

Tuesday 14th July 2020

Exodus 20:7. *“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God”*

Matthew 5:34. *“But I tell you, ‘Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is God’s footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.’”*

‘By heavens!’, ‘Gadzooks!’, ‘Bejabers!’, ‘for goodness sake’ and more recently ‘OMG’ are all exclamations that are used to indicate surprise, admiration or disgust. But they are all corruptions of God and Jesus. Are they blasphemous? Are they taking the name of the Lord in vain?

The truth is there are many these days who don’t have the faintest idea of the derivation and meaning of these expressions. They certainly don’t feel uncomfortable using them unlike many who will on hearing them uttered. We are taught by parents and teachers not to swear or has that too gone by the board?

Jesus makes it quite clear that swearing is not acceptable, not Godly, in any circumstances and we as Christians should uphold that truth.

A prayer. Lord, we are careless, disrespectful and ungraceful in our use of your name. Help us to remember why these corruptions are painful to you and strengthen us to correct our own speech and to have the courage to gracefully chide others. Amen