

# THE SWEARER'S PRAYER

Or, his oath explained

*“Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment.”—Matthew 12:36*

**W**HAT, a swearer pray!? Yes! Swearer, whether you think so or not, each of your oaths is a prayer—an appeal to the Holy and Almighty God, Whose name you dare so impiously to take with your lips.

What do you think, Swearer, that you call for, when the awful imprecations<sup>1</sup> *damn* and *damnation* roll so frequently from your profane tongue? Tremble, Swearer, while I tell you! Your prayer contains two parts: *first*, you pray that you may be deprived of eternal happiness; *second*, that you may be plunged into eternal misery!

## **Deprived of Eternal Happiness**

When, therefore, you call for damnation, do you not in effect say as follows? “O God! Thou has power to punish me in hell forever: therefore, let not one of my sins be forgiven! Let every oath I have sworn, every lie that I have told, every Sabbath that I have broken, and all the sins that I have committed—either in thought, word, or deed—rise up in judgment against me and eternally condemn me! Let me never partake of Thy salvation! May my soul and body be deprived of all happiness, both in this world and that which is to come! Let me never see Thy face with comfort, never enjoy Thy favor and friendship; and let me never enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

## **Plunged Into Eternal Misery**

This is the first part of your prayer. Let us hear the second.

“O God, let me not only be shut out of heaven, but also shut up in hell! May all the members of my body be tortured with inconceivable agony, and all the powers of my soul tormented with horror and despair, inexpressible and eternal! Let my dwelling be in the blackness of darkness, and my companions accursed men and accursed devils! Pour down Thy hottest anger; execute all Thy wrath and curse upon me; arm and send forth all Thy terrors against me; and let Thy fierce, Thy fiery, Thy fearful indignation rest upon me! Be mine eternal enemy, and plague, punish, and torment me in hell for ever and ever and ever!”

Swearer, *this is your prayer!!* Oh, dreadful imprecation! Oh, horrible, horrible, most horrible! Blaspheming man! Do you like your petition? Look at it. Are you sincere in your prayer, or are you *mocking* your Maker? Do you wish for damnation? Are you desirous of

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<sup>1</sup> imprecations – curses.

eternal torment? If so, swear on—swear hard. The more oaths the more misery; and perhaps, the sooner you may be in hell. Are you shocked at this language; does it annoy your soul? Does the very blood run cold in your veins? Are you convinced of the evil of profane swearing? How many times have you blasphemed the God of heaven? How many times have you asked God to damn you in the course of a year, a month, a day? No, how many times in a single hour have you called for damnation?

### **Turn to Jesus!**

Are you not yet in hell? Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished O earth, at the goodness and longsuffering of that God Whose great name swearing persons so often and so awfully profane! Swearer, be thankful, be exceedingly thankful, that God has not answered your prayer, your tremendous prayer, that His mercy and patience has withheld the request of your polluted lips! Never let Him hear another oath from your unhallowed<sup>2</sup> tongue—lest it should be your last expression upon earth, and your swearing prayer should be answered in hell. Oh, let your oaths be turned into supplications!<sup>3</sup> Repent and turn to Jesus, Who died for swearers as well as His murderers. And then, oh, then—though you may have sworn as many oaths as there are stars in the heavens and sands upon the seashore, innumerable—then you shall find to your eternal joy that there is love enough in His heart, and merit sufficient in His blood, to pardon your sins and to save your soul forever (Joh 3:16; Rom 5:6-8). Swearer! Can you ever again blaspheme such a God and Savior as this? Does not your conscience cry “God forbid!” Even so, Amen. ✨

—*Author unknown*

*Who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?—Job 9:4*

*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.—Exodus 20:7*

*Because of swearing, the land mourneth.—Jeremiah 23:10*

*Every one that sweareth shall be cut off.—Zechariah 5:3*

*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.—Isaiah 55:6-7*

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<sup>2</sup> **unhallowed** – unholy; vulgar.

<sup>3</sup> **supplications** – earnest, humble requests or pleas.

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