

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Proverbs 22:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Importance of a name > 1980's popular diet control candy had good sales (AYDS)
"A rose by any other name might indeed smell as sweet."
2. Names can mean the difference between success and failure...Prov. 22:1
 - *Ability to borrow money
 - *Respect and good reputation that can be trusted
 - *Countless businesses have invested millions to impress consumers. (Star hamburgers at Hardee's)
3. The name we wear says much about us, about our relationships to others, including God.
4. Jesus was given many names and titles. Each designated a quality or characteristic of Jesus that God wants us to understand. But why give so many names?

I. A NAME IS A SIGN OF CHARACTER

A. Common

1. Names in the Bible often represented a sign of character.
2. Today it is based on popular names from sports, entertainment, or relatives.
3. Illustrations from the Old Testament...
 - *Moses (Drawn from water)
 - *Abram (Exalted father) became Abraham (Father of many)
 - *David (Beloved) Man after God's own heart
 - *Jacob (Plotter) to Israel (Prince)

B. Concern

1. Even today we are careful about what we name a newborn.
2. ILL> Adolf; Judas; Nero (Don't want the stigma due to their names)
3. Jesus was given a name that represented His role and character. More than just another man named (Joshua) in His culture. In fact, he was the Son of God. He was to be Savior of the world.

II. A NAME IS A SIGN OF AUTHORITY

A. The Command...Matt. 28:18-20

1. Jesus claims all authority as the crucified and resurrected Son of God.
2. He then sends out His followers under that Authority.

B. The Comparison

1. "Stop in the name of the Law."
2. "I pronounce you man and wife by the powers invested in me by the state of N.C."

C. The Completion

1. In His Name comes forgiveness of sin...Acts 2:38.
2. In His Name the Gospel is to be preached...Matt. 28:18-20.
3. Under His Authority, as Head, the church is to function.
4. Supreme Name. You are a part of a great institution. Not Mickey Mouse stuff.

III. A NAME IS A SIGN OF RELATIONSHIP

A. The Significance

1. Shepherd and Sheep...John 10:2-3 (Familiar relationship)
2. Man and wife (She takes on his name.)
3. Father naming son Junior

B. The Substitution

1. Calling on a Name when there is no relationship is illegal and dangerous.
2. Sons of Sceva in Acts 19: 15-16 (Tried to use a name that was theirs)
3. Not everyone that says to me Lord, Lord...Matt. 7:21-23

IV. A NAME IS A SIGN OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Accountability for every WORKS...Rom. 14:12; Heb. 13:17

1. Santa does not know if you have been good or bad...God does.
2. Privilege brings responsibility and responsibility brings Accountability.
3. Do what you do in the Name of the Lord Jesus...Col. 3:17

B. Accountable for WORDS...Matt. 12:36

1. Careless...Speaks in his unguarded moments. Speaks without thinking
“The state of man’s heart can be seen through the words which he speaks.”
2. Calculated...Carefully spoken word in public, but when he is in private his character will be revealed. (Calculated Hypocrisy)
3. Course...Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking (Read Psalm 39:1; 141:3)

V. A NAME WE WEAR MATTERS

A. An Exalted Name...Phil. 2:9-11 (Name Above all others)

B. An Exact Name...Acts 4:12

C. An Excellent Name...Heb. 1:2-4

CONCLUSION:

You have no choice in the matter as it related to Recognition of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. You have a choice as it related to the Reception of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME

Philippians 2:9-11

INTRODUCITON:

