

## Sermon Series: *The Ten Commandments*

### The Third Commandment: You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God In Vain

#### **Exodus 20:7**

*“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.”*

#### **MEMORIZATION**

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods before Me.

The Second Commandment: You shall not make a carved image.

The Third Commandment: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

#### **Introduction**

Today we look at the third commandment, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” As is true with all the commandments, the opposite of what is explicitly prohibited is implicitly promoted. This commandment prohibits profaning God’s name, but what is promoted is respecting and revering His name. We will come at this by asking three questions. 1) What is His name? 2) What does His name mean? 3) What does it mean to take His name in vain?

#### **Names Have Significant Meaning**

Names are important. Names are meaningful. Often parents agonize over what to name their children. When choosing a name for a baby many parents will read through entire books of names searching for just the right name. Why do we do this? Why do young parents have sometimes heated discussions about what to name the little one who is coming? Because there is something within us that tells us that names are more important than we might at first tend to think. We want the names of our children to bring them a blessing so we strive to come up with names that cannot be easily made fun of. Names are important because they do have an effect on our lives.

#### **David: “Beloved”**

When we named our three children we tried to carefully think through what we would name them. David is my first name and is a family name on my mother’s side. My biblical hero is king David as he was my mother’s also. Alisa and I agreed that if our first born was a boy he would be named David. David means “beloved.”

#### **Uriah: Yahweh is My Light**

When we began to think about a middle name, we wanted it to be something that would speak to the direction of his life that we desired for him. We then came across a name that meant “the LORD (i.e. Yahweh) is my light.” That resonated with our desire for the direction for his life and so we named him Uriah.

#### **Mikayla: Who Is Like Our God**

Next came a little girl. We found a name that meant “Who is like our God?” It’s a rhetorical question of which the answer is “No one. No one in all the earth is like the God of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob.” So we named our daughter Mikayla, because **our prayer for her life to be a testimony to the world that there is no other god but the One True God.** Her middle name, Ruth, came from my wife’s grandmother, and it means “friend.”

### Alexander: Leader or Helper of Men

Then came another son. **Our prayer for him was that he be a leader in the ways of the Lord and not a follower in the ways of the world.** So we named him Alexander, which means “leader of men” or “helper of men.” We want Alex to lead men to God and help them find the Savior. Alex’s middle name is Samuel which means, “Asked of God” or “The LORD has heard” (and answered). We say we asked the Lord for a leader of men.

### Names in the Bible

In the Bible names are important because they often express the direction of a person’s life or their ability or their character. Adam named his wife Eve because she was “the mother of all living” (Gen 3:20). God changed Abram’s name to Abraham because he became the “father of a multitude of nations” (Gen 17:5). God changed Sarai’s name to Sarah because the name meant “princess”<sup>1</sup> and the Lord said, “kings of peoples shall come from her” (Gen 17:15). Her line would include royalty.

God named Isaac Isaac because Abraham<sup>2</sup> cracked up laughing when God told him that he, a 99 year old man, would have a son! Esau was named Esau because when he was born he was red and hairy (Gen 25:25). Jacob was so named because he had hold of his brother’s heel when he was born (Gen 25:26). The name Jacob can also mean “he cheats”<sup>3</sup> which turned out to be a repeating theme throughout his life. This truth remains consistent all throughout Scripture. Names are significant.

### God Chose the Name of His Son

God even chose the name of His own Son, Jesus since the name means, “he will save his people from their sins” (Luke 1:21). **When God chose a name for someone He did it for a reason because that name spoke to the destiny and purpose of that individual.**

### Names Change When Life Purpose Changes

This is the reason why names sometimes change when life direction or purpose changes, like Simon’s did when Jesus changed his name from Simon to Peter (Cephas - John 1:42 ). Peter went being a fisher of fish to being a fisher of men (Matt 4:19).

The same thing happened to the Pharisee Saul after his conversion. Soon he came to be known not by Saul, his Jewish name, but by Paul, his Roman name (Acts 13:9). This was most likely because the calling and purpose of his life shifted away from Jews and toward the Gentiles. We have a better understanding of who he was and what his purpose was because of what his name was. In the Bible names help us understand who a person is. Names are significant and meaningful.

