

Evening Worship October 16, 2016

"Taking God's Name in Vain" Exodus 20:7

"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 NKJ)

What is it to take the Lord's Name in vain?

I. Taking the Lord's Name in vain is the opposite of hallowing God's Name –

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **Hallowed be Your name.** (Matthew 6:9 NKJ)

Greek - ἁγιάζω – **Hallow** to separate, to set apart, to sanctify, to regard and reverence as sacred and holy

Hebrew - qadash {kaw-dash'}

Meaning: 1) to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate

"And I will **sanctify** My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am **hallowed** in you before their eyes. (Ezekiel 36:23 NKJ)

In Ezekiel 36:23 the word sanctify and hallowed are both translations of the same Hebrew word - qadash {kaw-dash'} Sanctifying or hallowing something is the opposite of profaning something! People profane the Name of the Lord when they use it as a curse word. This is true whether malice is directed toward God and His Name or the Name is used, thrown out carelessly! We are called to Hallow God's Name and so failing to do this means we take it in vain.

1. How do we hallow God's Name? We hallow God's Name when we treat it as special, and treasure and value any connection we have to it, we treat it as above other names, we see this wording used for Christ's Name –

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point* of death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those

under the earth,¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:8-11 NKJ)

2. God's name and Christ's name being above every other name, means God and Christ deserve honor and worship beyond others!

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.²⁷ "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:25-27 NKJ)

Your father's name, your mother's name, your wife's and your children's names, even your brothers' and sisters' names are all important names in our lives, but Jesus has the NAME above all names!

II. We take God's Name in vain when we claim to be "Israel" or "Christian" and do not live accordingly –

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6 NKJ)

NIV 1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. (1John 2:6 NIV)

1. Priests were given special rules in regard to not touching dead bodies, and other rules for the sake of God's Name –

And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: `None shall defile himself for the dead among his people,² except for his relatives who are nearest to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother;³ also his virgin sister who is near to him, who has had no husband, for her he may defile himself.⁴ `Otherwise he shall not defile himself, *being* a chief man among his people, to profane himself.⁵ `They shall not make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh.⁶ `They shall be **holy to their God and not profane the name of their God**, for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, *and* the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy.⁷ `They shall not take a wife *who is* a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for *the priest* is holy to his God. (Leviticus 21:1-7 NKJ)

2. Priests were to be careful about their offerings – "Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and **that they do not profane**

My holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I *am* the LORD. (Leviticus 22:2 NKJ)

3. *Ordinary Israelites would profane God's Name in various ways*

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A. *Offering their children to Molech* –

“And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through *the fire* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD. (Leviticus 18:21 NKJ)

“I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given *some* of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name. (Leviticus 20:3 NKJ)

B. *By swearing falsely, using God's Name to protect a lie* –

“And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD. (Leviticus 19:12 NKJ)

C. *Stealing would profane God's Name* –

... Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God. (Proverbs 30:9 NKJ)

D. *Those who pretend to serve God but serve idols as well, profane His Name* –

“As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord GOD: “Go, serve every one of you his idols-- and hereafter-- if you will not obey me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols. (Ezekiel 20:39 NKJ)

E. *Any breaking of the law by those who professed to know God would blaspheme or profane God's Name* –

You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written. (Romans 2:23-24 NKJ)

“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, (Deuteronomy 28:58 NKJ)

4. *Some may have seemed to honored Christ's Name with their “works” and yet were far from Him because not obedient to God's will* –

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² “Many will

say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ ²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:21-27 NKJ)

We honor the Name of Christ when instead of practicing lawlessness we hear His sayings and we do them!

III. *We who take God's Name as our own should consider it a great privilege and responsibility, we only honor His Name with faith in Jesus Christ* –

1. *Let God's Name encourage your prayers and move you toward God and His glory* –

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth **is named**, (Ephesians 3:14-15 NKJ)

... ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ **to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus** to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:16-21 NKJ)

“We take God's name in vain: ... When we pray to Him, but do not believe in Him.” Thomas Watson

¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. (1 John 5:9-10 NKJ)

2. *Now we honor God by forgiveness and grace – How do we carry ourselves as the elect of God, those who would honor His Name?*

Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-14 NKJ)

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