

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 4, 2021

“His Name Shall Be...”

By George Slover

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

The names of Christ reveal the various aspects of his nature and character. By meditating on all of them, we get a complete picture of his excellence.



His name shall be called Wonderful. He is wonderful in his relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit in his preexistence before the creation of the world.

He is wonderful as the creator of this world and all things. He is wonderful in his patience with mankind, revealing himself in a marvelous way and offering redemption. He is wonderful as he lived in this world so perfectly, and gave himself sacrificially.

His name is Counselor. Jesus is the unerring source respecting the purpose of life, the secret of true success, and the answer to our eternal destiny. He presides over the world and directs all of its affairs (Proverbs 8:12-30). He is the true light (John 1:9). His word is truth (John 14:6).

His name is Mighty God. The son of God is himself God. The Messiah’s mission is to redeem man from sin, to conquer death, and to triumph over Satan. This can only be accomplished by God. The son of God is God, the mighty one.

His name is Everlasting Father. This title seems to give us some problems, for how can the son also be the father? The term “father” connotes such notions as a provider, protector, and creator. The Messiah bears all of these traits because he is God. Several New Testament passages affirm this truth (John 14:7-11; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1-4).

His name is Prince of Peace. A prince is someone who bears rule or regal authority. However, in the Messiah, there is peace not accomplished with physical swords and armies. Instead, he uses the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10) to work on human hearts. When the Lord’s intended target yields to him, the product is beautiful. When the Messiah removes the enmity between God and the sinner, there is a calm in the soul of each recipient, and the traits of social concord (patience, forbearance, courtesy, and love) all manifest themselves.

Taken in connection, these five names summarize the nature of the Messiah, his character, his wisdom, and his love. These names, though spoken in the past, should promote a present reverence and trust in Jesus.

“Music In Worship”

by Dave Hart

When people visit churches of Christ for the first time, they are often surprised to hear only singing. There are no instruments of music such as pianos, organs, drums, or guitars. Neither do they hear choirs, quartets, or solos. Every member of the congregation is encouraged to join in the singing. Why are churches of Christ different from most churches in the kind of music they have?

Churches of Christ follow only the Word of God (Isaiah 8:20; II Timothy 3:16-17). They understand that we must have authority in the Word of God for everything we do in the work and worship of the church (Colossians 3:17).

We must not add to the teachings found in God's Word. We must not leave out anything God has taught (II John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19). The Old Testament was God's law for the nation of Israel to prepare them for the coming of Christ (Galatians 3:23-25). The New Testament is God's law for all people today (Hebrews 7:12; 8:6-13). Therefore, we must worship God today according to the teaching of the New Testament. We must practice only that which is authorized in the New Testament!

The only kind of music authorized by the New Testament is singing. Please note the words of the inspired writers of the New Testament:

- (1) *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”* (Ephesians 5:18-19)
- (2) *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 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.”* (Colossians 3:16-17)
- (3) *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* (Hebrews 13:15)

Please note that these verses mention an instrument. It is not an instrument made by man, but one made by God. We are commanded to sing. This is the “fruit of our lips.” Our singing must be accompanied by our hearts. We are commanded to sing and make melody in the heart. We must sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. The only instrument authorized in worship is one's heart!

The New Testament tells us how God wants us to worship Him today (John 4:24). However, it says nothing about using instruments of music made by the hands of men. Therefore, if we use such instruments, we are guilty of adding to God's Word (Revelation 22:18-19). This is a sin!

According to historians, the church did not use instruments of music for several hundred years after the time of the apostles. In fact, the first known instrument of music to be brought into the church was one which the emperor of France gave to Pope Vitalian of the Roman Catholic Church in the seventh century. This was several hundred years after the New Testament was written.

Please note too the expressions *“speaking to yourselves,”* and *“teaching and admonishing one another.”* These statements show reciprocal action. This is an action that we do to one another at the same time. It means that each member of the congregation joins in the singing. By doing so, he teaches and encourages his fellow Christians. At the same time, they are teaching and encouraging him by their singing. This shows that every Christian must participate in the singing as best he can. There is no authority in the New Testament for only one person to sing, or even a group to sing to the rest of the congregation. God's will is that every Christian should sing and by doing this teach and encourage every other Christian. Special singing groups are an unauthorized addition to the pattern of worship given in the New Testament. Therefore, those who use them are sinning.

