

Sermons 2008

Sermons 2008

Table of Contents

1. Wonderful Name?	1
Introduction	1
It's wonderful because it came from heaven.....	1
It's wonderful because of what it means.	1
Conclusion.....	3
Invitation	3

Chapter 1. Wonderful Name?

READ - *Isaiah 9:6-7*

TEXT - *... and his name shall be called Wonderful... (Isaiah 9:6)*

THEME -

Introduction

Our cantata this morning was called "Wonderful Name." During the minutes that remain this morning, let us consider that concept - His wonderful name.

After all - names are important.

JOKE - Did you hear the one about the lawyer named Odd? That was his name, Mr. Odd. He suffered much abuse throughout his childhood, adulthood, and career because his name was Odd. People would call on the phone and ask his secretary for Mr. Oddball... or that Odd fellow. He grew so weary of it that he decided he no longer wanted to be known as Odd. He even gave instructions to leave his name off his tombstone. The only thing he wanted thereon were the words "Here lies an honest lawyer." And after his death, people would walk through the cemetery, read the epitaph on his tombstone and say, "That's odd."

Names are important.

As our cantata mentioned this morning, Jesus was known by many names in the Bible. You'll find Him referred to as:

Lord of Lords
King of Kings
Master
Savior
Son of David
Son of God
Son of man
The great I AM
Alpha and Omega
Beginning and the End

Our scripture passage this morning lists several - *his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Two chapters earlier in Isaiah, one of His most meaningful names was listed - *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)*

Immanuel means "God with us." And nothing is more true than the fact that that little Baby was in every way GOD WITH US.

All of these are wonderful names. But none of them is really His name - they are just descriptions that were applied to Him.

His actual name is given in the gospel of Matthew. READ - *Matthew 1:18-21.*

JESUS - That's His name. Is it really a wonderful name? When you hear it spoken, do you think "His name shall be called WONDERFUL?"

I submit that there has never been a more wonderful name.

It's wonderful because it came from heaven.

Not many people have been named by angels. Jesus was.

It's wonderful because of what it means.

"Jesus" (and Joshua in the O.T.) means "Jehovah Saves"

"Jesus" was His name because it described His mission - "He shall save His people from their sins."

One day later in His ministry, Jesus would say that the reason He came was to "seek and save that which was lost." He came to SAVE.

And may I submit this morning that if you don't get this truth, you'll never get Jesus at all... and you'll certainly never understand the reason we rejoice so at Christmas time.

Christmas is not about presents around a tree... it's not about thousands of imported Italian twinkle lights... it's not about family and friends... we celebrate Christmas because it is a celebration of Jesus, who came to save His people from their SINS.

I know, it's not politically correct to use the word SIN anymore. The consensus seems to be that if we just ignore the concept, or call it "old fashioned" or "unenlightened" or "intolerant" it will just go away.

But the Bible says SIN is the heart of every problem we have. People are ridiculously confused today because they ignore this fact.

REVIEW - Mankind created perfect and sinless... God explained His expectations... mankind CHOSE the wrong path... what God had warned about came to be - SIN = DEATH.

And now, everything is messed up!

It's AMAZING how people are messed up in their thinking because they refuse to accept this clearly stated truth.

"I don't understand how a good God would allow so much suffering in the world." - Don't blame it on God! He warned us about it! It's SIN that causes all the suffering in the world.

ILLUS - When the towers fell on 9/11, people all over the world asked "WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS?" But God didn't do it... SIN DID.

ILLUS - Hundreds of thousands of innocent people have been slaughtered in the Sudan in recent years. "HOW COULD GOD ALLOW THIS?" But God is not to be blamed for our sin. sin is OUR problem!

ILLUS - Darwin's theory of evolution came about to a large extent because he ignored this truth. He couldn't understand how a good God would allow so much death and pain and suffering in the world - how everything he saw in creation was "red in tooth and claw." So He explained God away with his godless theory of evolution.

Every single negative thing in creation has as its root cause the fact of SIN.

Every illness
Every war
Every broken home
Every financial disaster
Every ruined relationship
Every pain
Every addiction
Every death

God warned our first parents that this would be the case. It WAS NOT THE CASE until they sinned. But they DID sin, and it IS NOW THE CASE. Sin is our greatest problem. It is the reason for everything negative in our world today.

AND THIS IS WHY JESUS' NAME IS SO WONDERFUL - because He alone came to save us from this most central and important of our needs - SIN.

Do you get it, my friend? This is what makes Jesus' name so WONDERFUL! And this is what makes Christmas so WONDERFUL!

Perhaps you are thinking, "Well that might be wonderful for you, preacher, or for others. But it is not relevant to me. I am not a sinner. I don't sin like others."

All have sinned... (Romans 3:23)

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (1 John 1:10 NIV)

Jesus - His name is wonderful because He came to save His people from their sins. That means all people can be saved from sin because of Him. That means YOU can be saved from sin because of Him.

AND THAT'S WONDERFUL!

Conclusion

Our cantata contained a song that said "May the name of Jesus be praised. May the name of Jesus be praised."

Amen.

... and his name shall be called Wonderful... (Isaiah 9:6)

Invitation

Chapter 1. Wonderful Name?