

## INTRODUCTION

Hallelujah, we are *here!* After five years of planning and working, we are in our new building! This is a time of mixed emotions. Many of you are thrilled, and others may be feeling a little sad because we are leaving a sanctuary which holds so many good memories—that's why we had our Stones of Remembrance two weeks ago.

For our church, it's more than just a new building. I have challenged us to adopt a new attitude of openness and acceptance to others in East Texas who need Jesus. We have built a bigger room, so more people can come and worship and learn about the same Jesus we know and love. Our job is just beginning. Churches focusing primarily on a building always experience post-construction "let down." They are like children waiting for Christmas, but once the presents are unwrapped, they ask, "Is that all?" I can assure you, just because we are in this new building, we aren't finished! It's like a wedding I did a few months ago. We were taking pictures after the ceremony and the groom, who had been very nervous, looked at me and said, "Man, I'm glad that's over with!" I looked at him and smiled and said, "Buddy, it's not over with—it's just beginning." The same is true for us; this is not the end, it's just the beginning.

It's going to take several weeks for us to feel "at home" in this room. Like everything new in life, there will be an adjustment period. Right now, I feel like I'm the guest preacher at some church in another city, except I see all my friends in the congregation. Let's give it time to become our new worship home. And don't be surprised or upset if you hear someone say, "I miss the old building." That's human nature. Frankly, I would feel much more comfortable right now standing over there where I have preached for the past ten years. It's going to take me a little while to get used to these screens, too. (Hi Mom!) I've preached more years in our old building and in that pulpit than any other church I've ever served. I'm ready to start making some new memories!

I admire the attitude of one of our most faithful servants, Evelyn Kleeburg. She has given me permission to share a portion of a letter she sent me this week:

You never cease to be full of surprises, and last Sunday night was no exception! My two grandchildren Kyle and Kymberlee being the last to be baptized in the old building is something I will never forget—but then the silent march up to the new building, taking off our shoes, and the praise and prayer time we had was so very precious. Without a doubt, I knew Hal was also rejoicing with the other saints in heaven! . . . Of course, for me it was an emotional time—so many sweet memories in the old building, but I cannot begin to fathom what great things God has in store for Green Acres now!!! It is so exciting to be a part of such a loving, working church family.

On the first Sunday most congregations move into a new building, the pastor usually recognizes all those who have had a part in making a new facility possible. And we will be doing the same thing next Sunday afternoon as part of our 3 p.m. Dedication service. But on this first Sunday, I want to recognize and honor only *one* individual: The Lord Jesus Christ. Most of you know I generally share very practical messages applying the Bible to help you live the abundant life

Monday through Saturday. But rather than being a practical message, this will be a purely devotional message. All I want to do is brag on Jesus.

I love Jesus so much I want to take this first Sunday to preach on, "Lifting High the Name of Jesus." Let's read about the name of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let me share four short thoughts with you about the name of Jesus:

### **1. JESUS IS A SIMPLE NAME**

What's in a name anyway? I beg to differ with William Shakespeare, who said there is nothing in a name. He said, "A rose by any other name is just as sweet." Names really *are* important. That's why some people choose to change their names. I heard about a man named William Stinks who went to court to change his name. The judge said, "With a name like 'William Stinks' I don't blame you for wanting to change your name. What new name do you want?" The man replied, "I want to change my name to John Stinks."

One fellow was working in his yard when his paperboy threw his newspaper in the yard. He had never met the boy, so the guy said, "What's your name?" The paperboy replied, "My name is George Washington." The man said, "That's a pretty famous name, huh?" The kid said, "It ought to be I've been delivering papers in this neighborhood for two years now!"

Parents are careful to choose good names for their children, but Mary and Joseph didn't just choose Jesus' name. God chose that beautiful simple name. The angel Gabriel was sent to Joseph with this message about Mary: "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

The name Jesus was a very simple, common name in Bible times. In English, it only has two syllables. In the original, it was pronounced "Yashua" which literally means "God saves." It's the Old Testament name Joshua, a very common name. There are some names in the Bible which are hard to pronounce. Hundreds of our members have just finished taking turns reading the entire Bible aloud in this building this past week. Some of you had to wade through sections of the Bible containing lists of hard-to-pronounce names; it was like trying to read a Hebrew telephone directory.

