

Articles and Sermons :: Arthur Pink.. Taking the Lord's name in vain.

Arthur Pink.. Taking the Lord's name in vain. - posted by EAGLEFLYING (), on: 2019/5/27 20:30

Taking the Lord's Name in Vain!

Arthur Pink

"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

As the second commandment concerns the manner in which God is to be worshiped (namely, according to His revealed will), so this third commandment one bids us worship Him with that frame of heart which is agreeable to the dignity and solemnity of such an exercise and the majesty of Him with whom we have to do: that is, with the utmost sincerity, humility and reverence. "Fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD YOUR GOD" (Deuteronomy 28:58).

O, what high thoughts we ought to entertain of such a Being! In what holy awe should we stand of Him! Anything pertaining to God, should be spoken of with the greatest sobriety.

"The end of this Precept is that the Lord will have the majesty of His name to be held inviolably sacred by us. Whatever we think and whatever we say of Him, should savor of His excellency, correspond to the sacred sublimity of His name, and tend to the exaltation of His magnificence" (Calvin).

Let us first endeavor to point out the scope and comprehensiveness of this commandment. By the NAME of the Lord our God, is signified God Himself as He is made known to us, including everything through which He has been pleased to reveal Himself: His Word, His titles, His attributes, His ordinances, His works. The Name of God stands for His very nature and being, as in Psalm 20:1; 135:3; John 1:12 etc. Sometimes the Name of God is taken for the entire system of Divine Truth: "We will walk in the Name of the Lord our God" (Micah 4:5.) That is, in that way of Truth and worship which He has appointed. "I have manifested Your Name unto the men You gave Me" (John 17:6.) That is, I have instructed them in the Heavenly doctrine.

But usually, and more specifically, the Name of God refers to that by which He is called and made known to us. To "take His Name" means to employ or make use of the same, as the Object of our thoughts or the subject of our speech. Not to take His Name "in vain" is the negative way of saying it must be held in the utmost awe and used holily in thought and word and deed.

It will thus be seen, that this Commandment requires us to make mention of the Name of God. Since He has given us so many and gracious discoveries of Himself, it would evince the vilest contempt of the greatest of privileges, if we expressed no regard to those discoveries and made no use of the same. Those who make no religious profession and desire not to be instructed in those things which relate to the Divine glory, are guilty of thus slighting the Most High. But we make use of God's Name in public worship, in private prayer, and when taking religious oaths or making solemn vows.

When we draw near to God in prayer, we should adore the Divine perfections with a befitting humility, as did Abraham (Genesis 18:27), Jacob (Genesis 32:10), Moses (Ex. 15:11), Solomon (1 Kings 8:33), Hezekiah (2 Kings 9:25), Daniel (9:4), the inhabitants of Heaven (Rev. 4:10, 11).

Negatively, this Commandment prohibits . . .
 all dishonoring thoughts of God,
 all needless, flippant, profane or blasphemous mention of Him,
 any irreverent use of His Word,
 any murmurings against His Providence,
 any abuse of anything by which He has made Himself known.

Let us now point out more specifically some of the ways in which God's name may be taken in vain.

First, when it is used without considering a proper end. And there are but two ends which can warrant our use of any of His names, titles or attributes: His glory and the edification of ourselves and others. Whatever is besides these is frivolous and evil, affording no sufficient ground for us to make mention of such a great and holy Name, which is so full of glory and majesty.

Unless our speech is designedly directed to the advancement of the Divine glory or the promotion of the benefit of those to whom we speak — we are not justified in having God's ineffable Name upon our lips. He accounts Himself highly insulted when we mention His name to idle purpose.

God's Name is taken in vain by us, when we use it without due consideration and reverence. Whosoever we make mention of Him before whom the seraphim veil their faces — we ought seriously and solemnly to ponder His infinite majesty and glory, and bow our hearts in deepest prostration before that Name. Those who think and speak of the great God promiscuously and at random — how can they use His Name with reverence when all the rest of their discourse is filled with froth and vanity? God's Name is not to be sported with and tossed to and fro upon every light tongue.

O my reader, form the habit of solemnly considering whose Name it is you are about to utter, that it is the Name of Him who is present with you, hearing you pronounce it, who is jealous of His honor, and who will dreadfully avenge Himself upon those who have slighted Him!

God's Name is used in vain when it is employed hypocritically, when we profess to be His people and are not. Israel of old was guilty of this sin: "Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swore by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness" (Isaiah 48:1) That is, they used the Name of God, but did not obey the revelation contained therein, and so violated this Third Commandment: compare Matthew 7:22, 23.

