

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Sixty Years" Since October 21, 1961

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Please Join Us As We Pray For:

All of Our Military, Their Family's & All the Civilian Workers in The Middle East, Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, David Henderson and Wife, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Stanley Giles, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Brother Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

Thoughts from our Pastor:

Keep The Lord's name Holy!

"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." Deuteronomy 5:11

Let's start with this question, what does it mean to take the name of the Lord in vain? The Greek word "shav" simply means - using God's name in the sense of desolating - This means not to use God's name "depressingly empty or bare". A. H. Strong's also adds these definitions, such as evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjectively), uselessness (as deceptive, objectively; also, adverbially in vain): - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, and in vanity. God also tells us that using God's name in vain is heathenistic, *"For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain."* Psalms 139:20 Therefore, we must conclude that at the very least it is a sin to use God's name in a lesser way than holy, in majesty, in the highest form of reverence, or righteous way. God said, *"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name."* Psalms 111:9 The word "reverend" means - to fear; or to morally to revere - we all know what it is to fear, but what does it mean to "revere", it means - to feel deep respect or admiration for His name. Therefore, let us define what it meant by using God's name in vain, to show a little respect for it, to have little or no fear of God, or not to have enough respect for His name to use it only in a Holy way. God reminds us of this about Him, *"Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion."* Psalms 111:1 - 4 I believe that the most degrading and despicable thing a Christian can do is use God's name in a vain way of any sort. God's name, and this is any name referring to God, the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit is to always only to be used in a Holy and Reverence way. I know that sometimes Christians have a slip, or sometimes maybe ignorance is the reason for using His name in a vain way, but if you read this article or any like it, then you are without excuse and responsible to God. God is Holy and God should be Reverenced or Feared, therefore it is awful and unholy to belittle God's name in any way. God is loving, merciful, and gracious to every single soul that is saved and to use His blessed name with any sort of vain is unrighteous. One writer said, *"The "Name of God" meant much more than the mere breathing of an*

articulate word by which men spoke of Him. It meant God in His reality, in His immanence, in His eternity. To take His name in vain — that is, to no purpose — is to trifle with Omnipotence; it is to treat Him as though He were not. Thou takest His name in vain when thou triest to forget or ignore Him, to live without Him, more defiant than the very devils, to believe yet not to tremble.” I must agree, to take God’s name in vain is to belittle God and treat His blessed name as though it is meaningless. Whenever a Christian uses God’s name in an unholy and vain way it is dishonorable to His glory, and everything we speak about our Father, His Son, or His Spirit should only be to edify His glory. Just as Christians speak of each other, never should a Christian belittle or dishonor another believer in Jesus Christ. God said, “*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*” Romans 14:19 God is our Father and Jesus is our Saviour and God controls all, therefore it is disgraceful to disrespectful for anyone who belongs to God to misuse His Blessed Name. God said in 1 Corinthians 12:3, “*Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*” This word “accursed” means to take the name of Jesus useless or to think of His works as useless. To do this is like taking God’s name as useless as using it in vain. We must also consider “To take” the Name of God, any Name of God, or “to take it up” that is to use it in any way, which may be done either by speaking to him, of him, for him, or against him. Therefore, this covers a very wide area of our usage. We are not allowed to use God’s name in a false sense, but we are also forbidden to falsely swear by it or use it in a false statement, or a profane way. False teaching for God breaks His law, our teaching must be truth because God’s word is only truth. God’s Name is only glorified in Truth, “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*” John 4:23 - 24 This is done by declaring that God’s Truth in His word, and teaching lies or what he has not said, is to preach lies in God’s Holy Name. It is because they are denying what God has said, which is absolute truth. God explains this in 1 John 5:9 - 11 “*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*” That is, they are calling God a liar and teaching false doctrine in His name, God is only truth, and anything less is a lie, using God’s Holy name in a lie. Whenever any servant for God gives his own thoughts as if they were God’s message, he is taking the Name of God in vain. Or if a man, while professing to speak for God, is speaking with the desire to exalt himself, he is guilty of the same sin. All honor and glory belong only to God, “*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.* Amen.” Ephesians 3:20 – 21 Speaking to the glory ourselves or to credit ourselves using God’s truth or glory is vain and treating God as useless. “...Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” Psalms 29:1 – 2

Please Do Not Use God’s Holy Name in Vain!

Things to think about!

“A Church which does not honor the Bible is as useless as a body without life, or a steam engine without fire.” -J.C. Ryle

“To suppose that temporal things are too little for our condescending God, is to forget that He observes the flight of sparrows, and counts the hairs of his people's heads. Besides, everything is so little to Him, that, if He does not care for the little, He cares for nothing.” -Charles Spurgeon

“We must love the people of God, for God's sake, because they belong to Him and are like Him.” -John Angell James)

“If we find that our prayers are beyond our living, our duty is not to lower them to suit the tenor of our living—but to bring our lives up to the higher standard of our praying!” -J.R. Miller