

Definition of a Lawful Oath

Michael Woody | LBCF 23:1

Survey of Scripture

1. A lawful oath is a part of religious worship (Exod 20:7; Lev. 19:12; Deut 10:20; Jer 4:2)
2. wherein the person swearing in truth, righteousness, and judgement, solemnly calleth God to witness what he sweareth, band to judge him according to the truth or falseness thereof. (2 Chr 6:22-23; 2 Cor. 1:23)

What Does This Teach Us?

Lawfulness of Oaths?

There are the following scriptural arguments for the lawfulness of oaths and vows (Sam Waldron).

1. The command not to swear vainly or falsely in God's name assumes their _____ (Exod. 20:7).
2. The command to swear only in God's name assumes their lawfulness (Deut. 6:13; 10:20).
3. The example of _____ indicates their lawfulness (Heb. 6:13-16).
4. The example of many _____ saints indicates their lawfulness (Abraham, Gen. 24:3; Jacob, Gen. 47:30-31; Joseph, Gen. 50:25; Elijah, 1 Kings 17:1; Nehemiah, Neh. 13:25; 5:12; Ezra, Ezra 10:5) all took or made oaths.
5. The law of Moses _____ in certain situations (Num. 5:19, 21; 1 Kings 8:31; Exod. 22:11).
6. The prophets' predictions indicate their _____ (Isa. 45:23; 65:16).
7. _____ indicates the lawfulness of oaths (Matt. 26:62-64).
8. _____ indicates their lawfulness (Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23; Acts 18:18).

What about statements against oaths?

Whatever Christ and James mean by 'Swear not at all' in Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12, they cannot mean that it is never right to take an oath. (Waldron)

1. It was against the _____ of oaths by the Pharisees.
2. It was against _____ or _____ use of euphemisms for God's name in oaths in order to secure credit for our words, while avoiding the obligation of absolute honesty.

What Then Does This Teach Us?

1. Beware of the _____ and _____ of incorrect interpretations of the Bible.
2. Learn to study the _____ counsel of God - not a passage or two separated from other Scriptures.
3. Oaths to do that which is wrong _____ _____ be obeyed