

Prestonwood Connection 2004

NAMES

Assorted Scriptures / Lord's Supper

Wednesday, September 1, 2004 • Dr. David McKinley

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Lord we're so thankful tonight that we can gather in Your name and that we know that You are Lord, that You are the One who was, who is and who is to come and we look forward to the coming of your kingdom Lord Jesus and in all these things we come to honor and to bless and to praise Your name. Thank You Lord that we are people who name the name of Jesus, who pray in that name, who stand in that name and who celebrate that name tonight. Thank You for all that You will do in these moments. In Jesus name, Amen.

God bless you. Be seated tonight. I was just thinking as I was praying in that moment about the name, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of a name. I love to say the name of Jesus and I love to sing songs that magnify the name of the Lord and certainly, as it is true in our worship, it is true in our daily lives that something that is very precious to us is the power and the impact of saying a name.

A..., for many of us in these days, even though there's a lot of rhetoric and talk going back and forth among all the forces of debate in the political season that we are in there's one name that stands out and it's the name American and we are grateful and thankful to God to be Americans and there's something very powerful and very wonderful about that name and being able to lay claim to that name and a..., it's a wonderful name to us.

A..., certainly in this building tonight the name Christian, a..., we're thankful that we bear the name of Christ and that we are called Christians.

And then there are names of description, like family and friends. But of all the names, no name is more personal to you than your name, what people call you. A..., I'm always grateful when someone simply says, David, not just sir, or Dr. McKinley. I just like David. I love to be able to call on the phone and speak with Rick. My brother's name is Rick. Now, my brother is 6 years younger than I am. Rick Briscoe is 6 years older than I am and... [pause for congregation laughter] I have no hair, so you win that debate, I mean no issue there. That is not true, he's younger than I am also. [more laughter] I just said that for the fun of it. [more laughter] But whenever I see Rick Briscoe and...and he's kinda gotten this little a..., moniker with me a..., I always call him Ricky, because my brother was always called Ricky growin up. Now I know you didn't want me to tell everybody that tonight, but any way I do, just out of the fun and out of the affection of it because of the friendship and relationship with my brother

and nothing is no...nothing is more precious than the name, the name that you go by, the name that you are called.

Do you remember that first day in school when you were a grade school student, maybe a junior high or high school student, a..., if you have one of those names, heh, that's a little bit hard to pronounce, you always wondered when they called the roll for the first time if they were gonna get your name right and one of the most fearful moments was when they said your name and it didn't come out right, especially if the way that they said it opened the door for people to mark you with that pronunciation or that name for the rest of that semester or the rest of that year or maybe they called your formal name. You know, maybe all your friends called you a..., by a much more common or casual name, but somehow the records, the official school records had the real official, formal name. Sometimes you just cringed when they would call out that long formal name and I'm avoiding choosing any just so I don't offend anyone tonight. [pause for congregation laughter] But you know what I'm talking about. The name can either be one of the most endearing of things that you hear or it can be something that can scare you to death because we want people to know our names, because our name says something about us; who we are and what we are.

Well, do you know in just the same way God wants us to know Him by name. God wants us to call Him by name and the Bible has much to say about the name of the Lord. In Psalm 8, verse 1, the Scripture says this:

*O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your **name** in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!*

There's no name like unto the name of the Lord our God. And then in Psalm 9 in verse 10, a Scripture that I use so often because it so speaks to my heart when I go to the bedside of someone who's sick in a hospital, someone who's going through a hard time in life I pray this prayer:

*And those who know Your **name** will put their trust in You; Because You never forsake those that seek You.*

Proverbs 18:10 says:

*The **name** of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.*

And Jesus taught us when we pray in Matthew 6 and verse 9 to pray:

"...Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your..."

What?

*"...**name**. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven."*

And then in the book of Philippians, the passage that you find on the

front of your worship guide ~~to get~~...tonight, it is so central and essential to everything that we're here to do tonight because it is all based on the truth of this testimony. [2:9-11]

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the **name** which is above every **name**, ¹⁰that at the **name** of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It is the name that is above every other name and we gather in that name and we worship in that name and therefore the Bible tells us in the book of Colossians, chapter 3 in verse 17:

*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the **name** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

God wants us to know, to understand and to embrace the power of His name. God wants us to live, to believe and to testify to the glory of His name and therefore as we come to this gathering tonight we come to this place to draw near to Him because we call upon His name.

