

Leviticus 24; Lord's Day 36

HONORING GOD'S NAME

- I. His holy name.
 - A. God's "name" is His revelation of Himself to man.
 - 1. It is God Himself as He reveals Himself, which is to be loved and honored as we would Him: Ps. 5:11; 7:17; 116:13).
 - 2. The tabernacle and temple were where God's name is: Deut. 16:2; I Kings 5:5).
 - 3. Jesus is God's best revelation, graciously saving a people from sin.
 - B. Through His Name (revelations) God shows Himself so that man is able to know Him.
- II. The use of God's names.
 - A. Obviously are we to handle God's names with awe and praise befitting His awesome holiness, greatness and majesty!
 - B. We are forbidden using His name in "vain," i.e., emptying of the name of honor.
 - 1. It is any use of God's name which makes Him common and obliterates the distinction between God and man.
 - 2. Any neglect or casual use of God's name is prohibited because it lowers our sensitivity to His tremendous worthiness.
 - 3. Profanity is to use God's name with total disregard to the honor and holiness due to Him.
 - 4. Also all thoughtless use of His name in prayers (vain repetitions) and any inappropriate use of His Word.
 - C. Instead we are to use God's name with great reverence, honoring Him.
- III. God adds incentive to this commandment: "not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."
 - A. The penalty is nothing less than death (Leviticus 24:15).
 - B. Let this lead us to great care to use His name with fear and reverence.