

Using God's Name

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not [a]leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain." Exodus 20:7

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
Psalms 8:1

"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
Matthew 12:36-37

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue," Proverbs 18:21

January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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God's Revelations

Mike Johnson

Some people do not believe that God has revealed Himself to mankind. In fact, they do not even believe that God exists. These people are called atheists. Another group, the deists, believe in the existence of a deity, but they think He has not given us a specific revelation; they believe God created the earth and those who inhabit it and just went off and left. According to this position, God is not in any way involved in the affairs of people today. Finally, another group, the agnostics, do not know whether there is a god or not — there may or may not be, according to them.

It should be evident to everyone that there is a God. The beauty and orderliness of the universe say there is a God. Things did not just come together by accident — there must be some power and intelligence behind the universe and earth's existence. Psalms 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." We know that design demands a designer. Someone mighty and intelligent created this "design." From this, many conclude that there must be a god! This type of revelation is called "natural" revelation. Natural revelation tells us about a god but not about the God.

Fortunately, God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 3:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13). Because we have the Scriptures, we can learn about the God. We understand what His will and expectations are for us — we learn about His compassion and love and that He is a god of justice who expects obedience (John 3:16; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Without the Scriptures, we would not know the answers to three great questions that plagued humanity. They are: where did I come from, what am I doing here, and where am I going? Since God has given us a special revelation, the Scriptures, we can learn the answers to these questions. The Bible is such an important book; it is God talking to us.

We have a natural revelation, which tells us that a god must exist. But thankfully, there is a special revelation, the Scriptures, which tells us about the God of heaven and through which he communicates to people today.

Are You Searching for Truth?

By Ron Bartanen

Are you searching for truth? Some are not searching because they don't believe in absolute truth—everything to them is relative. Others are not searching because their church tells them what the truth is. These feel they already have the fullness of truth. All should heed Paul's warning: *"Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things"* (Acts 20:30). Others seek the truth in their own hearts, though the Bible warns, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked"* (Jeremiah 17:9). The importance of seeking truth is emphasized in Scripture. The wise man Solomon advised, *"Buy the truth and sell it not"* (Proverbs 23:23). In the marketplace of ideas, one must be careful to distinguish the true from the counterfeit. Jesus said, *"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free"* (John 8:32).

How will we know the truth when we see it? Ultimate truth is found in Jesus, who said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me"* (John 14:6). Truth is found in His word, the Scriptures, of which Paul wrote, *"All scripture is inspired of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Reverencing God's Name

By Mike Riley

In today's digital world, it's sometimes difficult to keep up with the abbreviated terminology that accompanies today's fast-paced, youth-oriented electronic communication. For example, in the "Instant Messaging" (IM) world, the text-message language, "laughing out loud" becomes "lol." The phrase, "By the way" becomes "btw." And regrettably, some people are using "omg" for "Oh, my God!"

This last phrase seems to be on the lips of many who receive startling news. But as Christians, we need to stop and think before we utter this or any other phrase that flippantly uses God's name (cf. Exodus 20:7).

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in Matthew Chapter 6, the first thing He told them to say was this: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"* (Matthew 6:9). Clearly, God's name itself is special. It encompasses His holy nature (1 Peter 1:15-16; cf. Leviticus 11:44-45), His teachings (2 Timothy 3:15 - KJV; cf. John 5:39); His moral authority (John 17:1-3; cf. John 8:10-11; Mark 2:1-12;), and His moral character (1 Thessalonians 4:7; 2 Peter 3:11). To speak the name of God is to call on the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Hebrews 1:1-3; cf. Acts 17:24-25; Nehemiah 9:6).

In every way possible, we should honor and protect God's holy name, preserving its use for those occasions when we are speaking of Him or addressing Him in faith (Psalm 111:9 KJV; cf. Luke 1:49).

Let's be careful never to turn the hallowed name of Almighty God (Genesis 17:1 KJV) into just another flippant phrase on our lips or in a digital text message.

***"May all I am and do and say
Give glory to my Lord always;
And may no act of mine cause shame
Nor bring reproach upon His name."***

-Anonymous -