1. Lord Jesus, while on Earth, was a Servant (5-8); and a Sacrifice (8)
2. Lord Jesus is now Sovereign again (Text)
3. There has never been another like JESUS.
 - *Was human child and also Divine Son. Wounded by Satan and Who, at same time, crushed Satan.
 - *Had no sin in Him, yet all sin was on Him; Was King of Glory, yet wore no crown, but crown of thorns.
 - *Was Prince of Peace, yet accused of being a disturber of Public Peace; Was truth, yet accused to His face of being a liar.
 - *In Glory had angelic hails, but on earth gave Himself to murderous nails
 - *Was Prince of life, yet died on Calvary
 - *Was as old as His Heavenly Father and ages older than His earthly mother
 - *In eternity rested on the bosom of the Father without a mother, and in time rested on the bosom of a mother without a father.
 - *Was a Lion with power to crush kingdoms under foot, yet was led as a Lamb to the slaughter. Spake as never man spake, and yet as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, He opened not His mouth.
 - *Poured all seas, all lakes, all rivers out of the Crystal cup of eternity, yet on a Cross said with a parched mouth... "I Thirst"
 - *Had and has a NAME far above every name that is named not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.
4. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there's just something about that name. Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all heaven and earth proclaim. Kings and kingdoms may all pass away, but there's just something about that NAME.
5. With Joy we say that His name is...

I. A SUPERIOR NAME

A. Comparison

1. A huge library contains many different books. Jesus never wrote a book, yet more books have been written about Him. Volumes cannot contain His life. Half has not been told.
2. A vast garden has many different flowers given forth perfume. Yet His fragrances as the Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley are beyond compare (Broken Rose).
3. A great orchestra has many different instruments with various tones. Yet none can bring the music to the soul like THE NAME OF JESUS. (John 3:16) Sweetest music ever written-THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME.
4. A towering cathedral has many windows and doors. Jesus never built a church building, but across the world there are millions erected in His honor.
5. There are many fruits in an orchard of various trees, but come taste of Him. Be satisfied with sweet nectar from the fruit.

B. Contrast

1. As the earth is a vast storehouse containing all things essential to wants of man.
2. So is the Name of Jesus a glorious Name. The origin and end of all mysteries. The reasons and explanation for life. IN HIM ALL FULLNESS DWELLS.
3. Creator and Upholder of all things.

C. Conclusion

1. Emmanuel. God with us.
2. God's eternal purpose consummated
3. Justice married to mercy
4. Creator wedded to His creation

II. A SWEET NAME

A-dam, Advocate, Anointed, Author, Amen, Alpha, Ancient of Days born of woman
B-eginning, the Beloved, Branch, Bread, Bridegroom, Bright and Morning Star
C-aptain, Consolation, Chief Cornerstone, Counselor, Chosen of God, Christ
D-aysman, Deliverer, Daystar, Door, Desire of All Nations
E-lect, Everlasting Father, Emmanuel
F-inisher of our faith, Forerunner, Friend, First Fruits, Fountain of Life Issuing from the Cave of death
G-od, Gift of God, Governor, Guide, Glorious Lord
H-elp, Hope, Horn of Salvation, Hearer, Head of Church, High Priest, hells dread Heaven's Wonder,
The Holy One
I-am, Inheritance, image of God's person, Immortal and Invisible
J-udah, Judge, Just, Jesus is His Name, Sweetest Name I Know
K-ing, King of Israel, King of Kings, King of Glory, King Everlasting
L-ife, Light, Love, Lily, Lion, Lamb, Lawgiver, Living Stone, The Lord of Glory
M-essenger, Mediator, Master, Messiah, Mighty God
N-He is a Nazarene
O-ff Spring of David, Omega, Only Begotten of God, Offering and Offerer
P-riest, Passover, Potentate, Prophet, Propitiation, Prince of Life, Prince of Peace, Physician
Q-uieter of Soul
R-ighteousness, Rabbi, Ransom, Rest, Root of Jesse, Root of David, Refiner, Refuge, Resurrections,
Rose of Sharon blossoming in the shade of hell, Redeemer, Rock of Ages
S-tone, Shepherd, Son of God, Son of Man, Shield, Servant, Seed of Woman, Surety, Sufferer, Savior,
Sinless Sacrifice...Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever
T-eacher, Truth, Tabernacle, Testator, and Tree of Life
U-ncion of the Holy One
V-ictory, and Victor
W-itness, Word, Way, Wisdom of God, the Wonderful One
Y-ea, Yearning of Soul
Z-eal and Zest of life