But the name Jesus is simple to pronounce. It's an easy name to sing about. I love the Bill Gaither song, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there's just something about that name."

I'm so glad God didn't choose to name His son one of those hard names in the Bible. God could have named his son the same name Isaiah gave to one of his boys: "Mahershalalhashbaz." (Isaiah 8:3). Could you imagine trying to sing, "Mahershalalhashbaz, Mahershalalhashbaz, Mahershalalhashbaz, there's just something about that name." Forget it.

JESUS. Say it with me, "Jesus." It is such a simple, yet elegant name. It sounds beautiful coming from the lips of a three-year-old children as they sing, "Jesus loves me." It sounds elegant coming from the lips of a 95-year-old woman as she calls on Jesus from her sick bed. There's just something about that name.

## 2. JESUS IS A STRONG NAME

"Jesus" is a strong enough name that the devil hates it. You may think it strange I would even call attention to this, but it is remarkable the name "Jesus" often comes from the lips of those who do not know Him or love Him. Most of us have heard people use the name "Jesus Christ" as an utterance of profanity. It hurts me whenever I hear a person swear and cuss and throw "Jesus" in the same vile category of other lewd, vulgar four lettered words. When they do this, they are violating the Third Commandment warning a person never to take the name of the Lord in vain.

But have you ever wondered why someone would use the name "Jesus" when they are swearing? When a guy hits his thumb with a hammer, he doesn't say, "Oh, Buddha!" Or "Well, Mohammed!" Or even, "Moses!" You see, the name of Jesus is such a hated name by our enemy, the devil; he tempts men to use it in disgust. Now, if I had my way, human lips would never again utter the name Jesus Christ except as a statement of pure praise. But, every time a person uses it in swearing, they are inadvertently acknowledging Jesus is God.

I've been known to play a little golf, and sometimes I play with someone who doesn't know I love Jesus. Once, a guy missed a three-foot putt and he slammed his putter down and said, "Jesus Christ!" Instead of preaching to him, I just said, "Where? I know He's coming back—is He here now?" That got his attention.

Why does the devil hate the name of Jesus? Simple. Because at the cross, Jesus totally and completely defeated and shamed the devil; so the devil is simply trying to bring as much shame to the name as he can. In Colossians 2:15, Paul wrote. "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." That word "public spectacle" means Jesus shamed and disgraced the devil so all the universe could see it. The angels saw it, the demons saw it and we can see it. I like the way Eugene Peterson paraphrases that verse in *The Message*: "He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets."

So whenever you hear a person utter Jesus' name as a curse word, it should serve to remind you Satan is such a defeated, shamed foe he is actively trying to bring shame to the name he hates—then just use the devil's own strategy against him. The Bible says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7) If you try to resist the devil in your own name, he will laugh. If you try to resist the devil in the name of Green Acres Baptist Church, he will only chuckle. But if you

resist the devil in the name of Jesus, he will say, "Uh oh, I'm outta here!" and Satan and his demons will flee.

Proverbs 18:10 says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe." You can find safety and refuge in the wonderful, strong name of Jesus!

### 3. JESUS IS A SAVING NAME

There are a couple of pretty important questions you need to settle. First, how can you spend eternity in heaven when you die? I've never met too many people who really, truly wanted to spend an eternity in hell, although I have met a few. And the next question is this: How can I live a full and meaningful life until I die? If you can answer those two questions your life will be satisfying. Those two questions can be answered with just one word: JESUS. Many years ago, I used to sing a chorus by André Crouch saying, "Jesus is the answer for the world today; above Him there's no other; for Jesus is the way." That's pretty profound. Jesus is the answer to all of life's questions—even the ones we don't even know to ask. For sure He is the answer to those two important questions. How can I spend eternity in heaven when I die? JESUS. How can I live a full and meaningful life until I die? JESUS.

