

# Hallow God's Name

Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer

Psalm 20 Philippians 2:1-11 James 3:3-10 Luke 24:46-53

September 17, 2023

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Do you know how you were named? Perhaps you have a family member's name; or you are named after someone significant to your parents. Perhaps your name comes from the Bible, or maybe your parents were working with a theme when naming you. Or maybe your folks just liked the name, and wanted to give it to you as a special gift. *Your name is your identity; it is how people know you, and it carries your reputation.*

God's Name is like that also --- it's special, and it is how we know Him. His Name carries His reputation. God's Name describes Him and helps us understand Who He is and what He has done for us. The Bible uses different names to help us learn who God is, and what He is like. For example, Names for God in the Bible include

- ➔ **Elohim** -- which means the all-powerful God of Creation
- ➔ **Yahweh** -- the personal Name of God -- which means I AM WHO I AM; we know this name today as the word "Lord" -- this Name highlights God's saving work
- ➔ **El Shaddai** -- is a Name that means the "God Almighty" -- He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob -- the God of life who gives life.
- ➔ You are familiar with **Immanuel** -- and Name given to the Virgin's Son that means "God with us"
- ➔ **And of course, the most significant Name is the Name Jesus, which means Savior!** There is no other Name under Heaven by which we must be saved; and at the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father!

Jesus teaches us in *the Lord's Prayer* that we are to "**hallow**<sup>1</sup>" God's Name. To *hallow* God's Name means that we intentionally keep it **holy** and set it apart as **special**; it means that we hold God's Name in **respect & reverence**; and that we use it in the ways He teaches us!

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<sup>1</sup> "Hallow" is an old English word with German origins that means "holy, sacred, consecrated, and blessed." It has the idea that something revered and respected.

### THE FIRST PETITION of the Lord's Prayer

Hallowed be Thy name.

*What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

*How is God's name hallowed?*

God's name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God's name among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

How to keep God's Name holy in our lives is **NO MYSTERY**.

The **Second Command** clearly teaches us how to hallow God's Name in our lives.

### THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

Taking God's Name in vain<sup>2</sup> is sin; it is blasphemy and it profanes God's Name in your life.

***Taking God's Name in vain means that you are NOT HALLOWING it in your life!***

- If you curse, if your language is vulgar, if you use profanity, cusswords, and four-letter words, *then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's Holy Name*
- If you take frivolous oaths, if you swear to "this or that" to affirm your words, if you "cross your heart and hope to die", *then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's Holy Name*
- If you are involved in Satanism, witchcraft, or the occult in any way; if you dabble in mysticism, astrology, or the paranormal, then *you are blasphemous, and you profane God's Holy Name*
- If you support or promote false teachers of God's Holy Word, or you encourage false doctrines which lie and deceive with God's Holy Word, *then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's Holy Name*

*It's hard to think of yourself as a **blasphemer**, isn't it?* But that is the reality every time you do not hallow God's Name in your life. Today repent! Watch your language! Think about the words that you say! Set a guard on your lips! Do not take God's Name in vain! If you have blasphemed God and His Holy Name with your words, then repent!

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<sup>2</sup> "Vain" comes from a Latin word that means "empty, without substance." If you take God's Name in vain, it means that you consider it empty and without value.

God's Name is so Holy that *everyone who calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved*. The **Lord God Almighty** sent His only begotten Son **Immanuel** to take your sins and their punishment upon Himself.

God gave His Son the Holy Name of **Jesus** – a Name that means **Savior**. Jesus is the Holy and Righteous One, and He takes your unholy and unrighteous words to the cross, where He suffered and died for you. Through faith, He declares you to be holy and righteous: you are forgiven and renewed! Because of the Name of Jesus, you are cleansed from your sin, guilt and death! *Everyone who calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved!*

Even your words have been redeemed; your blasphemous and profane words have been forgiven. God gives you new words to speak, words of righteousness, grace, peace, and encouragement; **God gives you His very own Name to speak with your very own lips!**

Your words either **reflect your faith** in a Holy, Saving God; or they will **betray a lack of faith** in the Holy, Saving God. **The Lord's Prayer teaches you to keep God's Name holy in your life!** Hallowed be Thy Name!

You keep God's Name Holy in your life when you use it in God pleasing ways.

- ➡ You *hallow God's Name* when you **pray** --- when you take advantage of the access you have to God the Father in Heaven.
- ➡ You *hallow God's Name* when you **thank and praise** Him for Who He is and what He has done for you
- ➡ You *hallow God's Name* when you **help, support and encourage** other people in the Name of the Lord
- ➡ You *hallow God's Name* when you **continually learn** what the Bible teaches you about His Name; as you strive to be a biblically literate and a doctrinally sound disciple.
- ➡ You *hallow God's Name* when you **confess it before men** so that they too *may call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved!*

You keep God's Name Holy in your life when you use it in God pleasing ways.

If you take a step back and look at your entire Christian faith and life, it becomes clear that **EVERYTHING** about your life as a disciple is framed by God's Holy Name. Listen to how the Bible talks about God's Name intersecting with your own life:

- ⑥ You were **baptized** in God's Name: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt 28)
- ⑥ Your **sins are forgiven** in the Name of the Triune God; Absolution
- ⑥ You receive **grace** in Jesus' Name (Rom 1:5)

- ⑥ We **sing hymns** in God's Name (Rom 15:9)
- ⑥ You are **justified and sanctified** in the Name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11)
- ⑥ You **give thanks** to God in the Name of Jesus (Eph 5:20)
- ⑥ You **pray** in the Name of Jesus (John 14:13)
- ⑥ You **confess the Name of Jesus** before the world (Matt 10:32)
- ⑥ You are to **stay away from false teachers** in Jesus' Name (2 Thes 3:6)
- ⑥ We live **holy lives** in the Name of the Lord (2 Tim 1:19)
- ⑥ We are **persecuted** because of the Name of Jesus (1 Peter 4:14-16)
- ⑥ The Lord is with us whenever **2 or 3 are gathered** in His Name (Matt 18:20)
- ⑥ We **gather for worship** in the Name of God (Heb 13:15 / Invocation)
- ⑥ **Everything we do** in daily life we do in the Name of Jesus (Col. 3:17)
- ⑥ You are **blessed** by the Name of God (Num 6 / Benediction)
- ⑥ You will **bow down** to the Name of Jesus on the Last Day (Phil 2:10)
- ⑥ **Preaching** occurs in the Name of Jesus (Acts 9:27)
- ⑥ **Miracles** are done in the Name of Jesus (Acts 3:6)
- ⑥ **Demons are cast out** in the Name of Jesus (Acts 16:18)
- ⑥ *Everyone who **calls on the Name of the Lord** will be saved* (Rom 10:13)
- ⑥ In Heaven, **God will write His new Name** on us (Rev 3:12)

*God's Name permeates every area of your life!*

No wonder the Second Commandment teaches us not to take it vain!

God's Name is Who He is; it's His reputation and how we know our God. It is sacred and holy.

In the Lord's Prayer, the first thing Jesus teaches us to pray is:  
*Hallowed be God's Name!*

Amen!

Lord God Almighty, thank you for revealing yourself through Your Name.

We thank you that our lives intersect with Your Name in so many ways.

We thank you for the faith to call upon Your name for salvation. Help us to hallow your Name with our with our words and our lives. Guard us and protect us from taking your name in vain.

We pray this in Jesus Name and by the power of the Holy Spirit, amen!

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## **Psalm 20**

1 May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. 3 May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. 4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. 5 We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests. 6 Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heaven with the saving power of his right hand. 7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. 8 They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. 9 O LORD, save the king! Answer us when we call!

## **Philippians 2:1-11**

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **James 3:3-10**

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

## **Luke 24:46-53**

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.