THE SWEETEST NAME OF MORTAL TONGUE, SWEETEST CAROL EVER SUNG

III. SPECIAL NAME

A. Above Every Name

1. Kings

*Herod, Titus, and Pharaohs, Nebucunazzar, Darius, Belshazzar,
*Cyrus, Hezekiah, Solomon, David, Saul, Jeroboam, Rehoboam
*Asa, Amasiah, Ahaz, Abab, Amon
*Jehodiah, Jehu, Jehosaphat, Josiah, Adonijah, Jehoiakim, Jehochin
*Agrippa, James, Peter the Great, and King George

2. Prophets

*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah
*Johan, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and John the Baptist

3. Apostles

*Peter, Andrew, James and John the Sons of Thunder, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew,
James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeous, Simon, Judas Iscariot, Apostle Paul

4. Judges

*Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Barak, Gideon, Tola, Jain
*Jephtha, Ibzan, Elon, Abdom, and Samson

B. Every Knee Shall Bow

1. Rulers

*Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Kruchev,
*Castro, Bus, Reagan, Clinton, Mao Se Tung, KoMenian, Saddam Hussein

2. Rich

*John Rockefeller, Ted Kennedy, Hugh Hefner
*Johnny Carson, Phil Donahue, Oprah

3. Entertainers

*Rolling Stones (will be crushed by the Rock of Ages)
*Beatles, Elvis Presley (whom world calls the King), Billy Ray Cyrus, Willie Nelson,
Madonna

4. Atheist and Agnostics

*Madlyn O'Hare, Tom Paine, Bob Ingerson, Ted Turner, John Dewey

C. Every Tongue Shall Confess

1. The Religions of the World

*Moslems, Catholics, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Hindus
*Buddhists, Moonies, Satanists, and Humanists

2. The Media Press

*NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, DISNEY, TNT, CNN
*Washington Post, New York Times, Charlotte Observer
*Howard Stern, Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, and Sam Donaldson

3. The Wicked

*Drunkard, Prostitute, Gamblers, Abortionists, Drug Peddlers
*Molesters, Pornographers, Sex Fiends, and Liars
*Murderers, Thieves, and Crooks

4. You and I will bow.

CONCLUSION:

I WOULD RATHER DO MY BOWING AND CONFESSING HERE!

JESUS, KING MOST WONDERFUL

Hebrews 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Theme of ministry: Exalt Christ (intention and longing)
2. Speak about His Coronation: JESUS THE KING (Everything about Him is Kingly)
 - *Wise men came seeking the King
 - *Pilate said to Him, “Art Thou a King then?” Jesus answered, “Thou sayest I am a King. To this end I was born, and for this cause came I into the world.”
 - *Hymn - “Crowns became the Savior’s Brow”
 - *He came to found a kingdom. “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” “My kingdom is not of this world.”
 - *He died a king...superscription in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew: “This is Jesus the King”
 - *He was buried as King, buried with kingly honors in a tomb wherein never man had been laid.
 - *He arose a King... “Death could not hold his prey; He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord”
 - *He ascended as King...back to the throne of Heaven.
 - *HE IS KING NOW!
3. We see Jesus crowned several places.

I. THE BACKWARD LOOK...We see Jesus crowned on the Cross

A. The Humiliation

1. Abandonment of Rights...Rom. 15:3; John 5:30
 - a. Creator becoming creation
 - b. The Sovereign God becoming suffering man
 - c. We live in the “ME generation.” Human rights is a phrase that we often hear.
 - d. Christians have no rights...I Cor. 6:19-20
2. Abandonment of Riches...II Cor. 8:9
 - a. Jesus gave up His royal robe to wear a scarlet robe.
 - b. Jesus gave up walking on golden streets to walk the dusty paths of humanity.
 - c. Jesus gave up servants (angels) to do his bidding to become a Servant of man.
 - d. Jesus became the humble peasant that He could identify with poorest person in this world.
 - e. Yet, I am truly rich. Do you have a friend? Have you got a place to live? Have you got a preacher who actually preaches the Bible? THEN YOU ARE RICH.
 - f. Oh, so many people are FULL OF THEMSELVES
ILL>Older person who has many regrets for not starting earlier.
3. Abandonment of Recognition and Reputation...Phil. 2:7
 - a. Did they know when they placed the Crown of Thorns on His brow Who He was? He was the One Who had made the rose.
 - b. Did they know when they placed a scarlet robe on his back after stripping Him Who He was? He was the One Who could have called 10,000 angels to His aid.
 - c. Did they know when they placed a reed for a scepter in His hand Who He was? He is the hand of the Creator and Sustainer of life.
 - d. Oh, how little it takes to upset us because we are not recognized or didn’t get a gift.