Salvation is a word that doesn't just mean going to heaven when you die. It is a word describing a quality of life you can live right now. Full salvation or "being saved" begins *now*; it's not just "pie in the sky bye and bye." Let's look at a couple of scriptures about being saved:

Look at Romans 10:13. Now, I am going to misquote it the way many people believe. So, watch and catch my mistake: "for everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved." Sure, you noticed I left out a key part of that verse. It should read, "For everyone who calls on *the name* of the Lord will be saved." The Lord has a name—Jesus. I've heard many people talk about God in such impersonal terms it's obvious they don't know Him because they don't know His name. They say, "Me and the 'man upstairs' are really tight." Okay, try calling on the "man upstairs" to save you; it won't work. Or people talk about the "Good Lord." They say, "Sure, I believe in the 'good Lord.'" Now, I certainly believe the Lord is good, all the time, but the Lord has a name and His name is Jesus.

You may be scratching your head at this time asking, "Are you telling me I actually have to call on Jesus to save me? I can't just call on the 'man upstairs' or the 'good Lord?'" I'm going to let the Bible answer that question. In Acts 4:12, Peter says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is *no other name* under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

The "man upstairs" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The Good Lord can't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "Buddha" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "Mohammed" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "religion" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "Baptist" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "Green Acres" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus. The name "American" won't save you. There is no other name but the name of Jesus.

His name is the *only* saving name. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

#### **4. JESUS IS THE SUPREME NAME**

There are two unique things we learn about the name of Jesus in our text. God has highly exalted Jesus and "given Him a name that is above every name." So we see Jesus' name is

##### **4.1 Supreme in its position**

Have you ever heard it said of someone that they "stand alone?" In greatness and glory, the name of Jesus does stand alone, higher in prominence, preeminence, and position than any other name.

When you think of all the great men of history, Jesus stands alone. Alexander the Great, Herod the Great, Catherine the Great and others took the title "great" but each of them had dark, shameful elements in their characters mocking the title "great." Jesus alone deserves the title "GREAT." He has no peers.

Plato was a great philosopher, but just as great was Socrates. Demosthenes was a great orator, but so was Cicero. When you think of the names of great artists, no one stands alone. You think of Raphael but you have to put Michelangelo and da Vinci right there beside it. When you think of the Impressionists, you think of Monet, but you have to put the names of Renoir and Van Gogh right beside it. When you think of composers you think of Beethoven, but you have to put the names of Handel, Bach, and Mendelssohn right there beside him. Shakespeare was a great writer, but beside him you must put the name of John Milton who wrote the world's greatest epic and John Bunyan who wrote the world's greatest allegory. Longfellow was a great poet, but so was Tennyson. George Washington was a great president, but beside his name, you can also put Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson. Florence Nightingale was a compassionate woman but so was Mother Teresa. Michael Jordan is a remarkable athlete but so was Ty Cobb and so is Tiger Woods. For every great and powerful person who has ever lived, you can usually find someone just as good and just as great. But Jesus stands alone.

R.G. Lee once said,

"The name of Jesus occupies a singular place of supremacy above all the names in this Universe. Jesus is without peer in His character and in His name. God has given Him a name above *every* other name. If you piled up all the notable names of earth's finest people until you had a mountain of human greatness higher than Everest, the greatness and the glory of the name of Jesus would have to *descend* a million miles downward to touch the top of this anthill we call human greatness."

The name of Jesus stands alone in its prominence and position because His name includes everything we need for life. In Revelation 1:8 Jesus claimed, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter. To us, it would mean Jesus is the A and

He's the Z and He's everything in between. The alphabet is a fascinating concept. We have 26 letters in our English alphabet. You can't have words without letters, and you need words to make sentences; sentences to make paragraphs; paragraphs to make pages; pages to make chapters; chapters to make books; books to make libraries; libraries to make cultures—and it all starts with 26 little letters. That's why all of us must learn our ABC's. Every piece of English literature ever written merely arranges and re-arranges those 26 letters. There would be no written communication without those letters.

Now, all of us know our alphabet backwards and forwards: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. So now say it backwards with me Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A. Well, at least you know it forwards! Jesus is saying He is the A and Z and everything in between.

He is Alpha, Adonai, our Advocate, the Amen, the second Adam, the Almighty, the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

He is the Babe of Bethlehem, the Bridegroom, the Bishop of our Souls, the Branch of Righteousness, the Bread of Life; the Bright and Morning Star; Jesus is the Balm of Gilead.

