The third commandment presents us with a unique problem: we understand it all too well. We think this is the commandment against swearing. We tend to think that it's a warning against using words like damn, hell, or something worse. Many of us think that *"taking God's name in vain"* means using the words "God" and "damn" in the same sentence. By extension we may believe that this commandment also covers salacious language, dirty jokes, vulgarisms, and what used to be called "gutter talk." [Although that is not in this command, it is prohibited by Eph 4:29, 31; 5:4; Jas 5:12.] So what's the problem? If we understand this commandment, let's just clean up our language and move on to the next commandment. Not so fast, Buster.

**Casually Yours.** Let's start with one observation: the key to understanding the Third Commandment lies in properly interpreting the phrase *"in vain."* The Hebrew expression means *"lightly, frivolously, loosely or casually."* To take God's name *"in vain"* means to use it in an unthinking way, to throw it around without reverence and awe. One depart-

ment store ad used *"casually yours,"* as its catch-phrase and defined it as *"that fine air of informal unconcern."* What a perfect definition. Doesn't that describe the spiritual temperature of this informal age? These days religion is informal, something not to be taken seriously. And God? Only fanatics worry about Him. Arthur Fay Sueltz adds these penetrating words: *"So much of life seems to fit into that air of informal unconcern. Even in my search for deeper spiritual roots, God keeps getting shoved into that category—the category of spare time, something to think about after I've taken care of the important things, if I have time and energy left over. All those things that Jesus said get put into the same bag with Sunday football or TV or sleeping in. 'I'm casually yours, God.'"* One Broadway actress expressed this age when she said she consulted a horoscope and was asked if she believed in astrology; she replied, *"I believe in everything—a little bit."* There it is! That is what the third commandment is getting at—people who take God's name *"in vain"* are guilty of believing in God—a little bit! The point of this command is not about swearing, not whether you use four-letter words—the issue is whether you take God's name seriously.

**I. Why Is God's Name So Important?** Let's begin with the obvious point that

names are important. Your name is important to you. It may not matter to anyone else in the world, but you care about your name because it identifies who you are. You may be one of 20 John Smiths in the phone book, but to you, you are the only John Smith who really matters. Think of how much time parents spend naming their children. They spend hours thinking about the possibilities—discussing, writing down a first name, then adding a middle name, then reversing the order or dropping one and adding another.

Names mean something. They communicate history and tradition and family heritage. They identify us with our past, drawing across the generations a shared set of values. How important is a name? In 1961 a convict escaped from prison. For 28 years he managed to elude capture by living under an assumed name. In April 1989 he voluntarily turned himself in. When asked why he returned, Sylvan Carter said, *"I want to see my own name on my tombstone."* A person's name is important. Why is God's name important to Him? **A. It Represents His Character.** What pops up on your mental screen when you hear the word God? The answer depends on who you are and how much you know. For most of us, the word God brings up images of the continued on p. 2

**“You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I AM the LORD Who sanctifies you,” —Leviticus 22:32** *from p. 1*

stories of the Bible—how God created the world out of nothing, how he parted the Red Sea for the children of Israel, how he caused the walls to come tumbling down at Jericho, how he enabled David’s tiny stone to slay Goliath, how he shut the mouths of lions so Daniel would be saved. We know God by the things He has done. We hear the accounts of His great works, and then we refer to the God Who stands behind those accounts. God’s name is His character and His reputation.

We tend to associate certain names with certain emotions. For instance, if I mention “Hitler,” you think of Nazi Germany and the horrors of the concentration camps. If I mention “Mother Teresa,” you think of her selfless work for the homeless in Calcutta. Two names. Two very different emotions.

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus began with “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.” We “hallow” the name of God because He Himself is holy and completely set apart from us. We take His name seriously because it represents Who He is and what He does. We don’t take it lightly or flippantly because we don’t take God lightly and flippantly.