B. The Honor

1. Taste Death
 - a. Calvary was not a mistake, or frustration, or failure.
 - b. The crown of thorns was the badge of Kingship.
 - c. Sin had to be paid for. Someone had to suffer. A Lamb had to be sacrificed.

ILL>Being led like a sheep to slaughter. Man who had to quit killing sheep. They look at you with their sad eyes, willing to die - no resistance.

d. JESUS DIED FOR ME! JESUS TOOK MY PLACE! JESUS PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE.

2. Triumphed over the Devil...verse 14
 - a. Devil's trump card is death.
 - b. By dying, death He slew
 - c. Throne of Conquest and Thank God it has conquered me.

II. THE UPWARD LOOK...We see Jesus crowned in Heaven

A. The Grandeur

1. The Sinbearer, the Substitute, the Saviour is at this very moment occupying the Throne of the Universe.
2. The Reigning Sovereign of the world
3. On this Christmas Eve THE KEY OF THIS WORLD IS HELD BY THE MAN CHRIST JESUS. HE HAS THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HAND.
 - a. Man may try to push Him out with greed, but He is Still Crowned in Grandeur.
 - b. Man may try to push Him out with education, but He is still the Eternal God.

ILL>Professor at Cornell who was witnessed to. "I'm too educated for that."
Educated people will burn just like uneducated people.
 - c. Man may try to push Him out with military might, but the Mighty God still reigns.
(Man is nothing more than a puppet fulfilling the plan of God.)

B. The Glory

1. It is a Man at God's side in Heaven today.
2. The Incarnation did not cease, at the end of 33 years it is eternal.
3. He took our humanity back with Him to Heaven.
4. God's ideal man and man's ideal God. HE IS ON THE THRONE, AND HE IS YOUR SAVIOUR.
5. He was crowned in Heaven because He was crowned on the Cross. God's reward...Phil. 2:10

III. THE ONWARD LOOK...We see Jesus crowned on the earth

A. The Declaration

1. Jesus is coming again.
2. First coming was in Shame - Cross to redeem, save the soul. Next time coming will be in Splendor - coronation to reign, save the body.
3. First coming was to Conquer - to be the Resident, the Atonement, the Servant. Next He is coming to Control, to be the President of Administration, Sovereign.
4. First coming was as a Lamb slain. Second coming as the Lion of Judah
5. The most thrilling event of the centuries

B. The Delight

1. Climax of the ages
2. We shall reign with Him.

IV. THE INWARD LOOK...Do we see Jesus crowned in our heart?

A. Vain

1. If He be not King in our hearts, then vain was the Coronation on the Cross, vain His Coronation in Heaven, vain will be His Coronation on Earth.
2. God wants you to give Him the place He has given Him in Heaven.
3. Is self on the throne? Then Jesus is on the Cross. If Jesus is on the throne, then self is on the Cross.

B. Victory

1. Crown Him now!
2. Unsaved: This Christmas Day He wants you to give Him a gift...your empty heart. He wants to give you a gift...eternal life.
3. Saved: He wants to be the ruler in your life. Give Him all that selfishness and let Him be more than just your Saviour. Let Him be your Sovereign.

CONCLUSION:

1. ILL>Satan is a roaring lion seeking to devour you. He is afraid of nothing except one thing. A lion is the king of beasts. The only animal a lion is afraid of is another lion that is more powerful. Thank God that the Lamb has become that Lion, and Jesus can conquer the devil.
2. IN FULL AND GLAD SURRENDER
I GIVE MYSELF TO THEE
THINE UTTERLY AND ONLY
AND EVERMORE TO BE
OH, COME AND REIGN, LORD JESUS!
RULE OVER EVERYTHING
AND KEEP ME ALWAYS LOYAL
AND TRUE TO THEE, MY KING!

