

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 5**  
**Christian Cursing or Cussing**

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**I. Introduction**

This is a delicate, yet important, subject to all the saints today, especially those seeking to live a Godly life. Some Christians today think nothing of taking upon themselves the ways and appearances of the world. In our society nearly every one professes belief in the Lord but few give evidence of repentant, converted hearts that is characteristic of all who are truly saved. An area that points out the worldly Christian is the usage of their language. To accuse professing Christians of using God's Holy name in vain is most likely untrue, however many born again believers use euphemisms for God every day.

**A. What is a Euphemism?**

Daniel Webster's dictionary states: "...to use good or auspicious word for an evil or inauspicious word..." - of good sound. 1. It is the use of a word or phrase that is less expressive or direct but considered less distasteful, less offensive, etc. than another. 2. A word or phrase so substituted. Thus, it is a form of cursing that replaces a direct curse word with a more acceptable word which in effect does the same thing.

**B. The question must be asked of modern-day Christians: Do you ever use the name of the Lord in vain?**

The word "vain" means "empty," "as nothing," or "lightly." When referring to the subject at hand, it applies to "false-swearing" or "light-swearing." These are words that have little meaning, or an empty purpose or something that is said lightly. Some will use the name of the Lord, yet, go on to defend their position by saying, "I didn't mean anything by it." Others make a defense by claiming that God knows our weakness and therefore will forgive us. However, premeditated sin in God's sight is inexcusable.

**C. Are we responsible for our words?**

What does the Scripture say in the 3rd commandment? Exodus 20:7, ***"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."*** The words, "in vain" mean empty, without thought, or lightly. Vain words are clearly a violation of the 3rd commandment and that is a transgression of God's law which is sin according to God's precepts. The Bible. The truth is that God still holds all of us accountable for our words: Matthew 12:36-37, ***"But I say unto you, That every idle***

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***word that men speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be condemned. "***

You may want to say in your defense, "God's saints will not stand in the judgment of sinners." That is true. But beware that words have a way of describing what is in the heart. Matthew 12:34, ***"O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."*** While the truly saved will not be judged as to their eternal position in Christ by their performance of works, they will be judged on what they did and did not do with the gifts God has given to us. 1 Corinthians 3:10 ***According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. Take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*** We learned in our last lesson about the power of the tongue ***Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*** Proverbs 21:23 As born again saints, those changed by the Spirit of God within who have been taken from the pig pen of sin, with the incorrect use of our tongue we may find ourselves back in easier than we think. The scripture says that a pig returns to the mire but that is because of its nature. Therefore, the person who says he or she is a saint of God but speaks with the conversation of the world and is not convicted of the use, may in fact not be saved at all.

Ignorance is no excuse to sin when we have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to keep us in truth. Let us be mindful of our daily conversation so as not to offend God or bring our own soul trouble.

II. Words that are used which involve God's name in vain or with lightness. These definitions will be according to Daniel Webster's Dictionary.

A. Euphemisms of God.

1. Gosh: "...an interjection, an exclamation of surprise: a euphemism for God." The world would make light of the use of this word but the saints ought to heed the meaning of words. It is the using of the word "gosh" in the place of the word "God" to make it seem less offensive.

2. Good: (used by itself or together with other words as in good-night, goodness gracious etc.)

a. The word "good" is often used as an adjective with a descriptive intent by comparison. However, the etymology of the word shows that it is not an innocent word when used as an interjection. The definition of Etymology is: the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history. The etymology of good came from the word "gode;" an Anglo-Saxon god, akin to the German word, Gut.

b. Used as an interjection: "In some exclamatory phrases expressing surprise, alarm, etc. (e.g. good-gracious! good-grief good-night!) Good is a euphemism for God." That includes forms of the word goodness, even when

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we personalize and say "goodness me," there is a wrong connotation it is just a replacement for being able to use the name of the Lord.

3. Golly: "it is an interjection, an exclamation of surprise, etc.: a euphemism of God." It is a milder, socially acceptable way to use God's name in vain. This also includes all the shortened forms as in "gol" (gol-darn).

4. Gee: "it is an interjection (a euphemistic contraction of Jesus), (slang), an exclamation of surprise, anger, pain." All forms of Gee, Geez or Cheez, Cheese, Cheece, Sheece, still relate back to the Lord Jesus Christ when used as an exclamatory remark.

5. Jiminy Crickets: has been used by many over the years, however, it is also a euphemistic expression of Jesus Christ. It is just a way to try to exchange acceptable words with which to euphemistically use our Lord's name lightly. It is an interjection.

6. Many forms of expressions as: Great day, holy Toledo, etc. While the words may not in themselves mean anything wrong, their usage makes them a replacement for the Lord in a stunned or surprised remark.

