



JESUS – NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES
Philippians 2:9-11

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There's no doubt that Jesus was an historical figure and a first century celebrity, but not everyone believes He was and is the Son of God.

The cover of *LIFE* magazine once said this about Jesus. "To some, Jesus is the *son of God*, born to a virgin over 2,000 years ago – the anointed, the Christ. To others he is *just a man* who inspired, through his teachings and exemplary life ... And still to others *he's a myth*, a novelistic invention of Paul and the Gospel writers ... He is, they say, *an idea*."¹

As Christians, we believe that Jesus is more than a man, more than an inspirational teacher, and certainly more than an "idea." We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the only way to God. And we believe His name is above every other name.

This is Easter season. The next two weeks are Palm Sunday and Easter. This is a special time of the year when we, as Christians, affirm and celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ. Barna Research found that 92% of Americans believe Jesus was a real person, but only 56% believe He is God. So, there are essentially two views of Jesus in our culture.²

There is Jesus, the Christ. The one from heaven, the Son of God. The one who performed miracles and the one who spoke as God. The one who died as a sacrifice for the sin of the world. And the one who supernaturally rose from the dead proving to be the Son of God and proving that everything He said is true. There is Jesus, the one who forgives our sin and reconciles us to God. There is the Jesus who is worshiped as Savior and Redeemer. This Jesus is about the gospel of personal salvation.

And there is Jesus, the moral teacher, whose teaching is summed up in the Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12). If everyone did that, the world would be a better place. This Jesus does not talk about heaven or hell or condemn us for our mistakes or make demands of us. This Jesus is like Gandhi or Mother Teresa, an inspirational figure that preaches a gospel of love.

Which Jesus do you believe in? Which Jesus do you worship?

In the first century, Jesus became a celebrity. Huge crowds followed Him wherever He went. And people wondered who He was? Was He just another traveling rabbi? Was He really the miracle-worker they had heard about? Could He possibly be the Messiah, the one who would deliver them from Roman oppression? And the twelve disciples who followed Him wondered too. That's why Jesus looked them in the eye and asked them, "Who do you say I am?" And Peter was the first to answer. "You are the Christ" (Mark 8:29).

And that's the question every person must answer. "Who do you say I am?"

Jesus. The world knows His name, but not everyone believes in His name. So why do we? What's so special about the name of Jesus?

For all the questions and problems we have in life, we can study philosophy, history, science, literature, psychology, and so on. These will help us understand our humanity and the world in which we live. But only Jesus can connect us to God!

Listen to what Philippians 2 says about Jesus and His name.

“Although He existed in the form of God,” Jesus “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of JESUS every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:6-11, NAS).

Why have people throughout history believed in Him? Why do we believe in Him? *What’s so special about His name?* Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. He sacrificed His life on the cross for the sins of the world. And incredibly, He supernaturally rose from dead proving to be the Son of God and proving that everything He said is true. He is the Son of God and the only way to God. And God highly exalted Him and bestowed upon a name which is above every name. And one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

HIS MANY TITLES

Queen Elizabeth has reigned over Great Britain for 66 years, and her official title is – “Her Majesty, Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.” Jesus trumps that. The Bible uses over 100 titles for Jesus, and that does not include the countless phrases used to describe Him.

- He is called the Son of Man and the Son of God.
- He is the Word of God, the voice of God and the very truth of God.
- He is called the Alpha and the Omega, referring to the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, meaning He is eternal over all time.
- The prophet Isaiah called Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.
- With respect to His sacrifice on the cross, He is the Man of Sorrows and the Lamb of God.
- He called Himself the “I AM,” a title used only for God, thus equating Himself with God.
- He is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- He is the Rock, the Living Water, the Author of our faith, the Anchor of our hope. And He is the Amen, or the final word.
- He is the Holy One, our High Priest, the Almighty God, and the Cornerstone of the Church.

- He is our Redeemer and our Savior.
- He is Immanuel, God with us.
- He is our Advocate, our Master, and our Friend.
- Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ.

And the book of Revelation says, “On His head are many crowns ... and on His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:12, 16, NIV). Jesus is superior, supreme, and sovereign. His name is the highest name, the greatest name, the most powerful name, the most righteous name, and the most loving name. God “bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:9-11).

You’re not going to hear that on CNN. You’re not going to hear that in the classroom. You’re not going to hear that in Hollywood or Washington, DC. One reason we gather Sunday after Sunday is to hear the grander truth, to be reminded that Jesus is on His throne, that Jesus is in control, and that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And the proof that we believe that is in how we worship and how we live.

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

“God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9). Yes, He has more titles than Queen Elizabeth and His name deserves every glorious adjective in every language. Yet His name needs no adjective. His name is enough.

His name means “God saves.” The Hebrew name is Joshua, also pronounced as Yeshua, also means “God saves.” His name means salvation. An angel appeared and announced to Joseph and Mary that “she will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, NIV). Acts 4:12 says, “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name ... by which we can be saved.” Romans 10:13 says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”³

Through His name, the disciples were able to perform miracles. To a cripple, Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” (Acts 3:6, NLT). Through His name, our prayers are answered. Jesus promised, “You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:13). And we are to live in His name. The Bible says, “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17, ESV).

His name is above all names because He is the Creator of all that is. “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17, NIV).

His name is above all names because He is eternal. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come” (Revelation 1:8, NAS). Therefore we say, “Now to the King

eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever” (1 Timothy 1:17, NIV).