JESUS AND ME

Matthew 17:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Three words for my text in a moment
2. Situation of Jesus and disciples
 - *No home to call own
 - *While others went home, Jesus went to mt. (Luke 8:1)
 - *While others had comfort, He went to agonize.
 - *Owned garments on back, and they were gambled for.
 - *Slept under the stars and lived off land.
3. One day tax collector-IRS came to Peter to inquire if they paid taxes.
 - *Peter responded YES
 - *Then went to see Jesus
 - *Jesus read the situation and responded that we must be honest and above reproach.
 - *I want you to go to sea and catch a fish and pay tax.
4. One of the most beautiful statements in the Bible. Peter, you catch fish and take coin from its mouth and pay the taxes for ME AND THEE. (Relate Peter's experience catching fish and running to pay taxes.)
5. There are some experiences of life when it is just you and Jesus. Times when no friend, no doctor, no nurse nor loved one can enter the experience.
6. I love it: JAMES PAULEY AND JESUS; YOUR NAME AND JESUS
7. I don't feel worthy (like the elephant and the flea)
 - *I'm not important. I am awfully little. I am insignificant.
 - *But it's Me and Thee (Little boy that said, WE killed a bear, but papa shot it.

I. HE IS BEFORE ME...John 10:4

A. Every step of life

1. No matter where it may lead
2. He walks with me and talks with me
3. He always goes before

ILL>Boy down south who had to finish school in a distant city because of no higher school where he lived. He would stay Mon - Fri and come home. It was a long walk through a deep ravine.

B. Every stop of life

1. He's already scouted it out and knows a better way.
2. God's detours are not always bad. Some of the most beautiful country is seen along these roads.
3. If you let it be ME AND THEE, He could stop you from making some of the worst blunders of your life.
 - a. Taking the wrong job (Be careful about a job that takes you out of church as a young person.)
 - b. Marrying the wrong person (Don't rush or push!)

II. HE IS BEHIND ME...Isa. 30:21

- A. He is behind me to remind me not to look back at my sins. (Isa. 43:25; 38:18)
- B. He is behind me to remind me not to look back at my failures. (Phil. 3:12-15)
- C. He is behind me to remind me not to look back at the world. (Remember Lot's wife.)
- D. He is behind me to remind me not to look back at what I used to have. (Luke 9:57-62)

III. HE IS BENEATH ME...I Cor. 3:11

- A. He is the Solid Rock...Matt. 7
 - 1. All other ground is sinking sand.
 - 2. All other ground is cracking sand (Gibraltar).
- B. He is the Secure Rock...Ps. 40:2
- C. He is the Salvation Rock...Ps. 89:26
- D. He is the Satisfied Rock...Job 39:28
(An Eagle has one rock for their lifetime.)

IV. HE IS BESIDE ME...Isa. 41:13

- A. He is beside me as Comrade...Gen. 5:22-24 (Enoch)
 - 1. A friend that sticks
 - 2. A friend that sees (and still likes you!)
 - 3. A friend that speaks (Honest and True)
- B. He is beside me as Comforter...John 16:7 (Holy Spirit)
 - 1. When I'm troubled (Peace)
 - 2. When I'm tested (Power)
 - 3. When I'm transgressed (Patience)
- C. He is beside me as Counselor...John 16:13
 - 1. When I need a guide
 - 2. When I need a guard
 - 3. When I need a grace (Fruits of the Spirit)

ILL> of D. Sankey's little boy getting a new coat with four pockets. Wanted to wear with his daddy on a cold, slippery day. Fell down and asked his dad to hold his hand until they got home.

V. HE IS BEYOND ME...Col. 3:1

- A. To be there when I need an advocate...I John 2:1-2
- B. To be there when I need an approval...Matt. 25:21
- C. To be there when I need an appearance...Acts 7:56

CONCLUSION:

- 1. AND BEST OF ALL HE IS IN ME...Col. 1:27
- 2. HE WANTS TO BE IN YOU...Rev. 3:20
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. To walk on the water is humanly impossible.
2. Could you walk on water? (Man who said to preacher, "When you can walk across the lake to my house, then I will listen to you. " That winter the lake froze over.)
3. Jesus had just fed the multitudes when our story opens.