In Jesus I can see God. Hebrews 1:3 calls Him “the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of His person.” In Jesus I can see a God Who takes people seriously. He never treated people casually. He never brushed them off. He never said, “You’re a loser.” He is a God Who cares enough to get involved in this ugly, twisted, unredeemed world. That’s Who God is. If He never took people lightly, then I must never take His name lightly.

**B. It Protects His Reputation.** Did you notice that there is a threat attached to this command? “For the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.” Do you know what that means? It means that God is not a toy

you can play with casually and then put back on the shelf. It’s like those warning signs that say, “*Danger! High Voltage!*” If you ignore the sign, you will soon be electrocuted. The third commandment is saying, “*Danger! God is a live wire! Do not touch!*” Remember the story of Uzzah. King David had ordered the ark of God to be transported from the house of Abinadab into the city of Jerusalem. David’s men put the ark of God—“*which is called by the Name,*” 2 Sam 6:2—on a cart—which was their first mistake. God had commanded that the Levites should carry the ark by inserting long poles through rings on the sides. Perhaps they were in a hurry; perhaps they thought it didn’t matter. Two sons of Abinadab—Ahio and Uzzah—walked beside the cart to guide it and to protect it. As they approached the threshing floor of Nachon, the oxen stumbled, causing the ark to sway on the cart. Uzzah immediately reached out his hand to steady the ark. It was the last act of his life. When he touched the ark, God struck him dead. “*The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God,*” 2 Sam 6:7. That may seem like a huge overreaction to you. After all, Uzzah was only trying to protect the ark—he had the best of intentions, didn’t he? But God was sending a message that no one should dare to trifle with His Name. Take God lightly...and you will die! That’s the message of Uzzah.

Are you surprised? Don’t be. Don’t the big celebrities pay millions to protect their names? Don’t major corporations like Coca-Cola and IBM hire hundreds of attorneys to insure their corporate name is not misused? The message is clear. God’s name is important to Him. Misuse it, and He’ll see you in court!

**II. Using God’s Name Wrongly.** Let’s consider three ways in which we may use God’s name wrongly.

**A. Irreverence.** The third commandment was given to the Jews, believers—not to the unbelieving Canaanites. Don’t misunderstand. Pagans can blaspheme, but their blasphemy is a pale imitation of ours. Blasphemy is for believers! “*The profanity of the church is far worse than the profanity of the streets. The blasphemy of the sanctuary is far worse than the blasphemy of the slums,*” G. Campbell Morgan. Shocking, isn’t it? There is no way to wiggle out from under the weight of the Ten Commandments. They speak directly to us about the way we live.

What kind of irreverence could be called *blasphemy* and *profanity*? Anger toward God, bitterness directed at Him, willful doubt, deliberate unbelief, rebelling against His will, idly wanting to live like an unbeliever, a miserly spirit that causes you to hold back your giving, hatred of other believers, a cold spirit toward God, a prayerless attitude. Blasphemy? Yes! Profanity? Yes! Irreverence? Yes, because irreverence is nothing more than speaking of God but not taking Him seriously.

**B. Profanity.** What do we mean by profanity? Strictly speaking, profanity is making something common or ordinary when it should be honored and revered. To profane something is to “*treat something sacred or holy with neglect or disrespect.*” Consider the profanity we hear all around us. Most of the four-letter words fall into three categories: —The abuse or misuse of God’s name or His judgments, as in hell and damn; —The abuse or misuse of sex, which God gave as a sacred picture of Himself and His church; —The private parts of the human body, which God created to be glorious,  
continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1

**God makes my heart clean in 2015** "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

**Truth About Islam, from p. 4**

At least one of the students stood up for his teacher. Byron Randle told Click to Houston, "He wanted us to make our own opinion. Everything he gives us he wants us to make our own opinion. He's one of the most neutral guys I know."

