

Catechism: Week 3 of February 13, The Second Commandment:

Exodus 20:7 You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Luther asks: What is God's name? God, as He has revealed Himself to us, His essence and His attributes.

- God said to Moses in Exodus 3:14, "I AM WHO I AM".
- In Isaiah 9:6 "To us a child is born, to us a son given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah prophesied this centuries before Christ came! We hear these attributes of God put into music at Christmas time in Handel's: *Messiah!*

Search other Scriptures for more revelations of God and His attributes: Jeremiah 23:6, Matthew 1:21, Matthew 18:20 Matthew 28:19 and John 1:1...

NOW read the second half of this commandment! What does God forbid?

What God is saying here is there is immediate threat of punishment when we use His name in vain!!!

- Are we giving God a "bad name" when we use it badly?
- Doesn't this diminish people's beliefs, respect and awe for God?
- Swearing in God's name is taking an oath, in which we call on God to witness the truth of what we say or promise and to punish us if we lie or break our promise.

What does God require of us in the Second Commandment?

- We should call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks. Read Ps. 50:15...call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.
- Ps 103:1 Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy name.
- Ps. 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.
- John 16:23 My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.
- Eph. 5:20 Give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

Holy God, whose name is to be honored above all names, give to us a sense of awe and gratitude. Empower us to speak your name boldly in praise and thanks. Help us to discern what is holy and as your children, give honor to your name in all we do and say. Amen

Devotion:

Dearest Jesus,

Guard my speech so that I refrain from cursing, lies and deceit. May my mouth instead become an instrument of thanksgiving and praise, that others may know of your glory. In your precious name I pray. Amen

Prayer and devotion from: "*Prayers*" based on Luther's Small Catechism: by Donald A. Wisner: 1991 Augsburg Fortress, pg.5.