

# OATHS

Rightly Dividing the Gospels

Installment 33

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Albuquerque, NM

21 August 2011

# VILE SPEECH

- ◉ Cursing (imprecation)
  - Calling or praying for evil or calamity
    - Go to \_\_\_\_
    - Go <injure> yourself
    - God <injure> you
- ◉ Obscenity (vulgarity)
  - Speech offensive to standards of decency
    - F-word
    - Words designed to shock or appall (usually related to sex or excrement)
- ◉ Blasphemy (profanity)
  - Speech that degrades the reputation of God or holy things
    - Man created God
    - Jesus was merely a good man
    - The Bible is false
  - Taking the name of God in vain (in emptiness)
    - OMG
    - Jesus!

# OATHS AND SWEARING

## ○ Oath

- An assertion or promise strengthened by reference to some sacred witness (typically God)

## ○ Vow

- A special oath in which God is both the witness and the recipient of the oath

## ○ Swear

- To take an oath

## ○ Forswear

- To make a false oath; swear falsely; perjure oneself

# SOME OF PAUL'S OATHS

- ◉ For **God is my witness**, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;
- ◉ I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me **witness in the Holy Ghost**,
- ◉ Moreover **I call God for a record** upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.
- ◉ **As the truth of Christ is in me**, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.
- ◉ The **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, **knoweth that I lie not**.
- ◉ Now the things which I write unto you, behold, **before God, I lie not**.
- ◉ For **God is my record**, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.
- ◉ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; **God is witness**:
- ◉ **Ye are witnesses, and God also**, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
- ◉ Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (**I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not**;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

## MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

- "There is no reason to consider that solemn oaths in a court of justice, or on other proper occasions, are wrong, provided they are taken with due reverence. But all oaths taken without necessity, or in common conversation, must be sinful, as well as all those expressions which are appeals to God, though persons think thereby to evade the guilt of swearing. **The worse men are, the less they are bound by oaths; the better they are, the less there is need for them.** Our Lord does not enjoin the precise terms wherein we are to affirm or deny, but **such a constant regard to truth as would render oaths unnecessary.**"