Mr. "Above-the-law" Carroll did not lift his voice while Islam was used to indoctrinate thousands of American students around the country. See <http://freedomoutpost.com/s=islam+school> for a short list of examples, including:  
\* Teachers give out assignments under the guise that they are teaching Middle Eastern history, but in fact are teaching the tenets of the Islamic faith.  
\* Children are being taught Islamic prayers. They are being taught that Allah is the one true God. They are being taught that all people must submit to Allah. They are being taught the Quran. They are being taught the five pillars of Islam.

\* HarperCollins, one of the world's largest publishing houses and the largest publisher of school textbooks, sells English-language atlases to schools in the Middle East that omit Israel on the maps. A HarperCollins spokesman said that including Israel would have been "unacceptable" to their customers in the Gulf. Scholastic Books, the world's largest publisher of children's books, has also erased Israel from maps in a series about the adventures of reporters in Egypt. Both publishers withdrew the erroneous books, revised the maps, and issued apologies after overwhelming outrage from truth-lovers.

## Discipleship Here At Home

Pamela Geller, a reporter who has highlighted the "mosqueing" of public schools, says that schools and publishers should be "withdrawing this pro-Islamic teaching and correcting it to reflect the historical accuracy of 1,400 years of jihadi wars, land appropriations, cultural annihilations and enslavements. Or they could put out separate books and curriculum, with chapters on Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, etc. Current events classes omit the vicious persecution, oppression, and slaughter of non-Muslims living in Muslim countries." These courses and textbooks "constitute a violation of the Establishment Clause, which prohibits the government from making any law 'respecting an establishment of religion.' When these textbooks are used in public schools that is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause as it has been understood by jurists for decades. Indoctrination in the public schools is, by far, the most dangerous and insidious forms of stealth jihad. Education about Islam is critical to prepare the next generation of Americans. Proselytizing (dawah) about Islam isn't teaching."

**Evangelist Dads** **Mina Gonzalez's** father **Vernon Hawkins** will preach in Guatemala 5/25-6/2. **Sarah McMurray's** father **Carl** will teach leaders in Columbia 5/31-6/15. **Travel Pat** and **Larry Campbell** and **Brandon Thompson** are in AR visiting Pat's father.

**Taking God Seriously, from p. 3** made in His image.

The human body was created by God! Sex is one of God's best gifts to the human race! Profaning what is holy is wrong not because it shocks or disgusts, but at a much deeper level, because it trashes what God has declared to be sacred and good and beautiful.

Hollywood has desensitized us to profanity. We don't even flinch when we hear our favorite characters saying curse words. We don't even blush. These days swearing doesn't bother us. We've come to expect it. And all too often, we've even come to repeat it ourselves.

**Next week:** Using God's Name Rightly

**PRAY FOR healing, protection, help**

· **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer; surgery TBA

· **Rod Green**—hospitalized in OR with staph infection; had been visiting brother in WA; needs meals sent to his home here

· **Matt Reames's** fiancée, **Brooke Hedlum**—recent funeral for daughter **Brylee**; cards to 1463 Madison Ridge Hts, Unit C, CO Springs 80904

· **Kory Tope's** coworker's brother, **John Jacoby**—shot to death while riding his bike; pray for the family's comfort, peace, and understanding and for justice in finding the murderer

· **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors

· **Judy Sartin's** uncle **Emie Ek**—stroke last week; age 92 in CA, fight pilot in WWII; Judy's friend in Houston, **Barbara Batura**—stage 2 cancer

· **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving, MRI clear; treatment continues

· **Pat Wilkes**—surgery recovery for torn shoulder tendon/rotator cuff

· **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout

· **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes

· **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo

· **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better  
grandmother—on dialysis

· **Kim Howell's** niece **Tonya Robison**—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz **Malachi Taylor Robison** several wks ago; in NICU in Louisville, KY

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

**Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes**—asthma

**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease; her medication is being changed over the next few months, so she is home in early evenings with one of her parents

**Jonathan Hadders**—RA

**Kirk Johnson**—MS

**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

**Virginia**, macular degeneration; high bp

**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

**Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;

**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness

**Directory Update Ed Schulz** and **Sheryle McNeill** have decided to work and worship with us: 9941 Pecos, Federal Heights, CO 80260

