

and this will encourage us in better conduct. To be light or careless is not to be overlooked. Right usage is the only course.

The Third Command: Broader Application

On this point it is good to observe that it is not just how we say the name of God, it is how we take it up. One may say that he honors God and never speaks His name in error. But should that person act wickedly towards another, he is at that point making misuse of God's name! The one who is called by the name of the Lord is in a responsible position of showing the goodness of God, in all things. A professedly godly person who lives otherwise dishonors the name of God with the deeds of life no matter what he does with his lips.

I was struck when reading an article in the Biblical Archaeological Review. Writing on the Qumran literature, a scholar had photographically reproduced some lines of Biblical text. The editor noted that the name of God appeared on this plate and he trusted, as did the author, that all who received the magazine would do nothing to defile or disgrace the name of God. As impressive as this is, it is even more worthy to remember that it is not just the written name but in particular the name that is borne on our lips and shown in our lives.

The Third Command: New Testament concepts

There is a quality about the Lord's name that is not easily reduced to a few words. That quality is so marked with perfection as to set the name of God apart from all others. That is why, when Jesus taught his followers to pray, they were taught to think first of the name of God. "Hallowed by thy Name", said Jesus and those words have echoed in the