

INTRODUCTION

If we are not to take the name of the Lord in vain, how are we to take it, that is not in vain?

In the third commandment, the sin expressly forbidden is to take the name of the Lord in vain; that is, to speak of God or to act in the name of God, in some way that is false, as if the name of the Lord were a light thing instead of weighty, as if it were empty, instead of full of meaning regarding God.

The corresponding duty most clearly implied is to show reverence for God in what use we make of His name, or in what we do in His name. Reverence: that honor, fear, affection, respect, veneration, esteem that God deserves by virtue of both His perfections and His place above all creation.

The commandment forbids us taking the name of the Lord in vain. That implies that we are to take the name of the Lord, just not in vain. We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we...

Call on the name of the Lord in faith

Repent and find forgiveness in His name

Baptize and receive baptism in His name

Take the Lord's Supper remembering His body and blood; the Bible says that it is possible to say you are taking the Lord's Supper, but to do it so irreverently that it is not truly the Lord's Supper.

So much we considered together last time. Today, continue with me in that vein, answering the question, "How are we to take the name of the Lord, that is not in vain?"

TEXT

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

BODY

We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

I. Gather in the Name of the Lord Reverently

A. When the saints congregate, we do so in the name of the Lord

1. in that the Lord Jesus has promised to be in our midst when we assemble - Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
2. in that we gather on the first day of the week, knowing to call it “the Lord’s Day”
3. in that it is a gathering of those who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit
4. in that we will be taking what the Bible calls, “The Lord’s Supper”

B. But it is possible for there to be gatherings for worship, in which people take the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in vain

1. in that people do not take the necessary pains to be in the assembly, even though they could
 - a) but the Bible says - Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some...
 - b) for those who call themselves Christians to forsake the assembly is to take the name of the Lord in vain
2. in that people assemble, but do not hold God in fear, in awe, in reverence, in the assembly
 - a) but the Bible says - Psalm 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.
 - b) for those who assemble with the saints in the congregation of Jesus Christ to come for worship without the due fear of God and reverence for His name is to take the name of the Lord in vain

C. *Directory for the Publick Worship of God* - section one “Of the Assembling of the Congregation”

1. When the congregation is to meet for publick worship, the people...ought all to come...not absenting themselves...through negligence...
2. Let all enter the assembly, not irreverently, but in a grave and seemly manner, taking their seats...
3. The congregation being assembled, the minister, after solemn calling on them to the worshipping of the great name of God, is to begin with prayer.
4. The publick worship being begun, the people are wholly to attend upon it...abstaining...from all gazing, sleeping, and other indecent behaviour, which may disturb the minister or people, or hinder themselves or others in the service of God.

D. God’s commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain? We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we gather in the name of the Lord reverently.

And we take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

II. Pray in the Name of Jesus Christ in Faith - John 16:23

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray

1. to God our heavenly Father
2. in His name, the name of Jesus - John 16:23-24 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (24) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.
3. counting on help from the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings [GEN sighs] which cannot be uttered.

B. It is possible for a person to pray, and to say “in the name of Jesus,” but not to believe what he is saying even as he prays.

1. the person saying a prayer might not believe that God is the Father in heaven; that He is good; that He is powerful; that He “knows how to give good gifts to those who ask Him”
2. the person saying a prayer might not believe that God the Father loves Jesus Christ the Son, and answers the prayers of those who ask in His name
3. the person saying a prayer might not trust in God’s Holy Spirit to help him when he doesn’t know rightly what to pray

C. But to pray in those ways, without faith, is to take the name of the Lord in vain; to take God’s name as if it described someone who didn’t always do what is good, or who didn’t know what it would be good to do, or who lacked the power to do the good he would like to do; all such praying is taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain

1. James 1:5-7 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. [6] But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

D. We are to take the name “God” for what it means

1. the being who is perfectly good, most wise, and all powerful
2. the three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, among whom are all the operations needed for our prayers to be heard, accepted, and answered
3. the one whom we can trust implicitly; the one in whom we can have all confidence; the one in whom we can have faith

E. God’s commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain? We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we pray in the name of Jesus Christ in faith.

And we take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we

III. Give Praise and Thanks to His Name By Jesus Christ

- A. In the days of the Old Covenant, worshippers rightly came to worship on certain holy days; they offered sacrifices of the fruit of their farms: grain; olive oil; goats, sheep, and cattle; the worshippers brought their sacrifices to the tabernacle or temple and offered them by the priests God had appointed, who were descended from Aaron
- B. But now, in the days of the New Covenant, those ceremonial offerings are all abrogated, ended, done away with. To worship God now, we offer sacrifices of praise to God by Jesus Christ. - Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
- C. Much of this praising and thanking God is done as we sing to the Lord together - Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- D. But it is possible for a person to offer praise and thanksgiving to the name of the Lord, but only in vain
 - 1. to try to praise the Lord, but with no reference to Jesus Christ, with no idea that our praises to God are by Him, as if praising Him were a mere ceremony or ritual, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
 - 2. to give thanks for those things God does that please you, but to refuse to be thankful to God for all things He does, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
 - 3. to sing songs with your mouth for people to hear, but not in your heart to the Lord, as if the name of God indicates something only physical, not spiritual, is to take the name of the Lord in vain
- E. God's commandment is that we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. How, then, can we take His name, but not in vain? We take the name of the Lord, but not in vain, when we give praise and thanks to His name by Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

The Bible records

Acts 11:26b And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

We, the disciples of Jesus Christ, are known by His name. We willingly, gladly are known by His name. We take His name when we are baptized, and we take His name upon us every day. We as a congregation take His name, especially whenever we assemble.

Let it be that we are taking His name for all its worth, for all about Him that it truly represents.

Let it be that we

Call on the name of the Lord in faith
Repent and find forgiveness in His name
Baptize and receive baptism in His name
Take the Lord's Supper remembering His body and blood
Gather in the name of the Lord reverently
Pray in the name of Jesus Christ in faith
Give praise and thanks to God's name by Jesus Christ

and so obey the third commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Matthew 18:20

Alex - Scripture Reading - Hebrews 13:1-15

~~Stephen~~ JRY - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Hebrews 13:20-21

Haven - Prelude - please pick

Rita - Sheet "He Will Hold Me Fast" - Andrew lead

Journey - Trinity 587 "Like a River Glorious"

Rita - Trinity 174 "Praise the Saviour Now and Ever"

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

F. Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

1. “through Christ’s merit we inherit”

G. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: [12] That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. Read and Hear the Word of the Lord and Keep It

A. Luke 6:46 But why do you call me, “Lord, Lord,” and not do the things which I say?