I. THE STEERING OF JESUS...14:22-26

A. The Purpose

1. Timing - sent disciples into ship-not time to set up as King (John 6:15)
2. Teaching - disciples could rejoice over the feeding of 5,000, but did not yet have the faith they needed.

B. The Prayer (Lord on Mt. to pray)

1. Burdened over John the Baptist's beheading
2. Burdened over multitudes that had no shepherd
3. Burdened over disciples who were in the storm
4. Burdened over the believers that one day would face the storm

*Place of intercession...Heb. 7:25

(You may not have anyone praying for you.)

*Place of intervention...Rom. 10:13

(Reached the place of no return. Dangerous and frightening. He hears the faintest whisper.)

C. The Performance

1. Appearance

- a. Fourth watch (3-6 A.M.)
- b. Darkest hour is just before dawn.
- c. Could be same when rapture occurs.

2. Amazement

- a. Disciples troubled..thought it was a ghost
- b. "I didn't believe in ghosts either until I saw one."
- c. They did see a Ghost. The Holy Ghost on Jesus.

II. THE SPEAKING OF JESUS...14:27

A. Blessedness

1. Be of good cheer
2. It is I (Ann Landers - 10,000 letters per month, most about fear)

B. Boldness

1. Peter has been criticized for this.
2. I rather admire him
3. Expect great things of God, and attempt great things for God.
4. Most of us are satisfied with little things from God.

C. Badness

1. Fear - When Peter saw the wind
2. Failure - Took eyes off Jesus (*Oh, how many people take their eyes off of Jesus during crisis*)
3. Faith - Lord Save Me! Shortest prayer in Bible. God down to business fast!

III. THE STRETCHING OF JESUS...14:31

A. Problem

1. Peter was sinking
 - a. Unsaved are sinking deep in sin far from the peaceful shore.
 - b. Saved are sinking in doubt and despair
2. Peter was at the end of self. Jesus caught him.

B. Peace

1. Storm called
2. Peter rescued

C. Praise

1. Marvelous to worship Jesus
2. Discover a Savior Who can walk with you in the storm and carry you, if necessary.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus is able to walk on the water, and there are times in our spiritual walk that we, too, must walk on the water. Get out of the boat and rely completely on His power.

THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

Col. 1:15-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. ILL>Boy to girlfriend one night: "I don't have a lot of money like Jerome Green, but I love you. He's got a beautiful home, a brand new Porsche, but you mean the world to me." Girl: "I love you, too, but tell me more about Jerome Green."
2. We treat Christ like that. Christ is not much when compared to the promises of the world.
ILL>Man who wanted to marry beautiful princess.
3. We do not have to apologize about this Christ! Who split history into BC and AD? He is sufficient to meet every need in the life of man.
4. No other place in the Bible do we find such a comprehensive picture of the sufficiency of Christ as Paul gave here.

I. THE REDEEMER OF MAN...vv. 13-14

A. The Dilemma of Man

1. Under estimated. We suggest that he is socially deprived, psychologically maladjusted, or physically deficient.
2. In contrast, the Bible declares man is suffering from a sickness of the soul...under the domain of darkness, under the power of evil, burdened by guilt from which he needs to be delivered

B. The Deliverance of Man

1. He transforms (Redeems)
>Liberates us from the bondage of our sin through His blood...Heb. 2:14
2. He transfers (Removes)
>As God removed the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt and transferred them into the Promised Land, even so Jesus removes us from darkness into land of light.

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD...v. 15

- A. The Desire - Man has always wanted to know what God is like. Show us the Father
- B. The Description - Jesus is "the image of the invisible God." Direct impression, a precise reproduction
>Not just another teacher, leader, or man, but we see God
>Man's quest for God is met in Jesus.

III. THE REGENT OF THE WORLD...vv. 15-17

- A. The Priority - Christ preceded, produced, and preserves the world
>First born conveys idea of priority of position, not previous birth
>Before anything else Jesus existed
- B. The Place - One Who makes sense of our life
ILL>Father wanting to keep child busy one evening gave a picture puzzle of the world and told child to put it together. Amazingly, in just a few minutes he was through. How? On back was a picture of Jesus, when I put Him together the world was right.