Anonymity can be a very uncomfortable thing. Have you ever had a moment where you were walking through the security gates in the airport and someone in front of you dropped something and suddenly you realized you wanted to pick it up and get it to em and you needed to get their attention? And one of the most awkward moments in all the world is when you have something that belongs to somebody and you realize you need their attention but you don't know their name. And so what you tend to do is you say a...a...s...s...sir...mamma and you just...you know everybody looks at you, which sir, which mamma? You know, it's just kind of generic? And so you try to get their attention. But you know that very same person can drop something going through the security line, but then you can go to an airplane and as it would be you can actually go right down the aisle and sit next to that same person on the airplane. And if you sit next to them and you're willing to speak to them in just a matter of minutes one of the natural things you do is to say, "My name is...what's your name?" Because suddenly you move from that situation of anonymity to at least some level of acquaintance to speak and to chat and to get to know one another and heh, depending on who that is that you meet on that flight, you might even progress into a closer relationship and as we grow in relationships we also grow in the way that we use the name and sometimes we even give em new names, like honey and sweetheart and all sorts of terms of endearment. It's just amazing what happens in the process of a name.

Of course, I'm sure you've all heard of the man who came in to a flight and was walking down the aisle and as he approached he noticed this very attractive young lady sitting there and he looked at his seat number and he thought man I'm sittin with her and so he sat down and he said a..., hello, it's nice to see you and a..., he noticed very quickly that a..., she didn't have a ring on her finger and so he started a conversation with her

and a..., asked her a little bit about who she was and where she was going. He asked her just, you know, trying to make conversation, a good line, "Are you married?" And she said, "No!" She said, "I just haven't found the right man." ~~She said, you haven't?~~ He said, "You haven't?" She said, "No!" He said, "Well, what kind of man are you looking for? What kind of men are you attracted to?" She said, "Well, I guess I have this real admiration and appreciation for Native American men, they're very strong and mysterious, they have great bone structure in their face, they look handsome. I just, I find them very appealing." He said, "That's interesting." He said, "Anything else?" She said, "Well, yes, I like Italian men, they're very romantic, very creative, very aggressive." She said, "And then I do like southern men, you know they're so gentle and hospitable and they got that nice draw when they speak." They talked a little longer. Finally she said, "You know, I'm sorry, but I didn't get your name?" He said my name [pause] is Geronimo Raphael Smith, [congregation laughter] but my friends call me Bubba." Heh! [more laughter]

The power of a name. Well, tonight, not in those names but in the name that I've spoken to you we come to this place to gather in the name of Jesus Christ and together to think and to understand and to embrace the fact that we are here tonight because of the power of His name. Not any of us in this building tonight come to this place or to this table or to these elements in our name, because my name is not sufficient in any way to merit the favor, the grace or the forgiveness of God. But I come to this table as a sinner, by birth, by choice, by practice, but a sinner who has been forgiven because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and because Jesus died and shed His blood, because Jesus was willing to bear my sin and ultimately to take the death of my own separation from God the Father and then rose again to destroy and...the power of sin, of death, of the grave, of Hell, but tonight I come to this table in Jesus' name and I invite all of you who have called upon the name of the Lord to join me in this celebration, to say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus came that one of the most significant things that was prophesized concerning Him was His name. In the book of Matthew chapter 1 in verse 21 we read, the Bible says that Mary:

"...will bring forth her Son, and they will call His name Jesus, because He will save people from their sins."

The very name Jesus means God saves, Savior. And so we come in the name of Jesus the Savior. That same passage of Scripture quoting the prophet Isaiah says:

"...Behold, the virgin shall bring forth a child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel."

Which means God with us and God not being willing to stand off afar

stepped in to our life, into our humanity, into earth, into history that we may see Him and know Him and call Him by name and so it is in that name that we come to this place tonight and I pray that you are able to come and to gather and to share and to partake because you know the name of Jesus. If you do not, then could I urge you tonight to call upon the name of the Lord, not to say I wanna take these elements in order that somehow my sins may be removed, not that somehow I might be a part of a religious ritual that might provide cleansing in my life, but that you might understand that every one of us comes here by grace, grace and grace alone. And here is the simplicity and yet here is the power of the promise, Romans chapter 10 and verse 13:

For "whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD will be saved."

And you can come to this place and you can partake of these elements tonight and you can be saved because of what Christ has done. If that's not something that you know, if that's not something that you fully understand, I really wanna encourage you in these moments to simply turn over to the back of your worship guide where it talks about a life connection, because the first step is calling upon the name of the Lord that you may be saved and you can be saved tonight, but for those of us who have been saved, we come to look back at that salvation and then to celebrate and to worship in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to magnify His name for all that He has done and all that He is doing in our lives today. I love the words of the Psalmist, Psalm 34, verse 1:

I will bless the LORD at all times;...

In fact, why don't we just read this together? Would you help me?

¹*I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.* ²*My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.* ³*Oh, magnify the LORD with me, ...let us exalt His name together.*

That's why we're here. That's what we are doing, we are exalting His name together.

Gentlemen would you join me in preparation to distribute these elements tonight?