

Is it Ever Proper to Say "O My God!?" (What About OMG!)

Douglas Hoff

In this world it is common to hear people utter the three words "O my God!" Anyone who is biblically literate realizes man is not to take the name of the Lord in vain (Ex. 20:7). Even the New Testament shows man ought to hold the name of God in reverence: "Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested" (Rev 15:4 - NKJV). The name of God and His doctrine is not to be blasphemed (1 Tim. 6:1).

When people use those three words as a flippant interjection they are guilty of taking God's name in vain. The same is equally true for the use of Jesus' name. However, the question could rightly be asked, "Is it ever proper to say 'O my God!'" This short expression is found twenty-one times in the Old Testament and not one is irreverent. Consider a few examples:

Arise, O Lord; Save me, **O my God!** For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly (Psa. 3:7).

O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me (Psa. 25:2).

I delight to do Your will, **O my God,** And Your law is within my heart (Psa. 40:8).

Clearly then, there were occasions where it was appropriate to use the phrase: "O my God." Why was it allowable? Because it was uttered in a respectful manner. In the first two verses listed, David was praying for God's help, not mindlessly mouthing amazement. In the third verse, David is correctly employing his tongue to praise his God.

Though the Bible obviously approves of the pious use of the expression, it is likely many Christians would feel uncomfortable saying it. Since the phrase has been so abused by the ungodly it has come to have a negative connotation. If a non-Christian heard a Christian say, "O my God!" he would probably assume the man was acting in a worldly way. The non-Christian might be correct in his assessment. Then again he might be guilty of wrongly judging the other fellow's heart and intentions. Because of situations like this wisdom would suggest we avoid using such language today.

Christians need to be on guard against using language that is unbecoming of a follower of Christ. All our actions ought to be worthy of the name of our Lord (Phil. 1:27; Eph. 5:3). As such, our speech should always be above reproach in all ways (Tit. 2:8).

One trap some disciples have fallen into is the use of euphemisms. Webster's defines euphemism thus: "the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh, or blunt... the expression so substituted: 'To pass away' is a euphemism for 'to die.'"

The prevalence of Internet chat and text messaging has led to the use of many abbreviations to save time as well as space on the small displays of cell phones. One common exclamation is OMG! This is obviously an abbreviation of "O my God!" Some may object saying it really stands for "Oh my gosh!" Well, that is really no better since it is nothing but a euphemism for "O my God!"

As Christians let us keep our speech pure and free from euphemisms like OMG! (Jam. 3:10).

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

"... holy and reverend is His name." - Psalm 111:9 -

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. (Church Building); **Sunday evening, 5:30 p.m.** (Fellowship Building); **Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.** (Church Building).

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY: Each Sunday: 7:30 a.m., WTRF, Channel 7 (Wheeling) and 8:30 a.m., WTOV, Channel 9 (Steubenville).

TIME CHANGE: Next Saturday, October 31st, before going to bed, **turn your clocks BACK one hour.** Daylight Savings Time ends.

PANTRY: Instant potatoes.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Cam Adamson, Charlie Delong, Marlene Evans, Shirley Beagle, Russell Martin, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSS-ROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 110). **BERKELEY SPRINGS REHABILITATION CENTER,** Ernest Robinson, 456 Autumn Acres Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411. **ORCHARDS OF EL REHAB:** Rich Owen. **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham (address on bulletin board). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Christ and His People

HE was born that we might be born again (John 1:14).

HE became poor that we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9).

HE became a servant that we might become sons (Gal. 4:6-7).

HE had no home that we might have a home in heaven (Matt. 8:20).

HE was bound that we might go free (John 8:32-36).

HE was made sin that we might be made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

HE died that we might live (John 5:24-25).

- House to House -

Isaiah's Telescope

Isaiah looked down the telescope of prophecy and saw 700 years and more into the future.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end ..." (Isaiah 9:6-7).

- Isaiah saw a crib: "unto us a child is born."
- He saw a cross: "unto us a Son is given." The everlasting Father is a Son given.
- He saw a crown: "and the government shall be upon his shoulder."



"The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."
- Isaiah 9:7 -

As the holiday season of giving approaches, WCAC would like to remind you of an effortless way to support this great work! Simply visit smile.amazon.com, choose Warren Christian Apologetics Center as your charitable organization, and remember to always visit smile.amazon.com to shop as usual. A portion of every purchase will benefit the Warren Center.

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