### What Is The Name of the God of Israel?

When God reveals His name, it is not insignificant. The fact that God Himself chose to reveal His name is incredibly significant. God chose to reveal His name to Moses. This is good for us because

---

<sup>1</sup> ESV footnote on Genesis 17:15.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah also laughed when told this news (Gen 18:12).

<sup>3</sup> ESV footnote on Genesis 25:26.

we must know what His name is if we are to avoid taking it in vain. To know His name is to know His character! It is to know the essence of who He is. To know His name is to know what He is about. To know His name is know HIM! So, what is the name of the God of Israel? He hasn't left us guessing.

We find this story in Exodus 3. You remember the story. God appeared to Moses in the form of a flaming bush (which was not consumed) and He spoke to Moses from the flame. God told Moses that He had heard the cries of the people of Israel and that He was sending Moses to deliver His people from harsh slavery so that they might be free to worship Him (Ex 3:1-13). Moses then asked,

### **Exodus 3:13**

13 *Then Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them?*

14 *God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.*

15 *God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*

In answer to Moses' question, God said, in verse 14, that His name is "I AM WHO I AM." He then said, "Tell them I AM has sent you." Then in verse 15 He said, "The LORD, the God of your fathers... this is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered..."

1. "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them I AM has sent you." (v.14)
2. "The LORD, the God of your fathers, Ab, Isaac, & Jacob has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered..." (v.15)

### **God: Eloheem**

The word "God" used in these three verses is the Hebrew word אֱלֹהִים [ʾelohiyim /el·o·heem, n. m. p.] .

It is a more generic word for God and it occurs 2,606 times in the Old Testament. It refers to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob 2,346 times and is used in references to other "gods" 244 times.<sup>4</sup> However, that is not the word used in verse 15 whereby God wanted His name to be remembered forever. I'll replace the English words for the Hebrew words and read it again.

**Exodus 3:15** *Eloheem also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, "Yahweh, Eloheem of your fathers, Eloheem of Abraham, Eloheem of Isaac, and Eloheem of Jacob, has sent me to you."*

You will notice that in your translations the word "LORD" in verse 15 is in all capital letters. The reason for this is because it stands in place of the Hebrew word Yahweh (יְהוָה). Yahweh is the proper name for the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus. Every time you see the word "LORD" in all capital letters, you should think "the personal name of God," like Michael or Simon is the personal name of a particular individual. Do not think of this word as "Lord" as in "Sir."

---

<sup>4</sup> James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996).

## A Personal God With A Personal Name

The word Yahweh is the personal name of God. This is the whole point. This God who revealed Himself to Moses is not some abstract deity. He is a personal God. He is not an impersonal force somewhere out there that exists equally in the rocks and trees and rivers. He is not a distant god inhabiting the darkest reaches of space. He is personal God who is near and He has a personal name.

## The Ineffable Name

When Jews were reading the Scriptures and came to this word they would not even pronounce it. Instead they would simply say “adonai,” which means “my lord.” The word Yahweh occurs 6,823 times in the Old Testament and was regarded by Jews the *nomen ineffabile*, the ineffable name, the name too wonderful and holy to even be taken upon the lips.<sup>5</sup> **The Jews knew the third commandment and were so intent on obeying it and so revered His Holy name they refused to even speak it.**

This deep respect for His name continues to this day among some Jews. In college I had a Jewish friend who so respected His name that she would not even spell out the word “God.” When she wrote the word “God,” she would write “G-D.” That kind of respect for Yahweh is rare.

## YHWY: Jehovah or Yahweh

In the oldest written Hebrew scriptures vowels are not written down. Consonants only were written since it was assumed that everyone would know how to pronounce their own language. This word appears written as **YHWH**. Because vowels were never written and this word was never spoken, as time passed, confusion arose over exactly how to pronounce the word. In 1520 an Italian friar named Galatinus suggested it should be pronounced *Jehovah* by supplying the vowels from the word adonai,<sup>6</sup> but later scholars demonstrated that Yahweh was the more likely pronunciation.<sup>7</sup>

## What Does Yahweh Mean?

Not only does God reveal His name, He also reveals what His name means. The word “Yahweh” is built off of the Hebrew word *hayah* which is the verb that means “to be.”<sup>8</sup> Therefore, when God tells Moses that His name is “I Am,” He is also revealing something about His essential character. Saying His name is “I AM” means many things, but we’ll focus on at least two. First, it means that Yahweh is a God who exists. We see this from verse 14. Second, it means that He is a God who is ever present. We see this from verse 15.

