

MESSAGE 1:
JESUS THE SAVIOR

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Matthew 1:18-21 (NASB)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message is to bring you into a life-changing encounter with the personal name of Jesus as your Savior, Deliverer, and Rescuer.

INTRODUCTION: When we speak about the name of a person, we're giving their identity away. If I would ask for Bill to raise his hand, Ralph would not do so because "Bill" is not his name or his identity. Names are far more than mere nomenclature, a way to distinguish one person from another. A name has to do with identification. Names really mattered in the Bible because a person was given a name that often reflected the parents' hopes and dreams for that child, or identified what that child was destined to become.

There are some names that live in infamy. You don't see parents today naming their child Hitler or Judas or Jezebel or Benedict Arnold, because these names are synonymous with great evil and treachery. Other names represent more than just identification. The name Bill Gates brings to mind the subject of wealth. The names Barack Obama or Donald Trump immediately bring to mind the office of president. And most of us would guard our name and what it represents against those who would try to defame it.

Now if names matter this much among people, imagine how much names matter to God. In the Bible, God named several people Himself—none more important, or with a more significant name, than His only begotten Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Name that is above every name, as Paul wrote in Philippians

2:9, and He was also given or took upon Himself other names that signified who He is and what He came to do.

In this series we're going to look at the predominant names of Jesus—what they mean and why it matters to you today. We're going to start with our Savior's personal name: Jesus. We often speak the name of Jesus, but do we fully understand the name we speak, and why it matters that we speak it and how we speak it? Let's look at God's Word together.

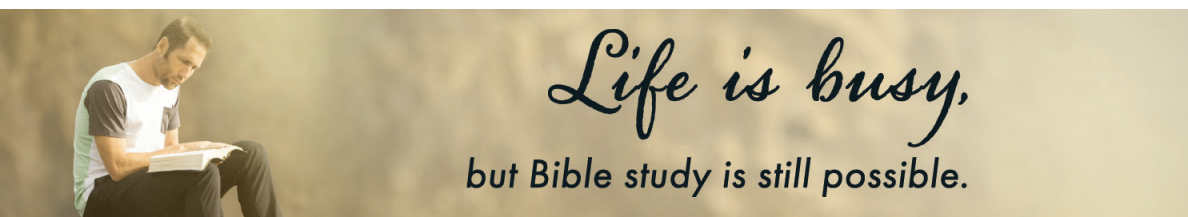
SERMON POINTS:

1. JESUS' NAME MEANS THAT HE IS OUR SAVIOR, RESCUER AND DELIVERER:

- Jesus' name was given to Him by His Father in heaven (Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-31).
- The name "Jesus" defines our Lord's role as the Savior who delivers us from our sins and our enemies (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:68-79).
- A lot of people want to use the name and power of Jesus to rescue them from everything but their sins.
- Jesus wants to deal with sin, because everything negative in our lives is related, directly or incorrectly, to the presence of sin.
- When you call on the name of Jesus, you are asking Him not only to deal with the fruit of your problem, but the *root* of your problem.

2. JESUS' NAME TELLS US SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT ABOUT THE NATURE OF GOD:

- God is perfect in all of His attributes and actions, and He demands perfection to satisfy His holy standards.
- But we have failed to meet God's standards, resulting in His judgment of physical and eternal death—separation from Him forever.
- God sent Jesus to earth, and gave Him the name "Savior," to address our inability to meet His standards on our own.



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3. JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH WITH THE ABILITY TO FORGIVE SINS AND DELIVER FROM DEATH (MARK 2:1-12):

- Like the paralyzed man in Mark 2, our greatest need is not healing, but forgiveness of sin.
- Jesus is God's representative to deal with the sin we have to face.
- Sin is such a big issue because it always brings death (Romans 6:23).
- Death in Scripture doesn't mean the end of our existence, but rather separation.
- The goal of sin is always to bring separation, to separate us from God and from one another.
- Jesus' ability to forgive sins is important because we are all going to die, by appointment (Hebrews 9:27), because we have all sinned (Romans 3:23).
- If you're a Christian, the instant you close your eyes on earth, you will open them in heaven, forever with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

