

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! Another Church Year is drawing to a close; and we give thanks for all that God has taught us through His Word and for every blessing He has given us. Yet until our Lord Jesus returns, things shall continue. Even as we close out this year of learning, we enter a new one as we continue with the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer in our study of the Large Catechism in the Book of Concord (Augsburg Fortress, 2000).



*ANOTHER YEAR OF*

*JESUS' TEACHING*

Last month, we began learning from Luther how God's name is made hallowed among us. It is most certainly holy of itself, but it needs to be kept holy among us as well. "The plainest answer that can be given is: when both our teaching and our life are godly and Christian (BoC, p.445)." That is how God's name is kept holy among us. "Now, the name of God is profaned by us either in words or deeds. (For everything we do on earth may be classified as word or deed, speech or act.) In the first place, then, it is profaned when people preach, teach, and speak in the name of God anything that is false and deceptive, using his name to dress up their lies and make them acceptable; this is the worst desecration and dishonor of the divine name (BoC, p.445)."

It grossly dishonors God when false preachers get up and claim to speak God's Word when they are only speaking their own lies. Many of the so-called prophets at the time of Jeremiah and Isaiah did the same, but God rightly said that it was not He who sent them. Today false teachers abound. These are the ones who add to or take away from the Scriptures God has given us as His Word. Avoid them.

It is just as much of a gross dishonor when we, as Christians—ones bearing the name of our Lord and Savior Christ—tell lies in the name of God. This most certainly involves when you are under oath; but since you bear the name of Christ as a Christian, it applies to the whole of your life and the words you speak.

"Likewise, when people grossly misuse the divine name as a cover for their shame, by swearing, cursing, conjuring, etc. In the next place, it is also profaned by an openly evil life and wicked works, when those who are called Christians and God's people are adulterers, drunkards, gluttons, jealous

persons and slanderers. Here again God's name is necessarily being profaned and blasphemed because of us (BoC, p.445).”

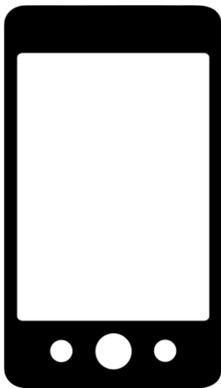
It is sinful and improper to commit sexual sins and overindulge in alcoholic beverages and food in general. It also ruins God's good name when we do it as ones who bear the name of His Son, our Savior. “Just as it is a shame and a disgrace to an earthly father to have a bad, unruly child who antagonizes him in word and deed, with the result that on his account the father ends up suffering scorn and reproach, so God is dishonored if we who are called by his name and enjoy his manifold blessings fail to teach, speak, and live as upright and heavenly children, with the result that he must hear us called not children of God but children of the devil (BoC, p.445).”

You, dear brother or sister in Christ, were bought with a price. Jesus paid the price for your sins on the cross of Calvary; and it is for His sake that you are now a child of God. Resist the devil and all his ways; and he will flee from you (James 4:7). This November, let's show our thanksgiving to God by teaching and living as He would have us to teach and to live. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh

*Have a Blessed and Safe Thanksgiving!!!*



If you have an emergency, I'm just a phone call away!