

Isaiah 48; Lord's Day 36
BEARING GOD'S NAME WITH FEAR

- I. What is God's name?
 - A. God's name is His revelation of Himself to man (Psalm 75:1; 72:19; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13).
 - 1. Each of God's names and all of them together are part of His special revelation in Scripture.
 - 2. His Name shows Himself so that man is able to know Him.
 - B. How are we to handle God's names? (Psalm 29:2; 66:2; 96:8).
 - 1. We must acknowledge His greatness and give Him praise befitting His level of majesty.
 - 2. To "take" is to carry, because God has put His name on and in the elect, so we carry it (II Chron. 7:14).
- II. This commandment would have us use God's name only in awe and with the greatest honor.
 - A. "In vain" means that we empty the name of the honor He deserves.
 - B. All mis-use of God's name dishonors Him: profanity, sorcery, rash interjections, connivance and silence.
 - C. God is highly insulted when His name is misused or abused.
 - 1. "Not...guiltless" makes it emphatic that all violators are guilty.
 - 2. Thus the penalty is nothing less than death (Leviticus 24:15; Heb. 12:28,29; 10:31).
- III. We must use God's name with great reverence, honoring Him.
 - A. The reason: God is the highest good.
 - B. He is worthy of our worship, both publicly and privately.
 - C. Our chief good and enjoyment consists in glorifying Him and our chief end is to know and praise God forever.
 - D. We rightly use God's name when we thank Him.
 - E. Therefore, let us sincerely confess our violations of this command, and earnestly resolve to honor God's name.