

**TELECAST SERMON FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018
"USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN"
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Thank you, Melvin!

Indeed, TV viewers, it is very important to keep in touch with the Lord, as much as possible. In spite of the fact that many of us love the Lord and pursue righteousness, we still fall short of the glory of God. I hope and pray that your joining us each Sunday in our weekly "Kingdom of God Crusade Telecasts" is a means, which helps to strengthen your vows with God or creates within you, the desire to make yourself right with Him.

Perhaps, one day soon, you will become an instrument of the Lord and testify of His goodness and mercy to others. And now, do join me in the reading of God's Word and today's sermon entitled, "USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN."

To confirm this message, let us read Exodus 20:7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God is vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

The first commandment says that we are to worship God and Him only. The second commandment forbids us to bow down before any image, but says, to worship Him in spirit and in truth. The third commandment tells us that we are to reverence Him; we are never to use His name in the wrong way.

Well, TV viewers, by now you are assuming that I am about to preach on profanity; aren't you? Yes, but there is much more involved in this commandment. Though it forbids profanity, it forbids much more. What is the most important thought in this commandment? Here it is: the name of the Lord.

Listen to Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

Full of conceit, the rich man trusts in his wealth, while the righteous is truly safe. There is something unique and different about God's name. Now God's name mean something. It is different from all others. "Holy and reverend is His name."

Paul tells us in Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father."

The phrase, "every knee should bow," has not yet come to pass, but it will surely happen when Jesus Christ comes again to rule and reign on this earth. We see that all God is, does and says is included in His name.

The commandment does not simply forbid the vain use of God's name, but all irreverence to God Himself. God is holy, man is human. God is perfect; man is sinful. God is highest over all; men are lowly sinners.

As Paul tells us in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

When man does not show proper reverence for God he is breaking this commandment. There is something personal and individual about a name. A man doesn't like to see his name misspelled or hear it mispronounced. If that is true of us, how much more is it true of God.

His name reveals Himself and is not to be separated from Him. When we show disrespect for His name, we show disrespect for God. The wrong use of God's name is in profanity. It shouldn't be necessary to speak to a Christian congregation about profanity. But it is one of the most common sins of the day.

I fear that many true born Christians are guilty of this sin. This is a cursing age. Men curse, women curse, children curse. They curse on the streets, on the job, in the home, at parties, everywhere and anywhere! This is a sad commentary on our social life.

We read in Eph. 4:29-30, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

"The day of redemption" is the day when our Lord will return to make our bodies like His glorious body.

Listen to I John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear when we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

The true born again Christian's real home is not on this earth. He should live, therefore, as a citizen of heaven. What earthly good does profanity do? A man has a flat tire, and He curses the tire, but that doesn't put air into the tire. A man stumbles upon a chair in the dark and he curses the chair, but that doesn't heal the bruise. A man curses because he loses a game he is playing, but his cursing doesn't win the game. There is absolutely no reward in profanity.

One day I approached a brother in Christ who was cursing. He turned around and saw me, He said, "Excuse me, I didn't know you were present." I told him that I was not the one to whom he should apologize. He has taken the Lord's name in vain, and he should apologize to the Lord Jesus. Remember that God hears you, wherever you are and in whatever you say.

Psalm 139:7-8 tells us, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." These verses tell us that God is omnipresent--He is everywhere!

Jesus said, in Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

Pure water comes out of a pure well; impure water flows out of a polluted well. It is the same with the heart. It may surprise you, to know that profanity is much more common in Christian America than in the heathen countries. Heathens have greater reverence for their false gods than we do for our heavenly father.

Isn't that a sad commentary? We know God. He has richly blessed us, and yet, we continue to take His name in vain. Isn't it true, viewers, that when you curse, you offer a profane and wicked prayer? You ask God to condemn someone, in order to satisfy your passion for revenge.

Paul tells us in Heb. 10:30, "For we know Him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge His people."

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." He also said, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them." Instead of doing that, men ask God to damn someone. Sometimes man says to another, "Go to hell." God has prepared hell for the devil, and his angels.

