

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2011, Part 6: “Jesus,” the Reason for the Season

As Christians we understand that Jesus is indeed the Unique Person of the Universe. No one can compare with Him:

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

No one! The world can try to drown out His exclusivity with all of its plurality and disconnected views of Truth. However, it remains: He is the only way to God! Period! No one can change that fact. Further, there will come a day when all will confess Jesus as Lord to the glory of the Father (Philip. 2:11-12). In this essay I shall attempt to focus our thoughts on the name “Jesus” which was first used in reference to His birth:

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins. Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

There are five truths regarding His name that I would like to briefly touch on. *First, the name of Jesus is a name divinely ordered and expounded.* The Bible reveals that the angel brought a message from the Lord, and said, “you shall call his name Jesus.” It is a name which, like Him who bears it, has come down from Heaven. Our Lord has other names that point to His various offices and relationships, but this one specifically is His own personal name, and it is the Father who named Him. Therefore, we can rest assured that it is the perfect proper name for Him. Jesus is the most appropriate name that our Lord could have received. It came from the omniscience of God the Father. The explanation of the name is given when the name was assigned, “you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” The name Jesus literally means “Yahweh Saves,” or as we have seen in our studies “Esse” (Pure Act) saves.

Second, the text teaches us that this name Jesus identifies our Lord with His people: “HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE.” It does not say ‘God’s people,’ for then it would have been understood as meaning only the Jews. “His people” refers to all who would accept Him as Savior. They are the elect. The Lord knows who are His own:

John 17:6 "I manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word.

As you can see we not only belong to Jesus, we also belong to God the Father. What grace! God’s promise cannot fail. Jesus will save all of His people from their sins. We are His people.

God is sovereign. We are secure—over and out. God has imputed the very righteousness of Christ to our account as Christ took on our sins. In the Great Exchange, God made Him sin and us righteous:

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Third, the name Jesus indicates His main work: “You shall call His name Jesus, for *He shall save*. He is savior because He saves! He so completely saves His people as to make them fit for heaven and the presence of God. He saves by taking on *His people’s sins*—as predicted in the Old Testament:

Isa 53:10-11, But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. ¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

Fourth, the name Jesus given to the Babe is completely justified by the facts. The name was given to Him before He had done anything. Many a child has had a grand name only to be followed by failure. My name is Donald which means “world ruler.” Obviously, that did not happen. Christ grew up and accomplished the work of salvation in keeping with His name. He bears the name well deserved. He provided a salvation that makes it possible for the most vile and dark sinner to become white as snow and perfect fit for Heaven in the presence of the Trinity and holy angels. Incredible!

Fifth, the name Jesus is Christ’s personal name forever. It was the name Joseph gave to Him at birth as directed by the angel. It is the name we use to approach God the Father in prayer. It is the name which Peter preached to unbelievers when he said, “This is Jesus of Nazareth by whom is preached to you the forgiveness of sins.” This name given to Him on earth is His heavenly name forever. It is the name that is used throughout Revelation. In fact, it is found in the very last verse of the Bible, “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen, Rev. 22:21.

Merry *Christmas*,

Pastor Don