He is the Christ, the Creator, the Cornerstone, the Counselor, the Comforter, the Chosen One, the Crucified One, the Chief Shepherd of the sheep.

He is the Door, the Daystar, our Delight, our Deliverer, the Desire of all the Nations.

He is Emmanuel; the Exalted One, from Everlasting to Everlasting He is God, Jesus is El Shaddai.

He is the First fruits of the Resurrection, the Fountain of Life, our Forerunner, the Foundation of the Church, the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily, Jesus is the Friend of sinners.

He is God, He is Good, He's our Governor, our guide, Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Great Physician.

He is our Hope, our helper, our healer, the Holy One, the Husband of the church, our High Priest.

He is the great I am; our Inheritance, the Immortal, invisible One.

He is Jesus, He is Jehovah, He's our judge, He's our joy, He's our justifier.

He is the King, and the King of Kings, King of Glory; He's the Keeper of the Keys of death and Hades

He is the Lord, He is Life, He is love, He's the Liberator, the Lawgiver, the Light of the World, the Living Water, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He's the Messiah, the Master, the Mediator, God's Messenger, Jesus is the Man of Sorrows.

He's the Nazarene, the New wine, the New covenant, the Name that is above every name.

He's Omega, our Offering for Sin, He's omnipotent, Jesus is the Only begotten of the Father.

He's the Prophet, the Priest, Our Passover, the Propitiation for our sin, He's the Prince of Peace, Jesus is the Pearl of Great Price.

He's the Quick and Powerful word of God, He's the Quieter of the Storms of Life.

Jesus is the Redeemer, our refuge, the refiner, the rose of Sharon, the resurrection and the Life, Jesus is the rock of ages cleft for me.

He's the Savior, the Shepherd, the Suffering Servant, our Sinless Substitute, He's the Son of God, the Son of Man, He's the Stone which the builders rejected; Jesus is the Sweetest name I know.

Jesus is the Truth, He's the Teacher, the testator of the Will of God, He's our Tabernacle.

He is the Unblemished lamb of God, the Unchanging God, He is the Unction of the Spirit.

He is the Vine, He's the Vicarious sacrifice, He's the Victor over death and the grave.

He's the Way, He's the Word made flesh, He's the Witness, the Water of Life, His name is Wonderful.

He's the *EX*pected Messiah of the Old Testament and *EX*alted Lord of the New Testament.

He's our Yokefellow and Yesterday, Today and Forever He's the same.

Jesus is Zion's Holy King. Hallelujah what a Savior!!!

He's the A and the Z and everything in between. He's all you need.

Not only is the name of Jesus supreme in its position, it is

#### **4.2 Supreme in its profession**

Verse 11 tells us at the name of Jesus *every* knee will bow and *every* tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord! You and I have something in common. Both of us are going to profess, "Jesus is Lord." And we have something in common with every other one of 6 billion people on this planet and with every person who has ever lived. Touch your knees; both of them will bow before Jesus. Roll your tongue around in your mouth; that tongue is going to profess, "Jesus is Lord." The same is true of every angel above the earth and every demon below the earth, including the fallen angel, Satan, himself. They, too, will profess Jesus is Lord.

Now, you may be thinking, "Wait a minute, doesn't confessing Jesus is Lord get you into heaven?" Does that mean everyone will be saved and the devil himself will one day gain eternal access to heaven? Look closely again. Don't miss the importance of this distinction—your eternity could depend on it: Professing "Jesus is Lord" is not the same as saying, "Jesus is My Lord." To say "Jesus is Lord" is to admit Jesus is the Sovereign Creator of the Universe. One day, Charles Manson will say, "Jesus is Lord." But he won't be saying, "Jesus you are my Lord." Madalyn Murray O'Hair is no longer an atheist. One day she will profess "Jesus is Lord" but she has never said, "Jesus is my Lord." Satan himself will be forced to kneel and acknowledge what he already knows, "Jesus is Lord." But Satan would never admit, "Jesus is *my* Lord."

One week after the Jesus' resurrection, a doubting Thomas stood before Jesus. Jesus said, "Put your fingers here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into the my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27) Thomas fell before Jesus and said, "My Lord and My God!" Have you ever come to a place in your life where you fall before Jesus and said, "Jesus, I want you to be *my* Lord. I surrender control of my life to you."