It is a terrible place, as we read in Mark 9:43-44, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off, it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

Jesus was given a description of the terrors of hell. He taught that the punishment for the person, who will not believe and accept Him, will last forever. Indeed, viewers, profanity not only corrupts you, but it corrupts others, such as when your child hears your profanity and takes it up.

Then there are the situations where if you take a few curse words away from some persons, they are unable to carry on a conversation.

George Washington said, "The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and so low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it."

Now let me tell you, young people, that being able to curse is not the mark of a man. You live in a Christian home, and your parents and the influence of your church keeps your speech clean, while you are growing up, but when you go out into the world, you enter an atmosphere full of profanity. It will grieve you to hear the name of our Lord taken in vain.

Then there is the wrong use of God's name in hypocrisy. When a man says, "Lord, Lord," and lives a sinful life, he is guilty of breaking this commandment. Profanity in church is worse than profanity on the street.

Once upon a time a donkey suddenly became rich. He thought he was too good to associate with the other donkeys, and therefore decided to become a horse. He went to the hairdresser, had his ears trimmed and pinned down, and went out into the high society of horses. Everything went well, until he was asked to sing. The minute he opened his mouth, they knew what he was -- a hypocrite.

Thus it is that men today go among the people of God and profess to be true born again Christians, but their hearts are black with sin, for they don't know Jesus Christ. They are breaking the commandment, which forbids hypocrisy.

Sacred music is a wonderful thing and lifts us up toward God, but it is hypocrisy to sing and talk of the love of God and live for the world.

There is also the wrong use of God's name in empty vows. Any man, who makes a pledge to the Lord and breaks that pledge, has taken on His name in vain.

Listen to Eccl. 5:4-5, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools; pay that which thou has vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

In other words, TV viewers, be careful what you promise God, for if the thing you promise to do for Him is something right in itself, it will be a sin for you, not to fulfill it. Mean what you say and say what you mean, and do not be a hypocrite or a liar.

Take the example of Jacob. We read in Genesis 28:20-22, "And Jacob vowed a vow, saying if God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God. And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

Therefore, keep your vow to God. If one has not already done so, it is of the utmost importance for that individual to concede to Jesus in full repentance. True repentance is to profess Godly sorrow for sins committed. However, repentance is only the initial step towards full salvation.

One must go beyond that and be baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus. If you have been baptized the Lord's way, you do not have to be rebaptized. "Oh," you exclaim, "I did not realize there was such a thing as the Lord's way in baptism and in the salvation of my soul." Let me assure you there certainly is, and one of my purposes, here and now, is to ensure that you are apprised of it.

There was a certain Jew, named Apollos, who fervently edified the Lord. But there was one critical flaw in his preaching. However, in Apollos' favor, we must concede that he was unaware of that flaw.

We read Acts 18:25-26, "This man Apollos) was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

Apollos was still exhorting John's baptism, unenlightened of both the baptism in the name of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Ghost. However, because Priscilla and Aquila had accompanied Paul extensively, these two knowledgeable companions set Apollos on the right path. From that day forward Apollos preached the Gospel in its fullness, informing those he encountered of all that had transpired.

We read in Acts 18:27-28, "And when he (Apollos) was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed though grace. For his mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."

Paul himself set things in order, too, as he traveled about preaching the Gospel. Listen to Acts 19:1-6, "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. When

they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them, and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Thus, we conclude that there certainly is such a thing, as the Lord's way or the only correct way in salvation. Today we are fortunate to have bible scriptures to confirm this.

Here are words of Jesus Himself in John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Another pertinent scripture is Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

This significant scripture focuses on the entire cycle of salvation: repentance, baptism, the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Furthermore, Acts 4:12 distinctly declares, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

In other words, outside the name of Jesus, one cannot be saved! And that TV viewers, is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in a nutshell. Now, let's refocus upon our message, "USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN."

It is true, viewers, that there is a penalty for breaking the pledge you make before God. I know many people who have pledged to tithe. But when the time came for them to pay their vow, they used the money for something else and broke their pledge to God. They didn't even give God a chance to bless them.

We see that when we break the commandment through disobedience, the Lord will not hold us guiltless. If we are guilty, God will chastise us. We find that the first church founded on the day of Pentecost was prospering.