## Yahweh Exists

When God said His name is “I AM,” He was saying “I exist.” The fact that God exists is the most basic fact about Him. The Scriptures assume the reality of God’s existence from the very beginning. The fact of His existence is never doubted. This is not true today. His existence is everywhere denied. Yet David very bluntly says that the person who denies the existence of God is a fool (Psalm 14:1;

---

<sup>5</sup> Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver and Charles Augustus Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2000), p. 218.

<sup>6</sup> Sermon by John Piper entitled, “I Am Who I Am” available at [http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/BySeries/1/451\\_I\\_Am\\_Who\\_I\\_Am/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/BySeries/1/451_I_Am_Who_I_Am/) accessed 17 July 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Brown, Driver, and Briggs *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, electronic ed. p. 218.

<sup>8</sup> Frank E. Gaebelein, John H. Sailhamer, Walter C. Kaiser et al., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990), p. 321.

53:1). Not only **does** God exist, He is the **ONLY** God that exists. All other gods are simply impotent images dreamed up by the overactive imagination of sinful man.

Moses sang these words in his song,

**Deuteronomy 32:39**

39 *“See now that I, even I, am he,  
and there is no god beside me;  
I kill and I make alive;  
I wound and I heal;  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.*

Hannah prayed these words,

**1 Samuel 2:2**

2 *“There is none holy like the LORD (Yahweh);  
there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.”*

David prayed these words,

**2 Samuel 7:22**

22 *Therefore you are great, O LORD (Yahweh) God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

The LORD (Yahweh) spoke these words through the prophet Isaiah,

**Isaiah 44:6**

6 *Thus says the LORD (Yahweh), the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD (Yahweh) of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.*

**Isaiah 45:5-7**

5 *I am the LORD (Yahweh), and there is no other,  
besides me there is no God  
I equip you, though you do not know me,  
6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is none besides me;  
I am the LORD (Yahweh), and there is no other.  
7 I form light and create darkness,  
I make well-being and create calamity,  
I am the LORD (Yahweh), who does all these things.*

Verse five (45:5) reveals the fact that though God exists and has revealed His name, many people still do not know Him. Despite the fact that He exists and that He even equips us<sup>9</sup> and provides for us, yet many people who benefit from His existence are not even aware of His existence. How many in

---

<sup>9</sup> See also Hosea 1:8; 7:15.

the world benefit from that fact that there is such a thing as light, and yet never praise HIM for giving such a wonderful gift?

Yahweh desires that His name be known from the rising of the sun to to the setting of the sun. He wants all to know Him from east to west. He exists and He is the ONLY God that exists and yet so, so many do not know Him.

## Yahweh Is Present

The first meaning of Yahweh's name is that He exists - "I Am." The second meaning is that He is ever present. Read verse 15 again.

### Exodus 3:15

*15 God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD (Yahweh), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*

Why does God want His proper name, Yahweh, to be remembered forever in connection with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? ***Is it not so that we will know that He is an enduring, timeless God who is powerful enough to be present with His children?*** Does the connection with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob not say that Yahweh is a God who is always with His people? He is a God who is present with His children to whom He has given His promises, His covenant word?

## A Promise to Moses

And God had just given Moses such a promise in Exodus 3:12. After telling Moses that He was sending Him to Pharaoh, Moses said, "I can't go to Pharaoh and do what you're asking? I'm nobody. I'm not capable of doing this task?" To which God replied...

### Exodus 3:12

*"But I will be with you..."*

## I Will Be With You

God was saying, "Moses, you don't need to fear. I will be with you. You don't need to fear being with Pharaoh for I will be with you. You are in awe of Pharaoh's greatness and power, but you have no idea of my greatness and power, for in Me both are unlimited. And I will be with you."

*Yahweh is the God who was with Abraham. Yahweh is the God who was with Isaac. Yahweh is the God who was with Jacob. And Moses Yahweh is the same God who will be with you. You need to remember this throughout all your generations. I am Yahweh who is with you. Never forget this fact, I am with you.*

## I Exist & I Am With You

This great God who has a personal name is also a God who is present with His people. "I exist and I am with you." We could say much more about the meaning of the name, but we must move on.

## The Meaning of Taking His Name In Vain

We know what His name is. We know, at least in part, what His name means. Now we must ask what does it mean to take His name in vain?

