

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. This is one of three commandments that speak directly to offences committed against the person of God. The other seven speak of offences toward other people such as our spouse or our neighbor. The first thing that should be noticed is that God will hold none guiltless. So, we must conclude that all of His people are accountable to this specific law. Now, we all shall stand before the judgement seat of Christ, this is very clear from 2Corinthians 5:10 (For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the fear of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences). Don't forget what Jesus said in Luke 12:48 (For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more). Surely God our heavenly father expects more from His children than the children of the world. I know I expect more from my children than the neighbor kids. The book of James echoes these words in 3:1 (My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment).

There should be no argument against this idea of being judged or even punished for using the name of our God the creator of the universe, the name above all names, in vain. You see, to do something in vain is to do it for no reason. This means we must not use the name of God, the name of Jesus Christ as a byword or filler just to put at the beginning of a sentence or as a word to say when in awe or disgust with something. For example: Jesus Christ, did you see that? How about: Oh, Jesus or Jeez for short? What about: Oh, God or Oh, my God? Just think of using your own name for that purpose, what a disgrace, how much more for the king of kings and creator of the universe. We should only use His name in prayer and thanksgiving or when talking about Him. When I pray to my God I say Lord Jesus, My God and My Father in heaven. The word god is more of a title than a name for our creator as is the word father. I still use them both as a name when calling on my God. We should sanctify or set apart these words we use. We should sanctify God in our hearts as 1Peter 3:15 tells us. He is holy; we should make him holy in our hearts and minds. This is called fulfilling the law. You see if we just try and stop using His name in vain we might slip up because it

doesn't mean a whole lot to us, just like it means very little to the world. If we develop that relationship with our God and use his name like He is real, then we will fulfill the law. This is the difference between keeping the law and fulfilling it. All of God's laws and commands are to help us develop relationships with Him and each other. Actually, they are the minimum of what He wants from us. In other words at the very least don't use His name as a byword. Even more than that, develop a relationship with your God. This is why Jesus taught us to pray "our father who is in heaven."

In the Old Testament the name of Jehovah or Yahweh in the Hebrew pronunciation was not to be spoken. In the Hebrew scripture it was written without any vowels. It was too holy of a name to be spoken with the unclean lips of man. This is why Isaiah said in chapter 6 (Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts). He was right in the presence of Jehovah, what else would he say? In Isaiah 45:22-23 we are told (Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.²³ I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall swear). Jehovah is the name to be called on for salvation. How can this be if that name is not to be spoken. The answer is that God always had planned that the name of Jesus Christ would be given for all the nations to call upon for salvation as it is written in Philippians 2:9-11 and Romans 14:10-12. Jesus Christ is that Jehovah who left His throne to become man. He came to die for His people and also to overcome sin and death. He was resurrected from the dead and given a name above every name high above the creation. How could we use this name to curse or as a byword to fill a sentence? His name is holy.

This is such an easy sin to overcome. We are supposed to quit sinning, right? It is a shame this is not taught in many churches of God, especially when all His people will be held accountable. It should be especially easy if we are calling on Him in prayer and thanks giving. This is how we sanctify God in our hearts and fulfill the law. We should be praising His name and calling on Him daily. Our Father which is in heaven holy is your name, how can we forget? How can we not see?

EYE OPENERS
by C. Strande

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