

September 27 2020

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN...EXODUS 20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

People's names represent something. A name represents who they are, and possible who they might become.

What images come to mind when you hear or see your mother's name, or you fathers?

How about any familiar name, Ronald Regan, Adolf Hitler, Winston Churchill, DL Moody or even Le Bron James?

It causes you to think about certain things. You remember certain events and you experience certain emotions.

Those names represent something to you about certain individuals; who they are and or what they've done.

God thought names were very important. He took the time to change Abram's name from Exalted Father to Abraham meaning Father of a multitude. (Gen 17:5)

The Lord changed Simon's name to Peter, telling him that he would change from being wishy washy and unreliable to a rock, someone who was firm and would take a stand.

When we receive Jesus as our savior, our names become eternal – they are written in the Lamb's book of life. If a name represents a person's character, and is very important to God, why is there so much profanity today. Why do so many people casually take the name of our heavenly father and our lord in vain.

This may be of concern and importance but why make it one of the 10 commandments. Is it possible that God knows something about what will happen to our lives if we become careless and flippant about the name of God?

We live in a day when you can hardly watch a movie, listen to the radio, or pick up a novel without hearing God's name taken in vain. One of the definitions of profanity speaks of debasing or defiling that which is held or worthy of reverence. It's an attack against something held. It's an attempt, as Ron Mehl, pastor and author says to take something exalted or revered and jerk it down from its pedestal. It's an attempt to reduce it to being nothing more than I am. To take God's name in vain is a denial of his holiness and majesty and power. It is an attempt to pull God down to a common level and make him equal with me.

Unless you are sealed off in a monastery, you will probably hear the word damn several times this week. You will hear GD this and GD that. It seems to be part of common speech. Does it matter? Well, God made it one of the ten. I would say that means it matters.

He knows that every time those terms are used, destruction comes into my life and into the lives of those I love. When you don't put God first and honor his name, life just doesn't work.

When people say GD this house, home, car, kids whatever, I don't think they really think about or understand what they are doing. In the book of Matthew Jesus tells us that we will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken (mt 12:36) - the Lord went on to say your words now reflect your fate then. Either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned.

Why would God say don't take my name in vain? Because he loves us so much. The problem is that most people think they can get by with it because "nothing happens". We must remember that you don't sow and reap in the same season. We sow now but we reap later. Using his name in vain will affect our lives.

When we use the name of God in a careless way, when we call upon him to damn or condemn a person or place or situation we may very well set something in motion in the spirit that is beyond our finite understanding.

There is power in the name of our God. There is power in the name of Jesus Christ. Demons screamed and writhed and tore themselves from their hosts at the mention of his name. At the authority of his voice, eyes were opened, withered legs were made strong and the dead came back to

life. Why wouldn't we believe there are consequences to the way we use God's name.

Names are important. Many of us would defend the name of our loved ones with life and limb. Why then are we so quick to take the Lord's name in vain. Any why does God desire to make his name precious to us:

Think of this. There is eternal salvation in his name.

(John 20:31 NRSV) But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

(Acts 4:12 NRSV) There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

NO Other Name

People may say – it doesn't mean anything I just grew up this way, or I just learned it hanging around the boys but Scripture always links what we say with our heart.

(Mat 12:34 NRSV) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

(Mat 15:18 NRSV) But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

(Luke 6:45 NRSV) The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

According to the Lord's own words, the way an individual speaks is a barometer of his or her heart.

Swearing speaks of disorder and turmoil in the heart. It reminds us that we need to get alone with the Lord and as him what the real problem is.

Well, perhaps you say, I never use God's name in vain. I would never say GD. There are other ways to use his name in vain. Socially acceptable ways to profane.

We can be very careless and casual in our prayers. We are cautioned against vain repetitions. That means saying things over and over without

conviction. When we ask for things that are not in agreement with what the Lord wants for our lives that is empty and vain. When we ask selfishly or out of self-centeredness it is vain and empty.

Do we get too cozy, too familiar with his name? Jesus told us to say Hallowed be your name. Can we really be casual with one who we acknowledge as holy?

How do we get straight? Three ways; One, recognize our sin and confess it. To confess means to speak the same as, to agree with the Lord, tell him your sorry you took his name in vain.

Two, accept his forgiveness. Remember all our sins were placed on the shoulders of the Lord on Calvary. He paid the price for our sins and offers forgiveness and reconciliation. Third, Practice God's presence. The more we are aware of his presence the more it affects our speech. We can't be casual about the things of God in his presence.

We have all sinned. But God has made provision for us. David writes : (Psa 130:3 NRSV) If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

(Psa 130:4 NRSV) But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

He has made provision for forgiveness so that we can change our minds, our hearts, our direction and begin to love and serve and fear this wonderful God