

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ Matthew 23:16–18 (ESV)

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. Matthew 5:34–37 (ESV)

What is profanity?

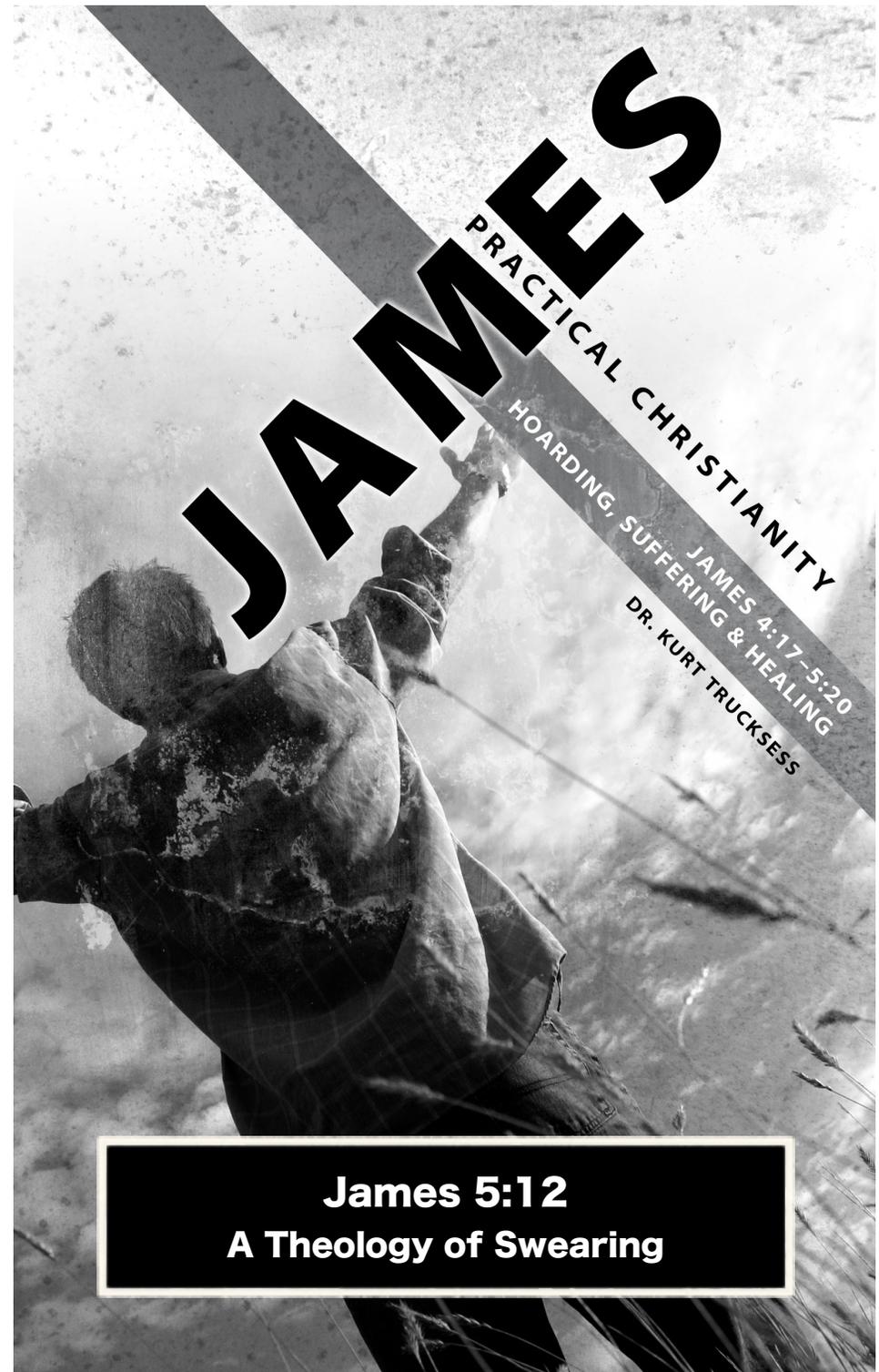
What about Christian profanity?

...let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. James 5:12 (ESV)

**My word should be my oath and my
life the witness of my integrity.**

Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscripts, audio and video are available at www.christ2Rculture.com. You can also find sermon video and audio on iTunes by searching for “Kurt Trucksess”

Next Week: James 5:13-16 - [The Prayer of Faith that Heals - Part 1](#)
Two Weeks: James 5:13-16 - [The Prayer of Faith that Heals - Part 2](#)



Faith Church - EFCA

October 16, 2011

James 5:12 - A Theology of Swearing



But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. James 5:12 (ESV)

- Be quick to listen and slow to speak - James 1:19
- Keep a tight reign on our tongue - James 1:26
- Our speech reveals our sinful favoritism - James 2:3-4
- We all stumble in what we say - James 3:2
- The tongue is the hardest part of our body to tame - James 3:6-8
- Verbal slander reveals our pride - James 4:11-12
- Grumblers will be judged - James 5:9

There is power behind a name.

“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. Exodus 20:7 (ESV)

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!... Psalm 8:1 (ESV)

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

Where did swearing in God’s name come from?

You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. Deuteronomy 10:20 (ESV)

And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, ‘As the Lord lives,’ even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. Jeremiah 12:16 (ESV)

And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”... So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel. Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.”... And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made... Judges 11:30–40 (ESV)

When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. Acts 23:12 (ESV)