

## ***“THE RENOWN OF HIS NAME”*** The Third Commandment

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### **INTRODUCTION**

*The first commandment tells us we need to have the right God on the throne of our lives. The second commandment counsels us to make sure we really are worshipping Him, and not just a shadow of who He is. The third commandment now tells us that even His name is to be held in honor and respect. Every time we utter God's name, or sing it, we must do so thoughtfully. We should never use His name frivolously or mechanically, and it goes without saying that we should never use it profanely.*

*Tim Vandembos, the director of our church camp, used to have a German shepherd named Jesse, which he bought while serving in the Army overseas. Stationed in a guard tower for long stretches of time without human companionship, Tim developed a warm relationship with his dog. Naturally, the dog developed an intense loyalty to Tim.*

*Years later, at our camp in upper Michigan, Jesse still followed Tim everywhere. They separated only when Tim had to go down the river for supplies. Then Jesse would lie on the dock, ears drooping and sick at heart, to await Tim's return. Some of the camp workers who knew of Tim's relationship with his dog occasionally walked down to the beach to have a little fun.*

*“Hey, Jesse,” they would taunt, “where's Ralph?” Jesse would not respond.*

*“Hey, Jesse,” they would try again, “where's Joe?” Still no response.*

*“Hey, Jesse, where's Tim?” At that point, Jesse would go wild! His ears would perk up, his tail would wag, and he'd start running back and forth along the beach, hoping to hear the sound of Tim's returning boat. The mere mention of Tim's name awakened Jesse's feelings of affection for him. A single word brought his master to mind.*

*So it is when we hear, speak, or sing the name of God. Immediately, the truths we know about the One behind that name come into our minds. The third commandment tells us that when such thoughts occur, we'd better be prepared to worship—for the Being who comes to mind is the intrinsically worthy God who created and sustains us, and who gives us hope for the future.*

*-Bill Hybels, Engraved On Your Heart*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share about a time when you did something that embarrassed your parents.
2. What are some ways that we tend to use God's name carelessly in our culture today?
3. What is the significance of a name in the bible?
4. Read the opening words of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9. Also read Matthew 5:33-37. What is our role in the honoring of God's name?
5. Read Psalm 96. What is the theme of this psalm? What are some practical ways in which you need to heed the call of this psalm more in your life?
6. Share some of the convictions that you received today.

*“Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.”*

*-Isaiah 26:8*