Donatello was perhaps the most gifted of the Italian sculptors. If you are ever in Florence you can see many of his sculptures in the Campanile Gallery. His figures are so lifelike you expect them to walk and talk. It is said that once when Donatello chiseled a life-sized man, he stepped back and commanded the statue, "Now, *speak!*" But the marble lips didn't move. One day, the Creator of the Universe will simply say to every human creature, "Now, *speak!*" Some of us will confess with *joy* and others will confess in Judgement. Which group will you be in? The choice is yours.

I'm going to ask the choir to help me drive home this last point about the Supreme Position of the Name of Jesus. This book, the Bible is all about Jesus. Jesus is the subject of the Bible and salvation is the object of the Bible. It's God's love letter to us to tell us about Jesus. You can find Jesus in every book of the Bible.

In Genesis, Jesus is the Ram at Abraham's altar; In Exodus, He's the Passover Lamb, in Leviticus, He's the High Priest; In Numbers, He's the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night; In Deuteronomy, He's the city of our refuge; In Joshua, He's the Scarlet Thread out Rahab's window; In Judges, He is our Judge; In Ruth, He's our Kinsman Redeemer; In 1 and 2 Samuel He's the trusted Prophet; In Kings and Chronicles, He's our reigning King; In Ezra, He's the faithful scribe; In Nehemiah, He's the rebuilders of everything that is broken; In Esther, He's the Mordecai sitting faithful at the gate; In Job, He our Redeemer who ever lives; in Psalms, He is my Shepherd and I shall not want; In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He's our wisdom; and in the Song of Solomon, He's the beautiful bridegroom; In Isaiah, He's the suffering servant; In Jeremiah and Lamentations it is Jesus who is the weeping prophet; In Ezekiel, He's the wonderful four-faced man; In Daniel, He's the fourth man in the midst of the fiery furnace; In Hosea, He is my love that is forever faithful; in Joel, He baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, in Amos He's our Burden bearer; In Obadiah, our Savior, and in Jonah, He's the great foreign missionary who takes the word of God around the world; In Micah, He's the messenger with the beautiful feet; in Nahum, He's the avenger, in Habakkuk, He's the watchman who is ever praying for revival, in Zephaniah, He's the Lord, Mighty to save; In Haggai, He's the restorer of our lost



heritage; In Zechariah, He's our Fountain, and in Malachi, He is the Son of Righteousness risen with healing in His wings; In Matthew, You are the Christ, the son of the Living God; In Mark, He's the Miracle worker, In Luke, the son of Man; In John, He is the Door through which every one of us must enter; In Acts, He's the shining light that appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus; In Romans, He's our Justifier; In 1 Corinthians, He's our Resurrection; In 2 Corinthians, He's our Sin bearer; In Galatians, He redeems us from the Law; In Ephesians, He's our unsearchable riches; In Philippians, He supplies our every need; In Colossians, He's the fullness of the Godhead bodily; In 1 and 2 Thessalonians, He's our soon coming King; In 1 and 2 Timothy, He's the Mediator between God and man; In Titus, He's the Blessed Hope; and in Philemon, He's the friend who sticks closer than a brother; In Hebrews, He's the blood of the everlasting covenant; In James, it is the Lord who heals the sick; In 1 and 2 Peter, He's the Chief Shepherd; and in 1, 2, and 3 John, it is Jesus who has the tenderness of love. In Jude, He's the Lord coming with 10,000 saints, and in the book of Revelation, lift up your eyes, church, for your redemption is drawing near. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

## OUTLINE

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"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*

### II. *JESUS* IS A STRONG NAME

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. *Colossians 2:15 NIV*

### III. *JESUS* IS A SAVING NAME

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. *Romans 10:13*

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. *Acts 4:12*

### IV. *JESUS* IS THE SUPREME NAME

#### 1. Supreme in its position

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." *Revelation 1:8*

#### 2. Supreme in its profession



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To put it in Texas terms, “You’re mighty welcome to use any and all of my ingredients; just make your own chili!”

For the Joy...  
Pastor David Dykes