IV. THE RULER OF THE CHURCH...v. 18

- A. He is the Authority - "HE" - not some preacher, pope, or philosopher
>A great church is one which allows Jesus Christ to be the head
- B. He is the Agenda - We do not do what we want to do if we are to please Him. We are to let Him set the agenda and we obey. He rules.

CONCLUSION:

Count Zinzendorf, founder of the Moravians, was converted in an art gallery as he contemplated a painting of Christ on the Cross. The picture was inscribed: "I did this for thee. What hast thou done for Me?"

III. PASSIVE...Isa. 5:13 (No knowledge)

A. Famine for the Word of God

1. In early America the Word of God was taught in house and school.
2. Today it is a forgotten book.
ILL>Pastor asked Mom for Bible. She sent child for "most important book in house."
Child returned carrying the Sears/Roebuck catalog.
3. Oh, we know the ball teams and stats

B. Famine for the Will of God

1. Generation is thirsting for something, and they don't know what.
2. Young people are willing to give themselves to a cause.

IV. PERVERSION...Isa. 5:18-22

A. Persist

1. Cling to its sin. Scoffs at God's interventions.
2. Can't distinguish between good and evil. (Cheating is normal; Scandals in government; nobody takes blame for any wrong.)

B. Procrastination

1. Parents intend to come to grips with God's command, but nothing is done.
2. Going to start, but never get around to it.
ILL>If you did with illness of child like you do spiritual, child would be dead!

V. PRIDE...Isa. 5:21

A. Dangerous - Dams the floodgates of revival; Destroys our homes; Devastates our lives.

B. Deceptive - People who are the proudest least admit their pride. Proud of their humility.

C. Dependence (on self) - I can do it myself. I can manage my own life.

1. Independence from God

2. Ingratitude toward God (See attitude test)

"Attitude of Ingratitude Test"

-Does it irritate you when someone corrects you for your faults?

-Do you find yourself accepting praise for things over which you have no control?

-Are you an individual who, when he does make a mistake, always has an alibi?

-When someone wrongs you or does something you dislike, do you every rationalize:
saying, "Well, I can get along without that individual. I don't need them."?

-Do you find it difficult to seek counsel, to ask someone else for advice?

-Do you have an ungrateful spirit, not accepting graciously what God has given you?

-Is you life marked by a sense of competition or measuring success by victory over
other people?

GOD HATES PRIDE!

CONCLUSION:

1. "When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride."

2. Are you bringing forth the right kind of fruit or is it Wild Grapes? Be sure you have the right root, and then let nothing destroy the good fruit.

THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, FOREVER

Hebrews 13:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. ILL>Abe Lincoln at death on April 15, 1865. Sec. Stanton said, "Now he belongs to the ages."
2. Actually, only one to that belongs: JESUS
3. Great text - Too great to preach on, and yet too great to omit
4. Many things change: People, Places, Programs, Words, Styles
5. Theme of Hebrews is the Immutable Christ - Eternal Creator, Eternal Redeemer, Eternal Companion
6. This is a text for troubled times, a troubled world, and troubled souls.

I. CHRIST IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS PERSON

(How far back that takes us!)

- A. Before the mountains were brought forth or earth formed; Before the morning stars sang together
- B. Abraham rejoiced to see His day; Moses wrote of Him; David sang of His everlasting kingdom; Jeremiah preached of His everlasting love; Isaiah painted that masterpiece of His suffering and His triumph (Isa. 53)
- C. Same as when He was transfigured in glory on the mount; when He was betrayed and denied and spat upon and crowned with thorns and hung on a cross between two thieves
- D. Same when he rose again from the dead and ascended into Heaven
- E. Same when dying Stephen saw Him standing at the right hand of God
- F. Same when Paul and John and Peter and Calvin and Luther and Whitefield and Spurgeon and Moody declared His redeeming love
- G. Same when your fathers and mothers told you of His love
- H. Same when you gave your youthful heart to Christ

THE SAME TODAY THAT HE WAS YESTERDAY, THE SAME YESTERDAY THAT HE IS TODAY!

