



LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Using God for My Own Ends" Exodus 20:7

No. 5521

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At first sight the third commandment seems to be banning profanity. But careful study shows that much more is at stake. Juliet asked Romeo, "What's in a name?" Implying "nothing." But she was mistaken.

I. What's in a Name?

- A. The question in a general sense.
 - 1. Name—reputation. Philippians 2:9; Genesis 11:4; Proverbs 22:1
 - 2. Name—character.
 - a. Parents' wishes—Sons of Jacob. Genesis 30
 - b. Prophetic statement. Luke 1:31; Matthew 16:17-18
 - c. Personality changes. Genesis 35:10
 - 3. Name—authority.
 - a. God's naming of living creatures.
 - b. Adam's naming of living creatures.
- B. The question as it relates to "The Name of the Lord."
 - 1. God chose to reveal His Name.
 - a. To Abram. Genesis 17:1
 - b. In contrast to pagans who named their gods.
 - 2. God made Himself knowable.
 - a. He introduced Himself. Exodus 6:2-3
 - b. He promised His presence.
 - 3. God invented intimacy—N.B. Jacob. Genesis 32:29
 - a. He portrayed His character. Exodus 3:13-14
 - b. He promised His presence.
 - 4. God provides protection. Psalm 20:1; Proverbs 18:10
 - a. His Name speaks of His power.
 - b. He is president and resident, e.g. David. 1 Samuel 17:45-46
 - 5. God offers salvation.
 - a. Through faith in His Name. 1 Corinthians 6:11
 - b. The effects of salvation.
 - 6. God permits identification.
 - a. The privilege. Acts 9:15
 - b. The pain. Acts 9:16

II. How Do We "Take the Name in Vain"?

- A. Misuse in O.T. times.
 - 1. Using the Name in magical incantations.
 - a. The experience of Balaam. Numbers 22 & 24
 - 2. The taking of oaths lightly.
 - a. The careless use of the Name. Leviticus 19:12
 - b. The casual calling on the Name. 1 Kings 2:23
 - 3. The dichotomy of profession and performance.
 - a. God's people serving God's enemies. Leviticus 20:1-3
- B. Misuse in our day.
 - 1. Making a name for myself when professing His Name. Acts 8:9-25
 - 2. Praying in His Name for my exclusive benefit. James 4:3
 - 3. Calling on His Name without committing to His control, i.e. baptism, marriage.
 - 4. Ministering in His Name for less than acceptable motives. Acts 19:13-16
 - 5. Using His Name without regard to its significance.