

## Want to Know More?

Interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website ([www.jonesroadchurch.org](http://www.jonesroadchurch.org)) for the following resources.

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Recordings of various classes, including an ongoing study of the book of Acts.
- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: [study@jonesroadchurch.org](mailto:study@jonesroadchurch.org)

## Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

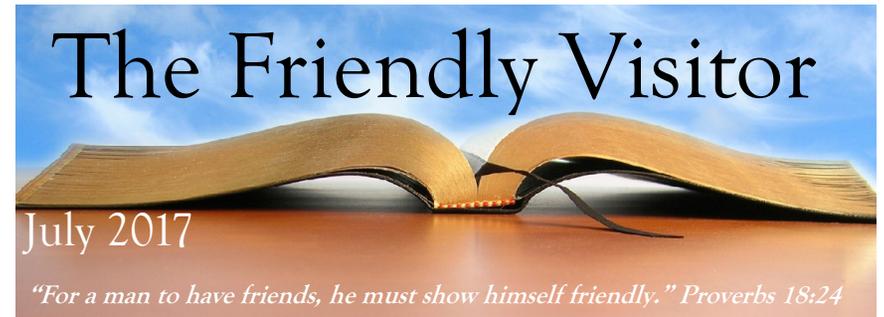
10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

## Jones Road Church of Christ

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## God's Name—Handle with Care!

By Bill Hall

How often do you use terms like “My God,” “O God,” “Dear Lord,” or “Lordy” as mere slang expressions? Do you have no reverence for God and His name? Do you not fear Him? Can you trample God's name under foot and still go guiltless before Him?

Whose name are you taking in vain? It is the Creator of the universe; it is the giver of all good things; it is the One who “*gave His only begotten Son*;” it is the One to whom you want to turn when accident or serious illness or grief strikes within your family; it is the One before whom

judgment  
life is  
stand  
Him in  
all of your  
fanned His  
show

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36-37

you must stand in  
when all earthly  
ended. Can you  
guiltless before  
judgment when  
life you have pro-  
name? Can you

contempt for His name throughout life and still expect Him to hear in your moments of crisis?

Even if you do not reverence God, do you not respect the feelings of those who do? There are people in your community who have a strong faith in God; who praise Him for His mercy and kindness; who even see His hand working through their sorrows and tragedies to bring them closer to Him; who truly love God. We are not speaking of hypocrites whose religion is only an outward show. We are speaking of genuine people who truly reverence God. These people do business with you; they shop where you shop; they attend community meetings which you attend. No, they don't correct you every time you use God's name irreverently, for they are concerned for your feelings; but they are deeply hurt every time they hear the name of their God used so care-

(Continued on page 2)

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29



lessly. Do you not care? Should you not be equally concerned for their feelings?

Now, the fact that you are still reading this article indicates that you do care; otherwise, you would have already thrown this paper away. Your actions are due to thoughtlessness, not maliciousness. Or perhaps no-one has ever pointed out to you the seriousness of taking God's name in vain. It might not be easy to change. Habit can maintain a terrible grip on our lives. But with effort you can succeed. Of course, I would encourage you to go beyond this. I would encourage you to develop love, reverence, and respect for God that would not only regard His name as sacred, but would bring you humbly to His word and will, and to salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. If you do thus submit yourself to God, you will find joy in using His name in prayer and in praise. You will sing of His name and bring honor to His name through your godly life. Isn't this far better than blaspheming His name?

What does the Bible say of God's name? "*Holy and reverend is His name*" (Psalm 111:9). "*O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth*" (Psalm 8:1)! It's God's name. Handle it with care.

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## That's Really Embarrassing...Or Is It?

By John R. Gibson

*"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?*

*No! They were not at all ashamed;*

*Nor did they know how to blush.*

*Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;*

*At the time I punish them,*

*They shall be cast down,' says the Lord."* Jeremiah 6:15

It is not uncommon today to see people out in public exposing as much or more of their bodies as would be seen if they went out in nothing but their underwear. Women wearing low-cut tops. Men going shirtless. Both men and women often expose most or all of their thighs. Skin-tight does not seem like a strong enough description of how tight some clothing is.

People openly speak of living together and will post on social media pictures of unwed mother and dad with their new baby. Divorce is spoken of with no more concern than getting a flu shot.

I'm not saying these things to state the obvious, but to raise a question. Why aren't people embarrassed? Shouldn't people feel some sense of shame to be exposing their bodies the way they do (1 Tim. 2:9-10)?

Shouldn't there be an embarrassment to know people are staring and often having lewd thoughts because of their clothing (Matt. 5:27-28; 18:6-7; Gal. 5:19-21)? Unwed pregnancies once caused embarrassment to everyone involved and people who lived together outside of marriage often tried to keep it a secret from friends and family (Heb. 13:4). What has changed? Why aren't people today embarrassed by these kinds of things?

The answer is really quite simple when we realize embarrassment requires a recognition some standard of conduct has been breached. It might be no more than a social *faux pas* such as using the wrong fork, but we are embarrassed when we know we have crossed some line. Morally, our society has no embarrassment because it recognizes no standard beyond, "God [or is it god?] wants us to be happy." Most will not be embarrassed by actions that violate the Scriptures listed above because they have rejected the Lord's moral authority over their lives. As far as they are concerned, there are no lines to cross, hence no reason to be embarrassed.

It's not difficult for me to understand why the world in general has no sense of shame, but I must admit to struggling to understand why some Christians who claim to reverence God and His word do not blush at some of the things they wear and do. How can I explain people who are seeking to "*perfect... holiness in the fear of God*" (2 Cor. 7:1), be bright lights which lead others to God (Matt. 5:14-16), and live so as not to be a cause of stumbling to others (Matt. 18:6-9) dressing the way they too often do?

I can go on Facebook and see Christians giving their "likes" to the celebration of out-of-wedlock births to mothers who have never demonstrated any godly sorrow or repentance (2 Cor. 7:9-11). When a woman or a man (and men share equally in the guilt) has repented, it is important that we give them support and encouragement (2 Cor. 2:6-8). And regardless of what the parents do, every child is deserving of our love and help, for, despite the sins of the parents, no child is "illegitimate." I don't want anyone, with myself at the head of the list, to do anything but encourage the penitent, but it's not rare to see Christians giving their endorsement to the impenitent engaged in that which should bring shame.

So what is the explanation for Christians doing these things without embarrassment, with no sense of shame? While I was able to explain why it happened in the world, frankly I have no good explanation for this kind of conduct by God's people. I may have some theories, but all I really know with certainty is that the words of James 3:10 apply here: "My brethren, these things ought not to be so."