

TAKING NAMES

Exodus 20:7; James 5:12; 2 Timothy 2:19

Presented by
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A name can be used to show value or create trust. When a “good name” is used as cover for selfish intentions great harm can follow ... “Just ask the thousands of investors who lost their life savings in Bernard Madoff’s \$65 billion Ponzi scheme ... the largest investment fraud in history. They put their money – and their trust – in a man who finally admitted his entire operation was ‘one big lie.’¹

Or ask Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, and LaTasha Colander-Richardson. Don’t know them? They were three members of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team that won gold in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, only to be stripped of their medals in 2008 because the fourth member of that team, Marion Jones, used performance-enhancing drugs. She cheated; they suffered the consequences.

Or ask Scott and Janet Willis, a pastor and his wife who were involved in a tragic crash in Chicago that killed six of their children – a crash caused by a truck driver who had paid a bribe to get his driver’s license. The investigation that followed led to the conviction of seventy-five people, including George Ryan, a former governor of

Illinois.² Those found guilty went to prison, but that brought little comfort to the Willis family.” *Character Counts*, Charles H. Dyer, p. 14

In each case a good name was trusted ... many were harmed.

Did you know the Scriptures declare that God is deeply concerned about the use of His name? What we promise and who we are, “in His name,” matters.

BACKGROUND

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THE TAKE

- To take a name adds that person’s **character** and **honor** to yours.
 - Take = To lift up in honor or **reverence**
 - To bear the mark or **weight** of
 - To **carry** with you
 - Human nature leads us to **“take”** a name because it will **benefit** us.

- With great **names** come **great expectations**.
 - Not just any name but ... the **Lord Your God**.
 - ✓ Saints show *love* to His name by their stewardship (Heb 6:10) and *give thanks* (Heb 13:15). Paul told Timothy, “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed” (1 Tim 6:1).
 - *Christ came to the earth in the name of the Father (John 5:43).
 - *His works were in His Father’s name (John 10:25).
 - *He asked His Father to glorify His own name (John 12:28) and keep the believers through His name (John 17:11).
 - *Christ Himself kept the saints in the name of the Father (John 17:12).
 - *He will return to the earth in the name of Jehovah (Matt 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9, 10; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13; cf. Ps 118:26).
 - *Prophets spoke in the name of Jehovah (James 5:10).
 - *God purposed to take out a people from the Gentiles for His name (Acts 15:14).
 - *The clause “upon whom my name is called” qualifies the extent of the term *Gentiles* in Acts 15:15 (cf. Amos 9:11, 12)¹
- ^{1.} *Vol. 103: Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 103*. 1946 (410) (221). Dallas, TX: Dallas Theological Seminary
- ✓ **Israel**
 - ✓ **Paul** (Acts 9:14-15)
 - ✓ **Christians** (Rev 3:12)

DON'T BE VAIN

•To take God's name in vain is to:

- Use God's **name** to back our **oath** we have no intention or ability to fulfill.
- To claim the name of Christ and not be **salt** and **light**.

WRAP

1. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2008/12/12/AR2008121203970.html>

2. "Ryan convicted in corruption trial," *Chicago Tribune*, April 17, 2006.