

Hallowed Be Your Name

***Huh...I was shocked, confused, bewildered

As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

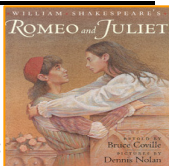
Moral of this story...JUDGE NOT!!

Remember...Just going to church doesn't make you a
Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

***Hmm...

Words have meaning and names have power. ~Author Unknown

Introduction:



*** But that's not what Shakespeare wrote when he wrote... **“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.** ~William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*”

-In other words, **it’s only a name.** It shouldn’t matter much, should it? I think Shakespeare was mistaken.

-Example) Listen to the following names and tell me if they are simply empty words. Each one will have a certain affect on you as you hear the name. Winston Churchill, Osama Bin Laden, Michael Jordan, O.J. Simpson, Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding, Superman, Homer Simpson.

- A name, what's in a name? ...Everything! It summarizes a person. **It summarizes their character. It summarizes their history. It summarizes their contributions and with every mention a person evokes a picture.**

Ex) I used to have a kindergarten teacher whose name was Mrs. Pantiotis. My biological father who died when I was twelve was a boy during WWII and my grandmother gave him the middle name Adolph. And I know a man whose first name is Richard and his last name is face. Needless to say, he asks everyone to please call him Richard and not the nick name. I had thought of naming one of the girls Julia until I realized the name means “rebellious” in some translations. Names have meaning...we were sitting around a table one day and talking about the meaning of our names...Annie means full of grace and Laurie means Popular, famous, victorious----my mother’s name, Barbara, means stranger.

-Names carry with them Power...whether that’s an evil or good! Someone once said, “A nickname can reduce a person to be bottled up in the essence of their past.” You could be a CEO of a major corporation and hear one “*Fatty Fatty two by four*” and feel like your back on the middle school bus again.

The writer of Proverbs tells us that...**Proverbs 22:1.** "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches..."

In other words, this individual having a lot of wisdom and experience in life said "...a good name..." When the name is said to have a **good reputation, a good picture, a good mental image** is rather to be chosen than having great amounts of money.

--- Here is the rub to that though...**We are all humans.** None of us are perfect. Any human name that is spoken will generate a mix of feelings because nobody is perfect. He or she when their name is stated will kind of have a maybe more positive and negative. Maybe more negative than positive, but certainly a mix comes out.

But I want to talk to you today about someone with a perfect name. Someone who has a name that has no flaws attached. No baggage. A name, however, that is often maligned, a name that is misunderstood, a name that is often disrespected.



*****Title Page:** Today we are going to take a look at the name of God and we are starting a new series for the **Holidays** called “**Hallowed Be Your Name**”. Today, we will talk about how it is we can **Hallow** the name of Jesus and in the next

few weeks, we will discuss the names proclaimed over Jesus at His birth by the angel Gabriel.

*****Turn to Isaiah 26 is found in verses 3 and 4, where**

Isaiah says:

**You will keep in perfect peace
him whose mind is steadfast (stayed on You),
because he trusts in You.
Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.**

These verses can give us tremendous comfort and encouragement as they remind us of the sufficiency of God and the blessing of fixing our minds and hearts on Him. I urge you to take them to heart in your life.

But today I want to draw your attention in particular to the second part of where Isaiah says of the LORD:

*****Verse 8 and 13, *Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.***

***And verse 13: Though we have had other lords (rulers) rule over us,
Your name alone, O LORD, do we honor.***

---(pray)

Regardless of the greatness or infamy of our human leaders, regardless of their goodness or badness, the name of God Must be honored and exalted and revered above all. It was true in the life of God's covenant people, Israel. It has been true throughout the history of our nation. It is true in all the nations of the world. The name of God is worthy of our highest respect and reverence and honor.

*****Why else, as in Matthew 6:9-13 does Jesus instruct us...**

⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*'

---when we pray, we are not talking *about* God (emphasis added). We are not engaging in some kind of theological discourse or dialogue. We are not trying to impress God (or others) with our theological sophistication. At least, I hope that is not the case. We are talking *with* God. We converse with Him directly. So it is essential that we understand to

whom we are speaking. Jesus gathers it all up in one word and says true prayer must begin with a concept of God as *Father*.

