

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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What's In A Name?

Introduction

My name is Rowan Jennings, it's just a name, however, I do have an interesting heritage. In the 1600's a woman called Sarah Jennings married John Churchill. He was the first Duke of Marlborough, Prince of Middelheim, Prince of Mellenburg. It was from this family tree that Sir Winston Churchill came. Sarah was a close associate of Queen Anne as her husband was of King James. In time, John left England and joined forces with William Prince of Orange and came to Ireland in the late 1600's. At that time the names of the sons were Rowan Van Jennings, Samuel Jennings, and Wilson Jennings. I am a descendent of that Rowan Van Jennings. Now to all this I say, "Who cares if I am Rowan the XIV, or something like that?" Does it really matter what the name of a human being means except for imagined superiority?

The All Sufficiency Of The Man Called Jesus

There are many recordings of the last words of an individual before death. Some are words of bravado, some are the expression of the desire to go home to Heaven. If I had the choice and ability I would like my last words on earth to be, "Jesus, My Jesus". Forty years ago I had a young peoples Bible class. In that group of teenagers was a girl called Velma Haggerty who at that time accepted the Lord as Saviour. It is only a few years ago Velma died and her only desire was to be released from the body of cancer and be with Jesus. Thankfully there is only one name that is a blessing to be associated with while in life and in death, and that is the name "Jesus". Not long ago I was at the funeral of an individual who had a living relationship with Jesus. In the truths of Psalm 23 this man:

- a) Knew he had all he needed in life for he could say concerning Jesus, "The Lord is my Shepherd".
- b) As he took his last breath he had all he needed for death, for the scriptures say: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou (Jesus) art with me".
- c) He had all he needed for eternity for, because of that relationship with Jesus, He could say: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever". At the moment of death "Jesus" is the only name that will bring comfort to the exiting spirit.

The Exclusiveness Of The Man Called Jesus

- 1) Before the Lord was born in Bethlehem, Gabriel informed Joseph that the name of the firstborn baby of Mary was to be "Jesus". He was not the first to be named by an angel before the birth for the same happened concerning John Baptist (Lk. 1:13). However, in contrast to the Lord, Zacharias, who was the father of John, was not told why the baby was to be called "John", whereas it was explained to Joseph why the baby was to be called "Jesus". The angel said: "She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their

sins” (Matt 1:21). The Apostle John wrote of the Lord being the “Saviour of the world” on two occasions. In his first epistle he gives three reasons for the Lord coming into the world:

- a) “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son (who was Jesus) into the world, that we might live through him” (1 Jn. 4:9).
 - b) “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 Jn. 4:10).
 - c) God is making it very clear to every human being, the only one who is the Saviour of the world and can provide and assure the individual of having eternal life and being the recipient of God’s fulness of mercy and grace (propitiation), is through Jesus.
- 2) Christ was very conscious of His preeminence, which was shown when He declared without reservation that He was:
- a) “Greater than the temple” in permanence of glory and being God’s eternal dwelling place (Matt. 12:6).
 - b) “Greater than Jonas” in His literal death and resurrection (Matt. 12:41).
 - c) “Greater than Solomon” in superior wisdom, glory, and unswerving devotion to God (Matt. 12:42).
 - d) “Greater than Jacob” in the fulness of the water He gives (Jn. 4:12; 7:37-39).
 - e) “Greater than Abraham” (Jn. 8:53).
- 3) Jesus stands in contrast to all others, for while He is truly man, yet He is much more.
- a) No other prophet, priest, religious leader of either Judaism or any other religion compares to Him.
 - b) No other political figure, be he a king, Shah, or president, compares to Him.
 - c) No other intellectual, be he a professor or lecturer, compares to Him.
 - d) No other human compares to him for there has been in this world four orders of manhood.
 - i) Before sin came into the world through the disobedience of Adam, humanity was in a state of innocent humanity.
 - ii) When Adam sinned he and all humanity became fallen or sinful manhood.
 - iii) Those who are redeemed have been brought into a new order of manhood, they are a redeemed and justified humanity.
 - iv) Christ is unique for He is none of these, for He was holy humanity.
- 4) The name “Jesus” stands in eternal defiance of all those who teach that to be fit for Heaven an individual must do the best they can; be a good neighbour; keep the golden rule; pray; give to the church; etc. When Peter made his defense before the religious leaders of his day, he proclaimed: “Neither is there salvation in any other”, then he gave the reason: “for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). It was a bold unilateral statement with emphasis on a major observation:
- a) Salvation from eternal damnation is found exclusively in Jesus (Acts 4:10-12). There is no mistaking it. To reject the salvation He has provided by His substitutionary sacrifice at Calvary, leaves God no other option but to banish an individual from the “presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (2 Thess. 1:9). To reject the vicarious work of Christ is to assure oneself of being banished into Hell for all eternity.
- 5) Furthermore, God has placed an honour on the man “Jesus” that can be claimed by no other. It is an unchangeable, unchallengeable declaration. It is at the “name of Jesus” every knee shall bow (Rom. 14:11), for He is preeminent in judgment. God has given all judgment into His hands (Jn. 5:22, 27). It is completely irrelevant if an individual determines to try to work for salvation, denies God, takes the name of God or Jesus as a swear word, and lives as if there is nothing after death. The stark reality is, in the future of every individual there is eternity and standing before Jesus as the Judge. Then every stubborn attitude will be broken, and it will not matter what rank was held, what friends think, every knee shall bow and proclaim, “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil. 2:11).
- a) Several years ago there were two little boys who were buddies. On an occasion one little fellow was drowning and his friend pulled him from certain death. Years passed and each went his own way. One became a judge and the other a murderer. As it so happened, the one who was the judge presided over the case where the man was found guilty. Before the sentencing, with great solemnity the judge said: “There was a day in which I was your saviour, today I am your judge”.
- As you read this, today the Lord could be your Saviour, but if rejected, and if an individual dies rejecting God’s salvation exclusively in Christ and His finished work, He will be your Judge. There will be no appeal, no second opportunity, the individual will be found “Guilty” and banished from God for all eternity. The rejection of Jesus as Saviour assures the individual that they are already under the condemnation of God. There is no need to wait until the judgment, the verdict has already been announced: “Condemned already” (Jn. 3:18). There is no other sacrifice for sins (Heb. 10:26).

- 6) The name “Jesus” tells of:
- a) Immeasurable virtue, for only one who is without sin could provide cleansing for those who were sinners.
 - b) Incalculable suffering, for to provide saving for all His people meant paying the redeeming price for them all. This meant being God forsaken.
 - c) Uncircumscribable sufficiency, there will never be a sinner who desires salvation for whom none is provided, and there will never be a sin committed by a saint that the blood of the Lord cannot cleanse.
 - d) Unwavering purpose, for it reveals the purpose of God to save His people from their sins, enslaving power, loss of purposeful living, and eternal damnation.
 - e) Immeasurable blessing on all those who accept Jesus as their only way of salvation.

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*

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