His name is above all names because He is sovereign. Jesus sits on His throne overseeing and governing all that happens in the world. King Jehoshaphat repeated what King David said generations earlier, “O Lord ... you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you!” (2 Chronicles 20:6, NLT).⁴ Even kings realized He was and is the King of Kings.

His name is above all names because He sacrificed His life for us.⁵ The Bible says that Jesus “bore our sins in His body on the cross” (1 Peter 2:24, NAS). Jesus did not just take our sins and nail them to the cross. He absorbed our sin, became our sin, and nailed Himself to the cross.⁶ That’s why we join all of heaven singing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and glory and blessing” (Revelation 5:12, paraphrase).

His name is above all names because He supernaturally rose from the dead, proving to be the Son of God and proving that everything He said is true.⁷ What did the angel say to the women that Easter morning? “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said” (Matthew 28:6, NAS). The tomb is empty. And when His disciples saw Him alive again, “they worshiped Him” (Matthew 28:17).

His name is above all names because He offers grace to those who do not deserve it. We have been forgiven of everything we’ve ever done wrong. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12, NIV). And God promises, “I will remember (your sins) no more” (Hebrews 10:17).

His name is above all names because He is the only way to salvation and eternal life. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, NIV). The Bible says, “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name ... by which we can be saved” (Acts 4:12).

We honor Jesus as the King of kings because of all the blessings He bestows on us. The Bible says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV). No more guilt. No more shame. He makes us brand new. He blesses us with peace. He comforts us. He strengthens us. He walks with us. He fills us with joy. He gives us hope.

That’s why we love Him. That’s why we adore Him and worship Him.

Edward Perronet was a close friend of John and Charles Wesley, all three part of a great spiritual movement in England in the 1700s. Like the Wesleys, Edward was a great hymn writer. He wrote one hymn that has been called the “National Anthem” of the church – “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name.” The lyrics were inspired as Edward read the book of Revelation. I want you to grasp the lyrics he composed.

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name.” “All hail.” It is call for God’s people to come and worship Him. The next line says, “Let angels prostrate fall.” Even the angels, all the creatures in

heaven, bow before Jesus. And then it says, “Bring forth the royal diadem.” The diadem is the crown. It is the king’s crown. And only Jesus is worthy to wear it. Another verse says, “Let every kindred, every tribe ... on this terrestrial ball ... to Him all majesty ascribe ... and crown Him Lord of all.”

John Piper wrote an article entitled “I Love Jesus,” and explained what he meant by that.⁸

“I *admire* Jesus Christ more than any other human or angelic being.

I *enjoy* his ways and his words more than I enjoy those of anyone else.

I *want his approval* more than I want the approval of anyone else.

I *want to be with him* more than I want to be with anyone else.

I *feel more grateful* to him for what he has done for me than I do to anyone else.

I *trust* his words more fully than I trust what anyone else says.”

WE BEAR THE NAME

“God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:9-11). ***We bear that name. And there is no greater privilege or greater responsibility than bearing the name Christian.***

- We bear the name of the one who bore our sins on the cross. And the moment the hammer was raised to drive the first nail into His hand, Jesus could have stopped everything. But He didn’t.⁹ He cared more about saving us than saving Himself.
- We bear the name of the one who has forgiven us of everything we’ve ever done wrong, the one who did not give us what we deserved, and instead showed us grace.
- We bear the name of the one who is preparing a place for us in heaven right now, the one who promises to return and take us home to live with Him forever in Paradise.¹⁰
- We bear the name of the one before whom, one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.¹¹
- We bear the name of the one whom all of heaven is praising at this very moment. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain ... To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever” (Revelation 5:12-13, NAS).

CONCLUSION

There is no greater privilege or greater responsibility than bearing the name Christian. His name is above every other name. And that’s why we live for Him. “Therefore, whatever you do ... do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). And that’s why we keep our eyes fixed on Him, as Hebrews 12:2 says, “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ***fixing our eyes on Jesus***, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2, NAS).

Think about that. What happens when we keep our eyes on Jesus? We trust Him more when life is tough. We have an anchor for our faith when we doubt. We are comforted when we are hurting. We are convicted when we sin, moved to confess our sin, and receive His forgiveness. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, we are reminded how much He loves and we are motivated to worship Him and obey Him. When we look at Jesus, He becomes the model for how we should live. And we see the mission and purpose of our lives when we “fix our eyes on Jesus.”

So together, may we fix our eyes on Jesus. Because “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:9-11).

NOTES

¹ “Who Was Jesus?” *LIFE*, December 1994, page 67.

² This is expanded by Bock and Wallace in contrasting Christianity versus Jesusanity. Darrell L. Bock & Daniel B. Wallace, *Dethroning Jesus* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007), pages 1-34.

³ After explaining the gospel in one of his letters, the Apostle John said, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13, NIV).

⁴ See Daniel 4:35, Acts 17:28.

⁵ See John 1:29.

⁶ Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends, and you are My friends” (John 15:13-14, NAS). The Bible says, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NAS). At our worst, Jesus died for us.

⁷ Jesus “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4, NAS).

⁸ John Piper, “I Love Jesus Christ,” *Christianity Today*, online.

⁹ Max Lucado beautifully writes, “Since He couldn’t bear the thought of eternity without you, He choose the nails.” [Max Lucado, *He Choose the Nails*, (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000), page 34.]

¹⁰ See John 14:2-3.

¹¹ See Philippians 2:9-11.