*****In the Lord's Prayer, there are seven petitions or requests.**

The first three are centered on God. Each of them has the pronoun "Your" or "Thy":

• Hallowed be Your name

***• Your kingdom come

***• Your will be done.

***• Give us this day our daily bread

***• Forgive us our debts (sins), as we forgive our debtors (those who sin against us)

***• Lead us not into temptation

***• But deliver us from evil (or the evil one).

In these seven petitions, and particularly in the order of these petitions, there is something **revolutionary**, something that could revolutionize our praying. This is not the way most of us approach our relationship with God much of the time. Our natural inclination when we pray is to begin by telling God all about what we need or want. Our focus is on us and our cares, our concerns, our problems and needs. **We put ourselves first.**

Ex) my girls have this thing they do where they all want to ride in the front seat. **WE** used to have the biggest arguments over who screamed "shot gun" the fastest. Literally I would have children standing outside the passenger seat door glaring through the window and refusing to get in the car. Even if we were late.

---***We cannot approach God this way.*** We have to come to Him in humility. But our "stuff" is not the proper starting point. God's stuff has to ride shotgun. Our first concern has to be the "hallowing" of God's Name.

the first concern, is the hallowing of God's name.

***Read Again...**"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"**

(Matthew 6:9).

Definition: But what does it mean to "hallow" God's name? To hallow God's name is ***to treat it as **holy**. To treat it with **reverence** and **respect**. With honor and glory.

---**BUT, you say,** There is nothing we can do to make God or His name holy. He is already holy.

---**YES,** But not everyone acknowledges His holiness. Not everyone treats Him as holy. Not everyone treats His name with reverence and honor.

*****As Saint Augustine wrote 1600 years ago:** *“This is prayed for, not as if the name of God were not holy already, but that it may be held holy by men; [in other words] that God may so become known to them, that they shall reckon nothing more holy, and which they are more afraid of offending.”*

There is nothing more holy than the name of God, for the name of God reflects the character.

--We live in a culture of celebrity – a culture that celebrates those **who make a name for themselves**. Often in all the wrong ways and for all the wrong reasons.

Ex) We are like the men of (Babylonia) in Genesis 11, who began to build “a tower that reaches to the heavens” as a monument to their greatness (the tower of Babel), in order to make a name for themselves in the world. But God foiled their plans, and the Bible does not record the name of a single person involved in that effort to make a name for themselves.

*****B. How do we hallow God’s Name?**

1. Keep the Third Commandment.

Exodus 20:7. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

The Message says: “No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won’t put up with irreverent use of His name.”

OUCH!!! Very convicting, huh?

Ex) How many times a day do we hear, “Oh God” or Oh, My God. We’ve heard it so many times we are no longer keeping His name Hallowed and holy and set apart. WE are now abbreviating His name. O.M.G.!

WE ARE TAKING GOD’S HOLINESS AND WE ARE MIXING WITH OUR EARTHLY-MESS!!

Another example is when we say, “I swear to God” ---

*****Leviticus 19:12** says, "Do not use my name to swear a falsehood and so profane the name of your God."

---Peter himself, in Matthew 26:73-75, was approached by others as to whether He was a follower of Jesus. This was on the day of Jesus’ execution. In vs74, He says, ***“I swear by God, I don’t know the man.”***

I want us to consider stopping using God's name this way. It certainly isn't Biblical to do so. It is actually wrong according to the third commandment and it cheapens the dignity of our God.

*****B. How do we Hallow God's Name?**

1. Keep the Third Commandment.

2. Worship and Praise.

In both public and private we need to worship Him with our attitudes, personalities, decisions, and character. Study of His word and worship have to be what we allow to ride shotgun in our lives. It can't be an option to a busy life. It is what we were made for.

*****3. Live a Life of Surrender.**

Be Obedient to Him. And do it gladly!!!

Ex) how many times did Paul exhort his fellow Christians to live a life worthy of their faith and calling in Jesus Your conduct will be a witness before others and as in Matthew 5:16, we can "let our light so shine before men that they will see our good deeds and praise our father in Heaven!" That would certainly keep his name Holy since we carry His name as His sons and daughters

Ex) Story...There is an old story you may know about Alexander the Great, the Macedonian king and world-conqueror in the 4th century BC. On one of his military missions, a young deserter from his army was brought before him. The king asked the young man: "*What is your name?*"

Timidly, the deserter replied: "*My name is Alexander*"

Furious at this, the king asked him again: "*What is your name?*"

Again came the reply: "*My name is Alexander.*"

To which Alexander the Great said: "*Then change your conduct or change your name.*"

---Dear friends, if we who claim the name "Christian" do not hallow God's name in the way we worship, speak and live, and the way we talk, then using the name doesn't make us any more a Christian than standing in a garage makes us a car.

*****Repeat the Lord's Prayer Again together...**

'Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ *'Your kingdom come.*

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ *'Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'*

Lord, let it be so in us, today and always. Amen.