7. The expression "man at the wheel" has a direct reference to the Sovereign God of the universe who is in control of all things, but here inoffensively applied and taken lightly or disbelieved altogether. It is not a light thing to acknowledge God's sovereignty in an empty statement. For He is Our Sovereign, Holy God.

8. Egad: "(igad,' egad') interj. (prob. ah God), a softened or softened oath."

B. The usurping of God's authority of judgment or making light of His character.

1. Darn: (all forms of this word included) an interjection, a euphemism of the word damn and is a form of a curse. A curse is never inflicted seriously except it calls upon God to do the damning. It places the curser in the seat of authority in God's place to sit judgment over the one being cursed and makes God subordinate to the one using the curse word to inflict damnation at their will. It is calling God to take one's own side and condemn the other person to Hell. It matters not whether the person says, "dag-nabit," or "gosh-darn," or "darnation," all of these words use God's authority and name lightly and wrongfully.

2. Holy Cow: Holiness is an attribute, a perfection of God in which we view God separated from all sin (morally and spiritually). A cow has no soul, it is amoral no understanding of right and wrong. These kinds of words have a way of making light of God's character. There also is nothing Holy about smoke. It too, is a euphemistic way of using a word with a wrong intent to make it seem acceptable, and with lightness (in vain).

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3. The Lord willing and the creeks don't rise: is a mockery of the Lord's sovereignty. As a matter of fact He does control the creek's, therefore, the two are not contrasts.

(Beware of telling of jokes that use the person of God as a character within a joke. While it need not directly attack or directly mock His being, it does use Him in a lightness or manner of foolish jesting.) Ephesians 5:4, ***"Neither filthiness, or foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."***

4. O' my god, O' Jesus, OMG, Dios Mio – Phrases like these should never pass over the lips of a born again believer in Christ but sadly these phrases are used so often by many. If He is truly your God, why would you call on Him with words for senseless expression to your surprise or pain? These phrases are by far the worst violation of Exodus 20:7 ***Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.***

### III. Conclusion:

There is no reason to review the other foul, filthy words of modern-day vocabulary, next time you read the bible do not forget scriptures like these. Ephesians. 4:29, ***"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*** Colossians. 3:8, ***"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."***

The Jews, as was their human custom, would use God to call upon Him to be their witness in oaths. They refrained from using His Holy name in conversation because of His power and Holiness. They had first-hand historical experience for disregarding His Holiness. Yet, because they were not born again their actions were often only legalistic in nature not because of their love and relationship to the Lord. They were commanded to "not swear" in lightness. Matthew 5:34, ***"But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by Heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem: for it is the city of the great King..."*** (vs.37), ***"But let your communication be yea, yea; nay, nay, for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."***

Israel was taking oaths lightly and calling on God to back their position. Jesus said just say yea or nay then back-up your words with action. What is wrong with using sound proper words? Why do Christians need the crude, rank, unwholesome, blasphemous cursing language of the world? Look at Colossians. 4:6, ***"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."***

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To use euphemisms for God is the same as if His own name were used. Christian cursing or cussing is getting more popular and socially acceptable as the world infiltrates the circle of the Lord's people. Remember, it is not always the words by themselves that we use, but often it is the intent of the expression, whether anger, frustration or disagreement that we feel toward God.

What can we do? It is simple. If you have been drawn into the world's usage of these euphemisms; these will break fellowship with our Saviour. Repent, ask God to forgive you and never say them again. Learn to direct our thoughts, words, and feelings to the Lord. He is Holy, Sovereign, Almighty.

He is coming soon!

notes

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### Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 3 Christian Cursing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What is the definition of etymology?
2. Explain the phrase "take heed how he buildeth thereupon."
3. How can the usage of euphemisms damage a babe in Christ?
4. How can I keep my soul from trouble?
5. What are you saying to God when you use the phrase OMG?
6. What's wrong with using the statement: "lord willing and the creeks don't rise?"
7. What should we do is we are guilty of Christian Cussing?
8. In the Bible, how were the Jews using God's name in vain?

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9. Explain Ecclesiastes in relation to this lesson being taught?
10. Why would a Christian use the same conversation as the world?
11. What passage of scripture tells us not to make jokes?
12. Define the word "vain" as used in Exodus 20:7?
13. Why is the Christian not exempt from judgment for Christian cussing?
14. What is the definition of idle words?

**True/false**

- Christian cussing is never acceptable with God.
- To live a holy life God expects the Christian to abide by His laws.
- God knows my weakness in Christian cussing and forgives me without me asking Him.

**Scripture memorization**

Exodus 20:7; Proverbs 21:23; James 3:11

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

Any questions?