

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – Feb. 2025

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USING THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN

In post-Christian America, the culture continues to become ever more and more rude and crude. And as we witness the coarsening of the culture, it is reflected in the ubiquitous and profane use of God's NAME! This is indicative of "no fear of God" (Rom. 3:18). And sadly, the flippant use of God's name is also often seen among those who profess to be God's people! Many have lost sight of how serious it is to use God's NAME in vain!

Exodus 20:7 (NKJV)

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.

The NAME of God represents Who He is! And He is HOLY! Many times, the Bible refers to God's "holy name" (Lev. 20:3; 22:32; Ps. 30:4; 103:1; Ezek. 36:21; etc.). To use God's name in VAIN means to use it in an empty, common, flippant, profane, or blasphemous manner. The way a person uses God's NAME is reflective of their attitude towards God. A reverence for God uses His NAME with respect and worship! Having no regard for God is reflected in using His name irreverently. Our very speech is a testimony to what we think of God!

When Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up and the seraphim crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts" (Isa. 6:1-4), he then responded with...

Isaiah 6:5 (NKJV)

5 So I said: "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."

True repentance sees the seriousness of having unclean lips. To truly see God in His holiness is to recognize how serious is this matter of profane speech. And it is never more serious than when the NAME of God is used irreverently or blasphemously.

The world (and also many professing Christians) regularly use God's name in vain, either as an expletive or in an exclamatory sense. It is so common that regularly in texting, people shorten "Oh My God!" to "OMG." When people flippantly say, "Oh my God!" I like to ask them: "And WHO that God might be?" That is fair game – after all, they brought it up – not me! If they claim the God of the Bible, it is good to take them back to Exodus 20:7. Many people are totally unaware of how serious this is! They don't know the Bible, and they very possibly don't know God, and therefore they ignorantly and gratuitously use His HOLY NAME in vain!

In Leviticus 24, when an Israelite man "blasphemed the name of the LORD and cursed" (Lev. 24:11), the LORD then said he was to be stoned to death. It was then reiterated: "And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death" (Lev. 24:16).

There are two ways to use the NAME of the LORD in vain. 1) Verbally, one can use the NAME of the LORD irreverently. 2) To claim to be a Christian, to profess the name of the LORD, and yet live irreverently amounts to using the NAME of the LORD in vain as a lifestyle pattern. This person's whole life is a BLASPHEMY! "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work." (Titus 1:16)

The mouth tells on the heart! Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Mt. 12:34). Also, the actions of a person reflect the disposition of the heart. Again, Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Mt. 15:19)

Thot: No matter what they might say, a person's words and actions reveal their heart!

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald