

# What's the Big Deal with Taking God's Name in Vain?

- A. One of the first responsibilities of new parents is to \_\_\_\_\_ their child; we don't name ourselves.
- B. By contrast, no one ever named God; his name is chosen and \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. Much More Than a Name

- A. At the burning bush in *Exodus 3*, God revealed his name to Moses (3:13-15).
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ literally means, "I am who I am" or "I will be who I will be."
  - 2. "LORD" speaks to God's self-existence, self-sufficiency, and supreme sovereignty.
- B. We quickly discover that *Yahweh* is more than just a name; it is God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1. The name appears almost 7,000 times throughout the Old Testament.
  - 2. It is a name, according to the Revealer, that is to be held \_\_\_\_\_ (*Exo 20:7a*). Literally, "*You shall not lift up the name of the LORD your God for \_\_\_\_\_.*"
- C. Our Creator's name has deep spiritual significance. To treat it like something worthless is \_\_\_\_\_—treating something sacred as common (*Lev 22:15-16; Acts 24:16*).
  - 1. "...for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (*Exo 20:7b*).
  - 2. Example: "...the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name..." (*Lev 24:10-16*).
- D. When God says that we will be held accountable, we should take him at his word! (*Mal 2:1-2*)

## II. God-Breathed Input for Christians

- A. The same principle of honor for God can be found throughout the New Testament:
  - 1. "*To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be \_\_\_\_\_ and glory forever and ever*" (*1 Tim 1:17*).
  - 2. "*Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive \_\_\_\_\_ and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created*" (*Rev 4:11*).
  - 3. "*\_\_\_\_\_ and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen*" (*Rev 7:12*).
- B. Most certainly there are times when saying or singing "O my God" is appropriate and honorable.
- C. "*Let your speech always be gracious, \_\_\_\_\_ with salt...*" (*Col 4:5-6; Matt 5:13*).
  - 1. "God" is not a throw-away, empty, frivolous word to be mindlessly used whenever I'm surprised, excited, amazed, shocked, or looking to accentuate something like everyone else.
  - 2. "*To him be honor...*" (*1 Tim 6:15-16*) in the way we talk and the way we live.