Naturally, the spirit was running high. The true born again Christians, who were very anxious to see others saved, sold their properties and brought the money to the church to be used in the work of saving souls. In this group was a couple, named Ananias and Sapphira. They decided to sell their land, bring part of the money to the church, and keep the balance for themselves. The next day, we see Ananias bringing the sum of money to the church.

Listen to Acts 5:3-5, "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things."

Some young men took him out and buried him. Three hours later his wife came in not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "tell me whether ye sold the land for so much." She lied just as Ananias had done. Immediately, she fell dead at Peter's feet and was taken out and buried by the side of her husband.

You say that it is not a very serious thing to take the Lord's name in vain as did Ananias and Sapphira. I am sure that as the people watched the young men burying Ananias and Sapphira, everyone must have realized that it is a serious thing to take the Lord's name in vain.

God will not hold anyone guiltless. However, God is a merciful God and in spite of our sins, we have assurance that God loves us and will save us, if we repent of our sins. He tells us, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Peter swore one day saying he didn't know Jesus. In a few minutes Jesus came and looked at him with love, mercy and forgiveness. Peter went out and wept bitterly. In the Bible, we never again hear of him taking the Lord's name in vain. When we repent as he did, the same mercy and forgiveness shall be ours.

There are those, who indulge in destructive criticism, thus taking the Lord's name in vain. There is destructive criticism and constructive criticism. When one man feels there is something wrong in the church, he calls some members aside and harshly criticizes. That is destructive criticism, the kind the devil likes. But another man, having the same feeling keeps quiet about it. He goes to the Pastor, and talks it over, and then he prays about the matter. That is constructive criticism because it leaves no scars.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 7:1-2, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." In other words, do not condemn.

Remember, the church is not perfect, nor the Pastor, Associate Pastors, staff, choir, and band members. But neither is anyone else. Why go around talking about the splinter in someone else's eye, when one has a big piece of timber in his own?

No, we are not perfect, if we were we would be in heaven today. There are lots of people who are happy working for the Lord. While others love to criticize them. It is a dangerous thing to criticize the Lord and the servant of God.

Listen to Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

Another thing the Church could do without, and that is for anyone to say, "It can't be done!" The church is no place for pessimism. We have a great God and a great mission, which is to preach "The Gospel of the Kingdom of God" to every creature, so that they can receive the salvation of their souls.

For an illustration, a great building is being constructed. Two groups of men are there. One group working, the other group standing on the sidelines, saying "It can't be done." Finally the building is completed, the worker is rewarded, while the knocker stands aside and grumbles.

The church is a great spiritual building and every one of us can have a part in the work. At the end of the way a crown of reward will be given to the builder, there is nothing for the knocker.

Another thing the church could do without is lazy people, who thereby take the Lord's name in vain. For example, an ox and mule worked together. One day the ox decided that he wouldn't work, so he stayed in the barn. That night he said to the mule, "Did the boss say anything about my not working

today?" And the mule answered, "No, he didn't say anything about your not working, but I noticed, he had a long talk with the butcher on the way home."

Even God can't use lazy people. Check the bible and you'll find that he called only the busy people into His service. If you want something done, always ask someone who is busy.

Proverbs 19:24 tells us, "A slothful man (lazy) hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."

What a picture of a man, who is even too lazy to feed himself! Some people are too lazy to get up on Sunday morning and go to church. Some are too lazy to attend prayer services.

Another way of taking the Lord's name in vain is by being a gossip monger. It seems that we have these people always with us. They gladly pick up a little gossip, roll it over and under their tongue a few times, enlarge and send it on its way. They never check to ascertain the truth; they just send the gossip rolling.

Well, suppose we know someone who has done wrong. What should be the true born again Christian's right attitude to exhibit? Should we be silent or should we tell someone else about it?

Listen to Gal. 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

The word, "restore," here has the meaning of setting, like the resetting of a bone which is done by a surgeon. When a person does wrong, we should make every attempt to restore him, to get him back in the right place. We must restore, not tear down, we are to pull up, not push down.

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at <http://Jesuscomingsoon.org>.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Head Pastor William Han, Jr. expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

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