4. JESUS CAME TO DEAL WITH SIN AT ALL OF ITS LEVELS (ROMANS 5:12-14; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21):

- Jesus has rescued us from sin in all of its three primary manifestations or levels.
- The first level is known as imputed sin (see **Sermon Illustrations**), which in Scripture is an accounting term.
- Impute means to put something on your ledger, to credit it to your account. Adam's sin was imputed or "credited" to the account of all his offspring.
- Second, there is inherited sin, the sin nature you inherited from your father (which is why Jesus was born without a human father).
- We also suffer from the third level of sin we could call practiced sin, the sins we commit that are enough to condemn us before God.
- Jesus delivered us from all the effects of sin on the cross; its **penalty** (Romans 6:23), its **power** (Romans 5:10; 6:6-11), and someday its very **presence** in heaven (Revelation 21:24-27).

5. We have to have the right authority to use Jesus' name (1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; 16:23-24):

- Jesus cannot act on our behalf unless we are using His name the way He intends for us to use it.

- Most of the time we say "In Jesus' name" only because we have been taught to add it to the end of our prayers.
- Not everyone who calls on His name has His permission to use it (Acts 19:11-17).
- You and I can only use Jesus' name if we are doing His will.
- Jesus said we are to pray in His name, but we must be in right relationship with Him to use His name.
- If you know how to use the name of Jesus, you will discover that His name is greater than every other name.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

THE RIGHT JOB DESCRIPTION:

When I was a water safety instructor, I trained lifeguards how to save drowning people. These lifeguards were "saviors" related to a specific task. They were not saviors for every need, just for people who were about to drown. Other things may have needed to happen in this situation, but the primary thing that overruled everything else was the need to rescue that person from the water. That was the job description of a lifeguard. Jesus has a job description, and that is to be a rescuer.

A LITTLE BIT OF CONTAMINATION:

We know that even a little bit of invisible bacteria on a surgeon's scalpel can be lethal to the patient going under the knife, which is why in an operating room, everything has to be sterilized. The doctors and nurses also have to wash their hands, because they understand that even a little bacteria can produce a dangerous situation. They cannot lower their standards and still properly serve as surgeons and nurses. In the same way, God cannot lower His perfect standards just because they are strict or to make us feel better, because then He wouldn't be who He is. Therefore, the issue of sin is the big issue that God must address.

THE EFFECTS OF IMPUTED SIN:

Imputed sin is like a penalty in football. When a lineman is called for an infraction, he is not given a five-yard penalty, the entire team is, because the team members are connected to one another. The guilty party doesn't move back five yards alone, the team moves back. The "sin" of that lineman is imputed or charged to the whole team. The Bible declares, all of us are connected to the human race through Adam, and



God • Son of • THE Word • God With • Immanuel • Alpha & Omega
Christ • POWER OF • of M • Immanuel
• Lord • m of • Sermon Notes By • God With
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because Adam sinned, the whole race was credited with the consequence of that sin and penalized with death.

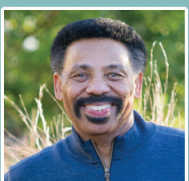
QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

“Asking God to address other issues in our lives without addressing sin is like having cancer and asking the doctor to give you aspirin for the pain without treating the disease!”

“Whether we are talking about racial or social issues, it all goes back to separation due to sin. But as long as we talk about skin instead of sin, we can have 250 years of ‘skin seminars’ and never address the root problem of sin when it comes to how we view people who are different from us.”

“Too many times we don’t hear from Jesus about the things we’re praying for, so we need to know how to use His name correctly. There is power in the name of Jesus, but only if we are meeting the conditions He has laid out.”

“Jesus is not going to respond to your use of His name if you are not equally concerned with doing His will, because then you are using His name apart from His goal, which is dealing with sin. If we are not committed to Jesus’ will, we don’t need bother calling on His name. He has no obligation to respond.”



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