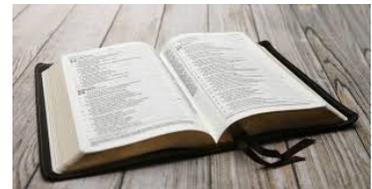
If we simply follow that which God has revealed in the New Testament for His church, we will praise Him with our voices. The whole congregation will join in this praise. No other kind of music is commanded. If we add mechanical instruments or special singing groups, we are not abiding in the teaching of Christ (II John 9). We have added to that which God has authorized (Revelation 22:18-19). This makes our worship worthless to God for we are following the doctrines and commandments of men (Matthew 15:9).

Jesus said, *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24). We must follow the pattern of worship God has given in the New Testament in order to worship in truth (John 17:17). Choirs, solos, and mechanical instruments are not according to the truth!

Memory Verse of the Week:

Matthew 4:4 (NKJB)

“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”



“Baptisms of The Bible”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 6:1-2—Ephesians 4:5?**

I. The Baptism Of Moses.

- **1 Corinthians 10:1-4.**
- **Exodus 14:5-30.**
- Time Limits the scope/duration/people.
- Can we choose to be baptized this way? _____.
- **Galatians 3:27-** We are baptized into Christ today, NOT Moses.

II. The Baptism Of John.

- **Luke 1:17; Mark 1:4-** Was John’s baptism for the forgiveness of sins?
- John prepared the people for the Christ- **Malachi 3:1-2; 4:5-6.**
- Those baptized were to believe in future Messiah- **Acts 19:4**
- Yet, today we are to confess present faith in the Messiah- **Acts 8:36-38.**
- **Acts 19:1-5-** why baptize these men again? _____.
- It served its purpose, even though some rejected it- **Luke 7:30.**

III. The Baptism Of Suffering.

- **Matthew 20:20-23.**
- Baptism means “to dip, to plunge, to bury, to immerse”
- **John 18:11— Matthew 27:34-** Did Jesus fully suffer for us? _____.

IV. The Baptism Of Fire.

- **Matthew 3:8-12.**
- What was the purpose of this baptism? _____.
- **Matthew 25:41; Rev. 21:8-** Should anyone want this baptism? _____.

V. The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit.

- **Matthew 3:11.**
- To whom did Jesus promise this Baptism? **John 14:16-17; 16:13.**
- **Joel 2:28— Acts 2:14-18; 2:1-4 AND Acts 10:44-48.**
- Can we obey a promise or a command? _____.

VI. The Baptism Of Christ.

- **Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38-41.** When Did it begin? _____.
- **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16-** What is the duration? _____.
- The purpose of this baptism? **Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Col. 2:11-13.**
- _____.

“Because We Were Baptized...”

Lesson Text:

I. We Have A New Life.

- We have a New Owner- **Romans 6:3-7; 6:16-18.**
- We have a New Conduct- **Romans 6:1-2; 6:11-13; Ephesians 4:28.**
- We have a New Purpose- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20.**
- We Have a New Outlook- **2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 2:5.**
- We have a New Joy in Life- **1 Peter 1:8.**
- Do you have a NEW Life since you obeyed? _____.

II. We Are To Seek The Things Above.

- **Colossians 3:1-4.**
- **Matthew 16:23.**
- How much do we meditate on spiritual things: Heaven? Hell? The Gospel
The Church? Evangelism? The Bible? _____.
- What are the Priorities I am Seeking? _____.
- **Matthew 13:45-46; 6:33.**

III. We Are To Worship God Regularly.

- **Acts 2:38-42—Matthew 28:19-20.**
- Regular Worship that goes further than the superficial and is not
from the heart.
- Not by ROTE (Routine)- “Mechanical or habitual repetition of something
to be learned.”
- God wants Our Heart in our Worship- **John 4:24; Joel 2:13.**

IV. We Are To Grow In Our Knowledge And Faith.

- **2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-15.**
- We can grow in faith- **Mark 9:23-24; Matthew 17:19-21.**
- Are we growing daily in our knowledge, faith, convictions, trust &
reliance on God- **Ephesians 6:10.**

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Sam Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Baptisms Of The Bible"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page 8, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Romans 6:1-4
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Because We Have Been Baptized..."
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April :

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
Page 6, Question #1

Invitation:

Song Leader:

Closing Prayer:

Paul Johnson
Brian Meade
Sam Johnson



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