To take the Lord's name "in vain" means to "misuse" it or "to use it for no purpose."<sup>10</sup> It means to use it for the wrong purpose or to use it for no purpose at all. It means to use it otherwise than the purpose for which it was intended or to take a meaning-**full** name and turn it into something meaning-**less** name.

One commentator put it this way, to take His name in vain means "to attach [His name] to emptiness."<sup>11</sup> The Hebrew root of the word translated 'vain' means "to be empty or worthless."<sup>12</sup> Remember His name stands for the fullness of entire character and the fullness of who He is. When you take the most valuable name in the entire universe and in the same sentence connect it to the most common trivialities of sinful humanity, you take the Lord's name in vain. His wonderful name is so holy that early Jews would not even speak it, yet we today toss it about it in every other sentence as if it was worth no more than a rusty penny lying in gutter.

### The Unique Value of His Name

This kind of careless, thoughtless tossing about of His name in everyday vernacular does not rightly represent the unique value of who God is. God is utterly unique. Unique things are extremely valuable. There is no one like Him. Rare coins are very valuable for fact that they are rare. God is very rare. There is only One of Him. Therefore He is utterly & immensely valuable.

And we ought not to devalue His name in how we speak about Him. ***If the second command is intended to guard against visual misrepresentations of God, then the third command is intended to guard against verbal misrepresentations of God.***

We take the Lord's name in vain when we take His wonderful name on our lips and yet we have no intention of actually directing our words to Him.

We take the Lord's name in vain when use His holy name as a linguistic filler when we cannot think of anything to say.

We take the Lord's name in vain when we invoke the authority of His name and yet turn around do what is contrary to His nature, like fail to keep our promise. God never breaks a promise He makes. Yet when we invoke His name to give weight to our weak words, then fail to do what we say we give the impression that God does not keep His word since His people do not. Anytime we break a promise that we have made in light of the name of the Lord, we take His name in vain. We profane His great name.

### Jeremiah 34:15-16

15 You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name,  
16 but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.

---

<sup>10</sup> Frank E. Gaebelin, John H. Sailhamer, Walter C. Kaiser et al., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990), 423.

<sup>11</sup> John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-), Ex 20:7.

<sup>12</sup> James E. Smith, *The Pentateuch*, 2nd ed. (Joplin, Mo.: College Press Pub. Co., 1993), Ex 20:1-17.



The truth of this is heart-breaking when we think of how many young couples are married under the banner of the Lord's name, making life-long vows, and yet turn around fail to keep them.

We take the Lord's name in vain every time we reduce His mighty name to an expression of shock or surprise. He is the first and last, the alpha and omega, nothing shocks or surprises Him. He knows the end from the beginning and to use His powerful name as a mere expression of our weakness is to misrepresent His might. Please do not say "Oh my God!" unless you are truly praying to Him.

### The Penalty for Taking His Name In Vain

We simply have no idea just how holy and sacred the name of the Lord is. His wonderful name is so holy that to misuse and blaspheme (i.e. speak irreverently) His name will justly get you the death penalty. In Leviticus 24 (vs.10-16) a man, whose mother was an Israelite and father was an Egyptian, got in a fight with another man of Israel.

#### **Leviticus 24:11**

*and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed.*

They brought this man to Moses to see what should be done to him because when God gave the third command the punishment for breaking it was not spelled out. Moses went to the Lord and asked Him. The Lord said,

#### **Leviticus 24:13-16**

13 *Then the LORD (Yahweh) spoke to Moses, saying,*

14 *Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.*

15 *And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.*

16 *Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD (Yahweh) shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.*

Oh how many people do this every day and do not receive the punishment they deserve? Oh how gracious and patient the Lord our God is! The name of the Lord is so precious and so holy and so deserving of respect and awe and reverence that to misuse it and speak irreverently is earn the right to die prematurely.

I deserve such a death. While in high school after getting off the bus and walking home I had an idea. I had a sort of a bit of a walk and I often took a little path through the woods. I thought I'd say every curse word I could think of and so I did. I said it all. And it left me feeling hollow and empty. All the cool kids a school cursed, but in that moment I did not feel cool at all. I deserved to be stoned.

