

## Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
  - Bernida Wolf: In Parkwest Hospital with cirrhosis; currently being treated with medication
  - Jean LeQuire: Has moved to Chattanooga to live with her son and daughter-in-law
  - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
  - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
  - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
  - Barb Agee's son (James)
  - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
  - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
  - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

## THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith** [Believe], having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** [Repent] and our **bodies washed with pure water** [Baptism]. Let us **hold fast the confession** [Confess] of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



# CHURCH OF CHRIST

## *Invitation*

*'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'* – Mt. 22:9

### Address

5080 Highway 70 East  
Rockwood, TN 37854

### Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or [fix.bill@gmail.com](mailto:fix.bill@gmail.com)

[www.hwy70church.com](http://www.hwy70church.com)

## March 7, 2021

*We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.*

**Adult Bible Class** – Legal Principles and the Bible: Mediator

**Sermon Topic** – Contending for the Faith

# Popular Profanity

By Dan S. Shipley (PLAIN TALK, October 1972)

Profanity is more than taking the name of God in Vain. It is all irreverence shown toward God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is treating holy things as common, whether by word or by deed. It is essentially an attitude of contempt or disregard for God or the things of God and is well exemplified by those of Ezekiel's day of whom God says, "they have violated my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane.... I am profaned among them" (Ez. 22:26). Not only was this true of the priests, for the prophets, princes, and the people were guilty as well. Profanity was popular in those days.

But, with the passing of nearly 2,500 years, if this profane attitude is sometimes expressed differently, it is no less prevalent, for many are still putting no difference between the holy and profane, even if unwittingly. If God was profaned in the violation of that law given through Moses, how much more in the violation of that law given through His Son? Many who claimed allegiance to the law of Moses had no delight in it, and it was as a reproach unto them (Jer. 6:10). It is obvious that the better covenant is not getting much better treatment—even from those who know better. Why? Perhaps because many Christians do not take their sins as seriously as they should. Maybe we forget that God is profaned no worse than when His people deliberately engage in sinful practices. We may be getting a little insensitive to sin—especially our own. Seeing sin from the Divine viewpoint will help.

Take, for instance, the many unfaithful who claim, "I know what I should do," but never seem to get around to doing it. If they do know what they should do, do they really understand what they are doing? That they "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:6)? That they in their unfaithfulness trod Christ underfoot and profane his precious blood? That they actually do despise unto the Holy Spirit (Heb. 10:26-31)? Until and unless such sinners see their profanity in its true light, repentance is not possible. It is more than just offending the brethren or "sinning against the church" as we sometimes put it—it is, as someone has said tantamount to spitting in the face of God! It is blasphemy; it is mockery; it is saying, in effect, "God, you are not going to rule over me, I'll do as I please"! Any Christian who places his

own personal interests above God's will manifests this profane attitude, as he and his brethren need to understand. Jesus only states the positive side when he says, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15). Failure to keep his commandments expresses much more than most are willing to admit.

Finally, God says the willful sinner is like "the dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire" (2 Pet. 2:22). When the unfaithful and their concerned brethren can see it like God says it, perhaps some can be saved from that "sorer punishment"—and, hopefully, such profanity will become less popular among the people.

## Fixating on What's Important: Language

By Bill Fix

In keeping with the other article on this page, how much thought do we really give to our language these days? It seems like "profanity" becomes more commonplace and less shocking as time goes on. Even the terms featured in George Carlin's "7 Words You Can't Say on Television" are now frequently used on television...

A few days ago, my son asked me about the expression "holy cow." I don't think he'd been listening to old Cubs broadcasts or watching *The Simpsons*, but perhaps that's where the kid he heard say it at school picked it up. We talked about the meaning of the words themselves (i.e., are cows holy?) and how expressions like that are typically spoken to depict amazement or pain and disgust. Here, either someone really thinks highly of cows, or "cow" seems to have been substituted for God or Jesus, which should at least prevent the speaker from using the Lord's name in vain.

Is this something to have a beef about? Well, instead of using our holy Creator's name in a flippant way, *holy cow* ascribes divine qualities to a bovine and then trivializes it. Which sounds to me like it still falls under failing to control one's tongue (Jam. 3:1-12). When speaking about things that are holy, we should do so with respect, not carelessly, out of surprise or discomfort. Furthermore, if Jude cautions against speaking a "reviling accusation" against the devil because it is speaking "evil of whatever [we] do not know," how much more careful should we be when talking about God and using His name (Jude 1:9-10).