When using the Name of God, we must do so in a way which is true to its meaning and to its implications, otherwise He says to us, "Why do you call you Me, Lord, Lord — and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

In like manner, we are guilty of this awful sin when we perform holy duties lightly and mechanically, our affections not being in them. Prayer without practice is blasphemy; and to speak to God with our lips while our hearts are far from Him is but a mocking of Him and an increasing of our condemnation.

God's Name is taken in vain when we swear lightly and irreverently, using the Name of God with as little respect as we would show to that of a man, or when we swear falsely and are guilty of perjury. When we are placed on oath and we attest that to be true which we do not know to be true, or which we know to be false — we are guilty of one of the gravest sins which man can possibly commit, for he has solemnly called upon the great God to witness that which the father of lies has prompted him to speak!

"He who swears in the earth, shall swear by the God of Truth" (Isaiah 65:16), and therefore it behooves him to consider well whether what he deposes be true or not. Alas, false oaths have become so excessively multiplied among us, and so generally disregarded, that the enormity of this offence is scarcely considered.

"Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; and do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate! Says the LORD." Zechariah 8:17

And what shall be said of that vast throng of profane swearers who pollute our language and wound our ears, by a vile mixture of execrations and blasphemies in their common conversation! "Their throat is an open sepulcher, the poison of asps is under their lips, their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (Romans 3:13, 14). Utterly vain is their thoughtless plea that they mean no harm. Utterly vain is their excuse that all their companions do the same. Utterly vain is their plea that it is merely to relieve their feelings. What a madness is it when men anger you, to strike against God and provoke Him far more than others can provoke you!

But though their fellows do not censure, the police arrest, or the magistrate punish them — yet the Lord will not hold him guiltless, who takes His Name in vain.

God is dreadfully incensed by this sin, and in the common commission of this Heaven-insulting crime — our country has incurred terrible guilt.

It has become almost impossible to walk the streets or enter mixed company, without hearing the sacred Name of God treated with blasphemous contempt. The novels of the day, the theater, and even the radio, are terrible offenders! And without doubt, this is one of the fearful sins against Himself for which God is now pouring out His judgments upon us. Of old, He said unto Israel, "Because of swearing the land mourns; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil" (Jeremiah 23:10). And He is still the same: "The Lord will not hold him guiltless, who takes His Name in vain." Sore punishment shall be his portion, if not in his life, then most assuredly so, eternally so, in the life to come!

Re: Arthur Pink.. Taking the Lord's name in vain. - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/5/29 23:13

MY THOUGHTS:

We take the name of the Lord Jesus in vain when we do not honour His name, do not believe in His name, do not rejoice in His name, do not call on His name, do not stand on His name, do not live in His name, and, are not superabundantly blessed by His name.

SCRIPTURE

Ex. 3:13-14 “

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 8:56 (Jubilee Bible 2000)“

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.

John 8:24 (ISV) “

That is why I told you that you will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I AM, you'll die in your sins."

Acts 4:12 “

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

Proverbs 18:10 “

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe.

1 Sam. 17:45 “

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.

Ps. 124:8 “

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.

Ps. 20:5, 7-8 “

“in the name of our God we will set up our banners”
Some boast in chariots and some in horses,
But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.
They have bowed down and fallen,
But we have risen and stood upright.

Ps. 33:20-22 “

Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart rejoices IN HIM,
Because we trust IN HIS HOLY NAME.

Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
According as we have hoped in You.

Ps. 8:9 "O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Ps. 9:10 "And those who know YOUR NAME will put their trust IN YOU,
For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Isa. 12:2-4 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;
For the LORD GOD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.
Therefore you will joyously draw water
From the springs of salvation.
And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name.
Make known His deeds among the peoples;
Make them remember that His name is exalted."

(Note: Emphasis in caps are mine.)

Hymn "Jesus Your Name"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKeRWT-OYSE>

RE-POSTED FROM ANOTHER THREAD:

GOSPEL OF JOHN "I AM

The Lord Jesus says:

John 8:24 (ISV) "unless you believe that I AM, you'll die in your sins."

John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

John 8:12 "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 10:9-10 "I AM THE DOOR; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 1:11 "

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Ps. 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

1 John 5:11-12

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 15:5

I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

The riches of Christ are unfathomable (Eph. 3:8).

Re: - posted by EAGLEFLYING (), on: 2019/5/30 13:03

by BranchinVINE on 2019/5/29 23:13:44

MY THOUGHTS:

We take the name of the Lord Jesus in vain when we do not honour His name, do not believe in His name, do not rejoice in His name, do not call on His name, do not stand on His name, do not live in His name, and, are not superabundantly blessed by His name.

Jade,

Thank you for your thoughts and scriptures..

I believe we take the LORD's name in vain anytime.. we mispeak or misrepresent HIM..

We are His ambassadors and the prisoners are watching..

in Jesus

Frannie