

'GOD' OR 'G-D' ? A LESSON in HALLOWING.

A Reflection for the period around Holocaust Memorial Day

1. Have you come across 'God' written 'G-D'?

As a Christian, I felt put to shame by the Jewish practice of doing this.

2. What is their reason?

It is used in newspapers and calendars – which have no lasting value and will be thrown away. Not to do so would (in the words of one Jewish friend writing to me) “*result in unintentional desecration of the Divine Name when such items were placed in garbage.*”

3. I have grown up in what, for most of my life, has been termed a 'Christian Society'. Yet I know that in it the word 'God' is not only revered, but – is commonly used as a curse or an oath. People will use 'God' as an oath in front of a Christian minister, yet have no realization of the pain, the offence, or its inappropriateness.

[4. I will leave aside in this short comment the Name of 'Jesus'; merely to mention the little boy who asked his mother why Mary called her baby a swear word!]

5. The Jewish practice of using G-D is a small, but clear and powerful witness to the holiness of God.

6. Christians might, at this time, prayerfully thank the Jews for such principles and practices, and for their loyal but sensitive protection of God's Name.

7. Many Christians will, I know, be stung by this Jewish witness into revising their careless attitude to God and his Name. Many will want the Holy Spirit to lead them into a better and more sensitive attitude to the Name of God.

8. During this period around the Holocaust Memorial Day we cannot but be amazed and encouraged by Jewish faithfulness amid so much suffering.

9. Our hearts go out in love and gratitude to the members of God's Chosen Race during this period of Remembrance.