

Something about that Name

The 3rd Commandment states: "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"(KJV). The New Testament teaches this command much like the first two commands. The standard or affect is raised to a higher level of observance. It is raised to a level of honor, respect and esteem. Within the early readings of Matthew and Luke, the name of the One and Only is described with a plurality of names: Jesus, Christ, Immanuel, King, Son of the Most High, Son of God, Savior, and Christ the Lord. The prophecy of Isaiah 9.6 bursts into brilliant fulfillment: "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called (his name will be) Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

When the name of Jesus is held in honor, respect and esteem in any and every circumstance, then the name of "the Lord thy God" will never be taken in vain. Remember the story of Thomas? He wanted to see the nail prints in his hands and the incision in his side before he would believe. Jesus appears to Thomas and tells him to touch his hands and his side. Thomas in total amazement and belief says, "My Lord and my God". To not take the name of the Lord in vain, is to take his earthly name, his name in the flesh, and give his name all honor, respect and esteem not only in speech but in the very life we live. There is power in his name because we read of demons and evil spirits fleeing at the mention of his name. There is healing in his name for we read of this great physician restoring health to the sick in his name. There is salvation in his name for there is no other name under heaven by which man must be saved. Our baptism, which defines our allegiance, occurs in his name: the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. In Rev 19.11, a rider on a white horse appears and his name is Faithful and True. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

King Of Kings And Lord Of Lords

God has exalted Jesus Christ to the highest place and has given him the name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, all believers and all unbelievers, everyone who has held his name in honor, respect and esteem and everyone who has held his name in vain, everyone who has been for Jesus and everyone who has been against Jesus, everyone and every tongue from every language will confess his name, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2. 9-11)

Dear Christian reader, fight the fight of faith today by holding the name of Jesus in honor, respect and esteem. Lift the Savior up by speaking his name, Jesus; Lift the Redeemer up by telling the story of the matchless grace of Jesus; Lift up the Lamb, Jesus, who was slain, and who is worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise (Rev 5.12). One of the best summaries of the 3rd Commandment might be found in Col 3.17. "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (sj--03/14)