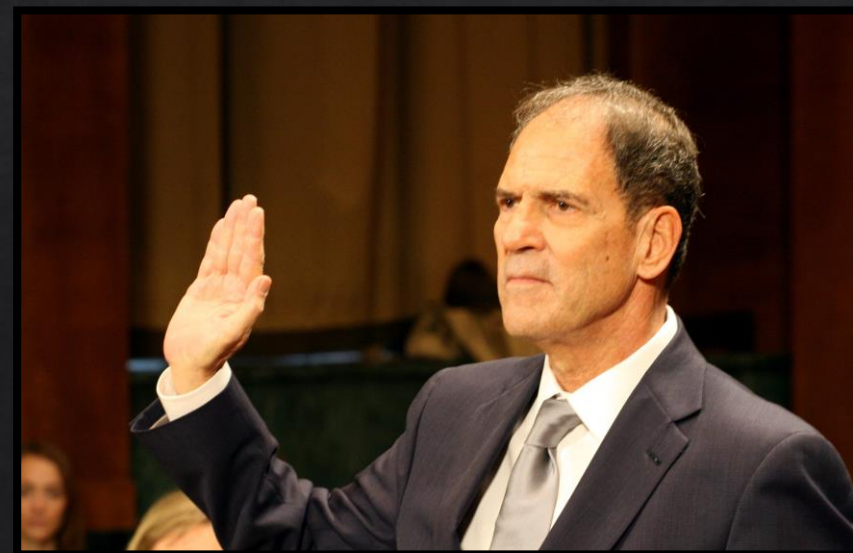




# VOWS



What is a vow?

# O.T. Vows

- ◆ A vow, or oath, was an assurance that one's words were true, often including a curse for failing to fulfill the vow.
- ◆ Vows are found in various forms in the O.T.
  - ◆ Vows to obey God with curses for failing to follow through – Neh. 10:29
  - ◆ The Nazarite vow – Num. 6:1ff.
  - ◆ Thankful worship and sacrifice are described as *paying one's vows* – Psa. 116:17-18; 22:25
  - ◆ Legal vows of faithfulness to an agreement – Ex. 22:10-11
  - ◆ Everyday vows – Gen. 24:37
- ◆ No matter the form, God expected the vow to be kept – Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21



# N.T. Vows

- ◆ There were bad and good vows – Acts 23:14; Heb. 6:13-14, 17
- ◆ Peter gave us the full gamut of vows in his denial of being a disciple – Matt. 26:70-74
- ◆ Jesus restricts our use of vows – Matt. 5:33-37
  - ◆ Jesus forbade vows in one's daily conversation – 5:33-35; Deut. 6:13; Matt. 23:16-17, 21-22
  - ◆ Vows/oaths are unnecessary because a disciple of Christ must always be truthful or face God's judgment – 5:37; Jas. 5:12

# Application

God holds us to our vows – Revelation 21:8

# We Must Keep Our Marriage Vows

- ◆ One vows to fulfill the marriage roles and responsibilities – Eph. 5:22-25
- ◆ One vows to remain married until death, with fornication being the only reason to sever this bond – Matt. 19:5-6, 9
- ◆ One vows faithfulness with his/her heart and eyes, which requires avoiding lust – Matt. 5:28
- ◆ God is a witness to the marriage vows and holds us to them – Mal. 2:14, 16; Heb. 13:4



# We Must Pay Our Financial Vows

- ◆ The wicked borrow and refuse to pay back – Psa. 37:21
- ◆ We are to pay what is our duty to pay – Rom. 13:6-7
- ◆ We cannot take our vows to pay lightly, even though society does.
  - ◆ At times, problems arise that put even the *responsible* in a serious financial bind.
  - ◆ We need to avoid overspending, over-committing, lack of planning, and refusing to pay what we owe – Eccl. 5:4-6

# We Must Keep Our Vows to Christ

- ◆ In becoming a disciple we vow to be Christ-like – Matt. 10:24-25
- ◆ We vow to obey Christ's will – 1 John 2:3-4
- ◆ We vow to love as Christ loves – 1 John 3:16
- ◆ We vow to be holy as God is holy – 1 Pet. 1:15-16
- ◆ God will punish disciples who do not keep their vows – 2 Thess. 1:8



# We Must Keep Our Vows to the Local Church

- ◆ We vow to submit to the elders and brethren – 1 Pet. 5:5
- ◆ We vow to attend the assemblies of the church under penalty from God – Heb. 10:24-27
- ◆ We vow to do our part in building up the body – Eph. 4:14-16
- ◆ We vow to help our brethren remain faithful and saved – Gal. 6:1-2
- ◆ God will hold us to these vows – Heb. 10:28-29