

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME"

For individual study or group discussion

While in Egypt, the Israelite slaves were surrounded by pagan worship. When God led the Israelites out of bondage, he brought them into the wilderness and began to reshape them by redeeming and remaking their communal identity with the Sinaitic covenant. They would bear his name and be his people.

Today, in Deuteronomy 5:11 we examine the third commandment, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain." The Hebrew word for "take" is better translated "to bear or carry," meaning the Israelites were to go about carrying God's identity and holy name in a way that would honor and hallow his name.

- When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, the model he set before them began with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9). How does the Lord's Prayer point us to bear, honor, and call upon his name as reflected in the third commandment?
- As Christians, we are called to faithfully represent and carry God's name as a testimony to the nations. Read Exodus 28:29, 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9. Just as the high priest would bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and represent them before the Lord, how do we, in Christ, bear God's name and represent him?

The Heart of the Command

At the heart of the third commandment is *right reverence and gravitas when speaking of God*. In our culture, it is not uncommon to hear God spoken of in an irreverent manner. The third commandment speaks to God's very being and character. According to John Calvin, "*We ought to be so disposed in mind and speech that we neither think nor say anything concerning God and his mysteries, without reverence and much soberness; that in estimating his works we conceive nothing but what is honorable to him.*"¹

- What are some examples of our culture's misuse of God's name? Read 2 Tim. 2:19 and Psalm 96:2-6. As Christians, how are we to name the name of Christ?

The Breadth and Depth of Our Command Breaking

It's a common conception in our culture that this command basically means, "Don't use God's name as a curse word, or don't say, 'Oh my God.'" But it's a bit more than texting OMG. The breadth and depth of our breaking the third commandment stems from an absence of the "fear of the LORD" in our hearts and lives. To fear God means to obey, love, and serve him with all your heart and soul (Deut. 10:12-13).

- Read Malachi 1:6-14. How did God's people despise his name?
- The Pharisees and scribes took pride in keeping the law as the children of Abraham. But Jesus confronted them, calling them hypocrites, pointing out their false religion in Matthew 15:7-9. Discuss how Christians can have the outward forms of law-keeping, but inwardly break them. (See also Isaiah 58.)

Our Hope is in Jesus Who Perfectly Keeps the Command and Pays the Penalty for Those Who Break It.

Paul explains in Philippians 2:6-11 that God has bestowed upon Jesus "the name that is above every name" as the Father exalted the Son to his right hand for his perfect obedience and sacrifice on the cross. Being delivered from the bondage of sin, his people now carry his name to the ends of the earth, offering hope and "forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:42-43).

- Micah 4:5 and Zechariah 10:12 foretell how God's people will "walk in his name." Read Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23. Describe how Christians are to "walk in his name."
- Read Matthew 1:21 and Acts 4:12. Jesus' name means "*Yahweh saves.*" How does this further impact your understanding of the third commandment?
- This week, meditate on Revelation 4 as you seek to hallow "the name that is above every name."

DATE: January 29, 2023

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 5:11

Family Dinner Table

The Name Above Every Name

The Westminster Confession of Faith Larger Catechism Q&A 112 asks, "What is required in the third commandment?" The answer states that the name of God and how he reveals himself be considered "holy and reverently used in thought, meditation, word, and writing." When you hear the name of Jesus, what are your thoughts about him? Does it stir your heart toward reverence and awe?

In his beloved children's book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis describes the thoughts of the Pevensie children upon first hearing Aslan's name: "*And now a very curious thing happened. None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words ['Aslan is on the move'] everyone felt quite different... At the name of Aslan each one of the children felt something jump in its inside. Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror. Peter felt suddenly brave and adventurous. Susan felt as if some delicious smell or some delightful strain of music had just floated by her. And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realize that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of summer.*"²

- What do the following verses tell you about the significance of God's name? Numbers 6:22-27; Deuteronomy 12:10-11; and 28:9-10; Psalms 8:1 and 33:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 4:12.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Amani ya Juu, strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Emma Kate Mooney, supported missionary partner

¹Calvin, John. *Institutes of Christian Religion*. 1960. Westminster Press, 2.8.22

²Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Chronicles of Narnia Book 1. New York: Macmillan, 1950. 54-55.