

INTRODUCTION

Among the people of the world around us, it is very common for them to take the name of the Lord on their lips. They often say, "O my God" or "My God" or just "God." These days they might text the letters "OMG." Or they might use the name of our Savior, "Jesus" or His title, "Christ," or both His name and His title together, "Jesus Christ."

But they are not taking His name reverently to bring Him glory, or to do some good for their fellow men. Nor are they sanctifying His name, setting it apart as holy.

Instead, their words are profanity: they are profaning the name of the Lord, treating it as if it were just some common word. In the words of the Third Commandment, they are taking the name of the Lord in vain.

Today we open the Bible together to hear that commandment, to reject the way of the world, and to know how righteously to say, "O my God."

TEXT

Exodus 20:7

BODY

The way of the world around us is to take the name of the Lord in vain, saying "O my God" to no good purpose. But the Bible teaches us to say, "O my God"

- I. To Call for Him to Save Us v. 4
 - A. Deliver; cause me to escape; save me v. 2
 1. David would have been referring primarily to saving from enemies trying to kill him
 2. we can learn here also to call on God to save us from suffering the penalty we deserve for our sins
 - B. To save us as we trust in Him v. 1
 1. everything about how He has dealt with us has taught us to trust in Him v. 5
 2. we both trust in Him as to things present and hope in Him for things future v. 5
 - C. We know He will save us when we call on Him in faith v. 3
 1. He is a strong habitation to which we can go
 2. He has given the command to save those who call on Him to save
 - D. Isn't it a marvel of God's grace that He will allow us to call on His name in faith, and be saved through Jesus Christ, even when our sin was taking His name in vain! He is so merciful that when He has heard our lips take His name in vain, He still will save when we take His name to call on Him to save us from the penalty we incurred by that sin.

The way of the world around us is to take the name of the Lord in vain, saying "O my God" to no good purpose. But the Bible teaches us to say, "O my God" to call for Him to save us; and

II. To Call for Him to Help Us v. 12

A. By defeating our adversaries v. 13

1. wicked men are usually the ones seeking our hurt; so we call for God to confound them for us
2. but the Bible also teaches us that our battle is not ultimately against flesh and blood, but against wicked spiritual powers (Eph 6:12); so we pray, calling on the name of the Lord to help us stand against them

B. By strengthening us to teach the next generation v. 18

1. it is our purpose to speak of God's righteousness and salvation v. 15
2. we know that it requires the strength of the Lord to do that v. 16
3. while we were young, God has taught us about Himself; and we have, to some degree, told others about Him v. 17
4. as we get older, we call to God for His strength not to leave us until we have told of Him to the next generations v. 18

C. By raising us from death to life v. 20

1. figuratively here; acknowledging that troubles in this life can be so severe as to feel like death; but we call "O God" and He will bring us through
2. prophetically of Jesus Christ
3. eschatologically of our resurrection at the last day

[If I am out of time already at this point, I can conclude here.]

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III. To Praise Him v. 22

A. Both for His perfections and for His works

1. His perfections

a) truth or faithfulness v. 22

b) holiness v. 22

c) righteousness v. 24

2. His works: what He has done for us

a) v. 23b KJV, NKJV, ESV redeemed GEN delivered

b) v. 24 confounded our enemies

(1) wicked men in this life

(2) the things that tempt us: the world, the flesh, and the devil

(3) death and the grave

B. Both with instruments and with the mouth v. 22, 23, 24

C. Both audibly with the lips, for others to hear, and inaudibly, in the soul, for only God to hear v. 23

D. With rejoicing v. 23

CONCLUSION

The way of the world around us is to take the name of the Lord in vain, saying "O my God" to no good purpose. But the Bible teaches us to say, "O my God" to call for Him to save us, to call for Him to help us, and to praise Him, both for His perfections and His works by which He has created us, provided for us, and saved us through Jesus Christ.

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 25:1-2a

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul

O my God, in you I trust

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading - Psalm 71

Stephen - Congregational Prayer

Lord's Prayer - Ps 22:1, 7-8, 16, 18, 19-21

Angie - Prelude - "Be Thou My Vision"

Rita - Trinity 387 "I Love to Tell the Story" - Andrew lead

Haven - Trinity 522 "Through All the Changing Scenes" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 176 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

To read before Bob's report: Acts 14:27

Remember to tell Peter that his scripture reading is postponed from next week until the following:

Peter - Scripture Reading - Romans 13:8-14

Psalm 71

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

- I. Let No Corrupt Communication Come Out of Your Mouth, Even If It Has No Particular Reference to the Name of the Lord
 - A. One kind of rotten speech is Vulgarity
 - B. Another kind of rotten speech is Obscenity
- II. Let No Corrupt Communication Come Out of Your Mouth, If It Invokes the Name of the Lord Without Actually Mentioning Him
 - A. Swearing
 - B. Cursing
 - C. Blessing
- III. Let No Corrupt Communication Come Out of Your Mouth, If By It You Take the Name of the Lord In Vain
 - A. Profanity
 - B. Blasphemy