II. CHRIST IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS PRESENTATION

(Man's 3 questions...What can I know? What ought I to do? What can I hope? Jesus answers all 3)

- A. I can know God, Whom to know aright is life eternal
- B. I ought to do the will of God and follow His steps
- C. I can hope for a happy and blessed immortality, beyond the sphere of sin and grief and death.
- D. Which sayings have become obsolete or outmoded?
 - >Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
 - >More blessed to give than receive
 - >Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away
- E. When John saw Him in his great vision on the Isle of Patmos, standing in the midst of seven golden candlesticks, seven stars in right hand and His countenance flaming like the sun and fell at his feet as one dead, Jesus lifted him and said, "Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death"
 - >We try the key of education—we get worse.
 - >We try the key of science—destroy ourselves.
 - >We try political leaders—but they are just like us.

ONLY CHRIST HAS THE KEYS. TODAY HE CONFRONTS THE WEARY NATIONS: "I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD...AND, BEHOLD I HAVE THE KEYS."

III. CHRIST IS IMMUTABLE IN HIS PROVISION

- A. Redeemer from sin - Christ is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.
 - >Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood...be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
 - >I have put all my hope in this redeeming Christ that the apostles and martyrs who emptied the blood stained arenas and colosseums of their shouting throngs.
- B. Who can tell me? Where shall I go?
 - >Mighty angels - Michael with sword and Gabriel with trumpet. He is still the same. Holy, Holy, Holy is the music of Heaven.
 - >Abraham and Moses - from Mt. Moriah and Mt. Sinai - He is the same.
 - >David the greatest sinner and greatest saint with all the music of the Psalms pours from the harps He is still the same.
 - >John the Baptist, the great forerunner, who declared the Lamb of God Which taketh away the sin of the world...with wild, wilderness voice John answers He is the same
 - >Paul the persecuted and now saved - Once greatest enemy and now greatest friend...I am persuaded..He is still the same.
 - >John whom Jesus loved and who leaned upon his breast...with the thunders of the Apocalypse... He is still the same.
 - >Ask all the redeemed of ages past who have their robes washed and made white... “Worthy is the Lamb.” He is still the same.

CONCLUSION:

This is the Christ for you and me. Yesterday's sin's; Today's fears and burdens; Tomorrow's veil.

II. THE DUTIES OF PARENTS TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE HUSBAND/WIFE RELATIONSHIP

A. Owe each other affection

1. Men are most likely to err in this respect.
2. Women by nature are romantic. "Before you married me you said you could eat me up."
"Yeah, but I done lost my appetite."
3. Around 10-15 years is a crucial time in these days.

B. Owe each other consideration

1. Men: Realize a woman's work is never done. Many husbands come home to complain and criticize instead of showing appreciation. (Before marriage and after marriage)
2. Women: Being a wife is fixing up for husband.
ILL>An unattractive wife with stringy hair, dress all sloppy, and two front teeth that didn't hit said, "Pray for my husband. I am having trouble with him...He is chasing around other women."

C. Owe each other cooperation

1. Teamwork - Not pulling in opposite direction
2. Mutually share everything.

III. DUTIES OF THE ENTIRE FAMILY TOWARD GOD

(Sad to see people trying to run the house without God)

A. Home owes to God a Family Altar

1. Family that prays together stays together.
2. Some do not even pray at the dinner table.

B. Home owes to God a Family Pew

1. Older days family had a special section that family sat in
2. Today part of the family doesn't go to church. Don't send! Take!

C. Home owes to God & to itself that Every Member be a Christian

1. Together here - Together there
2. Many remain unsaved and die unsaved. For sake of your family

CONCLUSION:

Story of five-year-old girl who attended church with her mother but dad had no time for spiritual things. Dad asked her what she was learning in Sunday School. She said teacher asked where we wanted to go when we died. I told my teacher I wanted to go where my daddy went. Father turned pale and chin began to quiver. He went to bedroom and fell on face and asked God's forgiveness. Little girl is counting on me.