

Don't stay away from church because there are so many hypocrites. There's always room for one more. — Adams

Vanity

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☞ **A godly stand is not vanity.**

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,” Ephesians 4:17

☞ **Fear of the Lord is not vanity.**

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” Proverb 31:30

☞ **God's creations are not vanity.**

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.” Isaiah 45:18

The best word to define vanity is “emptiness.” No matter how much time and energy one spends in vain things, the results will be nothing of value.

God has so much more to offer you than emptiness. Fill yourself and life with the desires of God. They will have value that will last forever.

How Come?

Harry Todd

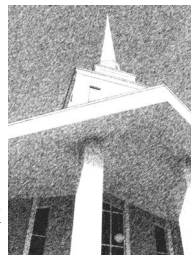
How come at the movies
Popcorn eaters annoy you so,
The smoochers distract attention
But still back again you go?

Then at the supermarket,
When someone crashes the line
Or the clerks upset you,
You will go back every time?

Then you visit a carnival
Where they take all your money,
You gamble and never complain,
And even think it's funny.

How come when it's bargain day
At your favorite store,
You get pushed, kicked, and
scratched,
But next time you're back for
more?

Then how come at
the church,
You happen to get
sore
Or get your
feelings hurt,
And never go back
anymore?



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In Jesus' Name

Barbara Brinkworth

The table was set, the food steaming hot, and the guests seated. It was time to eat; but first, the blessing.

“Dear Lord, thank you for this food, for friends and family to share it with. ... Please bless it to our bodies and



use us to serve you today. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

How often we have heard the phrase used — in Jesus' name. Have we ever given much thought as to what it really means? Actually, it can be used in several ways.

When we pray, we come to the Father in Jesus' name. Why is that necessary? As fallen men, we have no right to request anything of God Almighty. Were it not for

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Vanity

Bill Brinkworth

The world is concerned about many things, many of which are not as important as they would believe. As a Christian, we need to be concerned with the priorities God has set for us. Here is a brief Bible study on “vanity” in hopes that more Christians will understand what is important, and what is not important (vain) in God's eyes.

Webster defines vanity as “emptiness; want of substance to satisfy desire; fruitless desire or endeavor; trifling labor that produces no good; empty pleasure; vain pursuit.” Vanity is a concern for things that really are not that important.

WHAT IS VAIN:

Ideas, popular trends of the world are vain. “And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them,

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In Jesus' Name

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Jesus, there would be no fellowship with God at all. Once we are born-again (John 3:3), and have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, we also are accepted by God. He will honor our requests, because of His love for Jesus and for all those who belong to Him. We ask all in Jesus' name.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commanded his disciples to be witnesses in His name. He would soon go back to heaven (Acts 1:8), because His work on earth was finished. The awesome task of evangelizing the world was left to His church. They would go in the power of the Holy Spirit, but the name they proclaimed was that of Jesus Christ. To this very day, all successful witnessing and missionary work is done in the name of Jesus.

As a believer goes through his daily tasks, he is acting as an ambassador for Jesus Christ. As such, all that he does is done in the name of Jesus. Does he have a good testimony in the community? The credit goes to Jesus. Does he have a reputation for not paying His debts? The blame goes to Jesus. Is he living a life that others would desire to have? If so, many will inquire about his Jesus. If not, he is turning people away from the kingdom of God.

When has any man of prayer told us that prayer has failed him?

— George Bernanos

The Bible says in Phillipians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." We must take seriously all that we do in Jesus' name; that we may bring much glory to our worthy God.

Vanity

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concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them." I Kings 17:15

"They speaking vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak." Psalm 12:2

☞ **The "end justifieth the means" philosophy is vain.**

"The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death." Proverbs 21:6

☞ **The wages of sin are vain.**

"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail." Prov. 22:8

☞ **Love of money is vain.** "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity." Ecclesiastes 5:10

☞ **Foolish desires of youth can be vain.** "Therefore remove

sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity." Ecclesiastes 11:10

☞ **Nations against God are vain.**

"All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah 40:17

☞ **Ungodly wisdom of judges are vain.**

"That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity." Isaiah 40:23

☞ **Good works without salvation are vain.**

"Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion." Isaiah 41:29

☞ **False religion is vain.**

"For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams: they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd." Zechariah 10:2

☞ **Prideful wisdom is vain.**

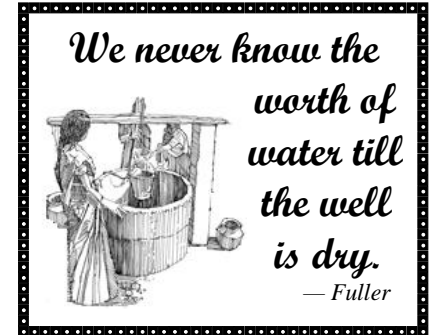
"For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error." II Peter 2:18

☞ **Cursing is vain.**

"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." Exodus 20:7

☞ **Beautifying the flesh is vain.**

"Favour is deceitful, and



beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30

☞ **Customs and traditions are vain, especially religious ones.**

"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe." Jer. 10:2-3

☞ **Philosophies of men are vain.**

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9

☞ **Religion without Christ is vain.**

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." I Corinthians 15:14

WHAT IS NOT VANITY:

☞ **Hard work is not vanity.**

"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." Proverb 13:11

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