### He Will Not Hold Him Guiltless

The last half of the third command is stunningly clear. "He will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

### God's Zeal for His Name Is the Salvation of Us All

To speak the name of Yahweh God of Israel is not a little thing. Yet who can escape this guilt? Who can possibly hope to avoid this penalty? God is jealous that His name not be misused. We are hopelessly guilty. God's zeal for His name will be the death of us all, right? No. God's zeal for His name is the salvation of us all.



### **Ezekiel 36:22-23**

22 *“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord (adonai) GOD (Yahweh): It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.*

23 *And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD (Yahweh), declares the Lord (adonai) GOD (Yahweh), when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.*

And how will the Lord vindicate His holiness of His great name? By putting forth One whose zeal for His name was unparalleled and whose righteousness was impeccable, that is, by putting forth His only Son, Jesus.

### **Romans 3:25-26**

Jesus 25 *whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*

26 *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Jesus died to vindicate the righteousness of God first and second to save all who would put their faith in Him. Notice that God acted **not** for our sake first, that is **not** for the sake of those who had profaned His name, but He acted for the sake of His great holy name.

And what act did He do? He put forth His own innocent Son who never profaned His name and yet He died. For what reason did He die? He died to prove God's holiness. He died to demonstrate that the penalty for profaning the NAME was death. And since Jesus Himself had never profaned God's name, God could justify all those who *had* profaned His NAME yet put their faith in Him.

One of the purposes of Jesus' life was to be a living manifestation of God's righteous name. On Jesus' final night on this earth he prayed,

### **John 17:6**

*I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.*

Remember what Jesus said in John 8. This is what ultimately got him killed.

### **John 8:58**

58 *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

That's God-talk. “I AM” is the proper name of God, the name no one ever spoke and here is Jesus taking that name upon His lips!!! What is He doing? Jesus was claiming God's name, the ineffable name of the God of Israel. The Jews knew it and they picked up stones to kill him - which was the correct response if Jesus was just a mere man. A little while later Jesus plainly said, “*I and the Father are one*” (John 10:31). Again they picked up stones to kill him.

### **John 10:32-33**

32 *Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?”*

33 *The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”*

Jesus took the name of God and applied it to Himself. He took the name of “I AM” on His lips and claimed it for Himself. He, in their eyes only a mere man, was claiming all the characteristics of God for Himself. He was equating (what they assumed was) sinful humanity with sinless divinity and that was taking the Lord’s name in vain.

That was equating the character of man with the character of God and that was misrepresenting God. That was speaking incorrectly and irreverently of God. He was misusing the name of God and making it meaningless. And that was blasphemy. At Jesus’ false trial blasphemy was the only charge they could make stick and blasphemy was punishable by death (Matthew 26:65-66).

Yet is Yahweh, God the Father, disappointed with what Jesus said and did and how He treated His name? No. He is delighted with what Jesus said and did because Yahweh raised Jesus from the dead.

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **The Name of Jesus A Swear Word???**

God is so pleased what the Jewish carpenter that He has now inextricable tied the glory of His own name with the glory of the name of Jesus. Why on earth has the most holy name of Jesus found its way into a meaningless swear word? Why is it ok for every single film coming out of Hollywood to use the holy name of Jesus as a two-bit, throw-away, meaningless swear word? Why not choose the name of some other religious figure? Why the name of Jesus? Can you imagine if they decided to do the same with the name of the Mohammed?

And how on earth the people whom the name of Jesus saved, be content to go to the theater and listen to His name tossed about as complete meaningless, empty, and devoid of any significance?

Saying, “Do not take my name in vain” is the negative way of saying that “You shall honor and cherish my glorious majestic name and uphold it in all circumstances with the highest degree of respect and reverence.”

Deut. 28:58 says “Fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD.”  
Micah 6:9 says “It is sound wisdom to fear your name.”

Does this mean we should never use His name? No. We shall indeed use His name, but we shall not abuse His name. We must use the name of Jesus, for if we do not, no one will be saved for “*there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved.*” (Acts 4:12). Yes, we will take His greatest of all names upon our lips, but we will do it rightly and reverently, for without the name of Jesus there can be no salvation.

When Jesus taught us how to pray the first words out of His mouth were, “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...*” This is a request that says, “may your name be revered” on earth like it is in heaven. Jesus is saying, “Father, let Your name be regarded as holy on earth just like it is regarded as holy in heaven.”

Jesus instructed us to pray this prayer every day. Will you do this? Will you pray that God will cause His great name to be revered and cherished and honored on this planet just like it is in heaven?