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spiritual > news

That Name

By L. David Harris, CUC's assistant registrar



"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."

After all He's done for us, dare we misuse His name? *The name of God is holy. The ways in which He has revealed Himself throughout history show us clearly that He is no lightweight God. In His name judgments were pronounced, messages delivered, and vast armies defeated. In God's name kings, pharaohs, and governors were brought under subjection. In His name, diseases were cured, ailments sent to flight, and devils exorcised. The name of God is not to be treated lightly.* Exodus 20: 7

God's people have associated names of God with important junctures in their lives. In the case of Abraham on Mount Moriah, God was the Provider. In the case of Moses facing the charge to begin the exodus, He was the Lord; the One who is with you. In the creation, He was the Almighty One upon whom the worlds were established.

Looking closely at these realities gives us a view of why it is no small matter to misuse His name. Often I watch shows on cable that are good in general. I have noticed that even in the least offensive of them, the name of the Lord is treated lightly. One such example is in all of the home makeover shows that I have seen. Invariably, when homeowners see the great job the designer has done, they begin to repeatedly use God's name, not in worship or adoration, but in superficial surprise with no regard for His holiness. This neither pleases God nor does it bring Him glory.

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				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

40 events

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Weather in our Nation's Capital



42° F
Cloudy
Wind 6 mph
from the West
Humidity 56%

Another way that may be more offensive is when we wear the name of God, and then chronically do things He disapproves of. Does He get any praise when we claim to be His, yet do not allow Him to control our lives? A whole world is watching even when we are not aware, and they blaspheme God when they recognize hypocrisy. Let us accept the name of God in our lives as it is our privilege to, and worship Him as He deserves. Many people will be won to the Lord if we would simply live as those that reverence His name.

L. David Harris, CUC's assistant registrar, is the author of "Know Peace Within—A Life in Transition," and a two-volume set titled "Alive at 5—Victory in Retrospect." For more information on these books, visit www.aliveatfive.com or www.knowpeacewithin.com

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