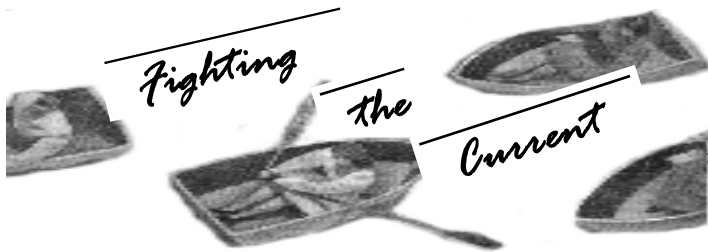
Ed: 303-498-8968 biged-1@gmx.com

Sheryle: 303-396-9539 sherylemcneill@gmail.com

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**Vacation Bible School** June 8-11, 9-11:15 am, ages 2 to 11. **DANIEL's Courage in Captivity!**

Explore how God is with us, just like He was with Daniel and his friends in a land far away from home. **God is with us wherever we go!**



## Exposing current thoughts & trends religious threats

### TX Teacher Faces Discipline for Truth about Islam, by Tim Brown

A teacher at Foster High School in Texas is facing punishment from the school district for an eight-page handout that warned the class about the lie of Islam. Though the facts on the handouts were not sourced, the information could easily be documented. Among the information in the pages were facts like:

- "Muhammad posed as a prophet... Both Jesus and Paul warned that after they were gone many false prophets would come. Muhammad is simply one of them..."
- "Islam is more of an ideology than a religion. It is also an ideology of war..."
- "[Islam forces] its ideology on cultures and ultimately on the world through propaganda, subversion, and even physical force when it is deemed necessary, one area of the world at a time."
- "You will either give into their demands recognizing Islam's 'noble' rule, you will become a Muslim yourself, or you will die."
- "[Muslims believe] All governments—except Islam—should be overthrown."
- "...everyone will be brought under the yoke of Islam, willingly or unwillingly."
- "...even though generally Islamic followers will say that they 'believe' in Jesus and respect Him and the Bible, in fact, neither is really true."

The designated terror group Hamas-sponsored CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) was called in by one Muslim student's parents, who spoke to the principal. Hamas-CAIR's Executive Director Mustafaa Carroll, who has openly stated that Muslims are above the law, told the district, "Only a strong response to this attempt at student indoctrination will send a message that our schools must never be incubators of hate."

KHOU reported: "CAIR's Houston director told KHOU 11 News that the Foster High School principal confirmed what the teacher handed out and said that he is not happy about it. A Lamar Independent School District (ISD) spokesman released the following statement to KHOU 11 News: 'We're disappointed to learn one teacher made independent changes to a lesson plan, resulting in information being given that didn't follow subject matter or state and local curriculum plans. As soon as this issue was brought to our attention, the administration addressed the situation with the teacher. Ensuring our students have access to factual information, given in the proper context, is a priority in our district. Arbitrary curriculum decisions, which are clearly outside of the guidelines, won't be tolerated.' The District added that the teacher will face 'appropriate disciplinary measures.'"

So pointing out the truth about Islam and its ideology and history demands "appropriate disciplinary measures." However, if someone teaches Islam according to how Muslim Brotherhood front groups like CAIR want, then it's just fine with the district.

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meets at  
13789 W. 8th Avenue  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
720-295-4530

#### Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

#### Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

[info@thechurchingolden.com](mailto:info@thechurchingolden.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

### Assembly Schedule

#### Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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#### Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication,"** Jim Reingrover

• **Sermon,** " 'You Have Not Spoken of Me What Is Right,' Job 42:7-8," Jim Reingrover

**Sunday afternoon,** "Lessons from Proverbs," Payton Miller [Please welcome Payton, who is teaching/preaching for us this summer.]

#### Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of Exodus 21-40 Friday evening, June 5, at 6:30 pm, light supper before, at Judy Sartin's house. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.