

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! Busy-ness! Business! Clutter! And cleaning the gutters! Some of these things you might be wrestling with since the start of autumn—I know things have picked up for me! Our Lord has promised that we can always come to Him and lay our burdens on Him and He will give us rest. I pray God gives me rest as I take time to prepare this article, and for you as you take the time to read this article! Now, after hearing about the great ministry God gives through His chaplains, we're going back to the Commandments!



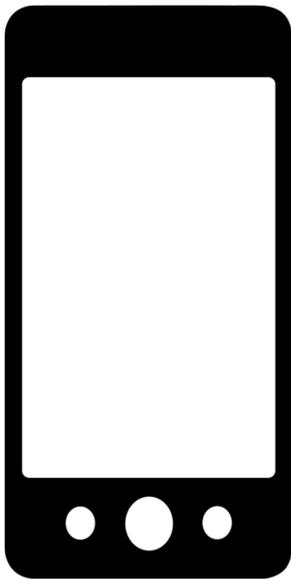
As we were looking at the Second Commandment, Luther told us that “It is a misuse of God’s name if we call upon the Lord God in any way whatsoever to support falsehood or wrong of any kind (Book of Concord (BoC), p.393).” He continues where we left off: “See, all of this is an attempt to deck yourself out with God’s name or to put up a good front and justify yourself with his name, whether in worldly affairs or in sophisticated and difficult matters of faith and doctrine (BoC, p.393).” When do you say “God”? When do you say “Jesus Christ”? Most certainly at church and in your prayers, but when else? Think over the last month, or last week. Were the only times you said or thought about God’s Name in connection with prayer, His Word, or His Divine Service? Or did you use it in combination with curses against that hammer you accidentally hit on your finger? Did you use it in fear, casually and without regard to whom it was invoking? Have you used God’s Name to bear witness to something you were saying? Were you speaking the truth, or just trying to prove that you were correct?

“Let us learn and take to heart how much is at stake in this commandment and diligently guard against and avoid every misuse of the holy name as the greatest sin that can be committed outwardly. Lying and deceiving are themselves great sins, but they become much more serious when we try to justify and confirm them by invoking God’s name and thus make it into a cloak to hide our shame. Thus one lie becomes two—indeed, a whole pack of lies (BoC, p.393).”

Heavenly Father, forgive us for using Your Name without care or thought; through Your Holy Spirit, help us to stop misusing Your Name, and to only “call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks (Luther’s Small Catechism). In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh



When your family has an accident, 1st call for help, then call me! I’m only seven digits/one text away! Thanks!

-Pastor Josh