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## Meditations On The Names and Appellations Of Christ

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Our newsletters this year will all be musings on the Person of the Lord, taking one of His titles, Names or attributes for our encouragement and enrichment.

As we begin 2013 we do not know what lies ahead, but one of the descriptive terms we can apply to the Lord is that of "The Unfailing One". Life is filled with failings. Failing is a part of life and all around us as the ancients attested. Isaiah wrote: "The vintage shall fail" (Isa. 32:10); David when waiting for God and there was silence, in his distress cried "my flesh faileth" (Psa. 109:24); Isaiah said "mine eyes fail" (Isa. 38:14); and in time the body wastes away and we begin to fail and die (Ecc. 12:1-7). Then, with such uncertainty, let us look to Him of whom it is said: "He faileth not" (Zeph. 3:5); His promise is true: "I will not fail thee" (Josh. 1:5); and His is a love that will never fail (1 Cor. 13:8).

When the Lord told the people to remove the stone from the grave of Lazarus, He made it very clear that He was unfailing in His purpose and power.

- a) When He told Peter to do the impossible: "Walk on the water and come to him" (Matt. 14:29) there ought to have been no questioning about His inability to sustain Peter.
- b) When He told the servants at the wedding to: "Fill the waterpots with water" (Jn. 2:7) there was no question of failure.

One man said: "God is the greatest loser that ever lived", but I stand emphatically and state: "God is never a loser, He cannot fail". David knew the Lord, and from His experiences said to His son Solomon: "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD" (1 Chron. 28:20). The God of truth has given us this promise: "Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail" (Psa. 89:33).

It is now over fifty years since given a book by J. Oswald Sanders called "Christ Incomparable". For years it sat on my bookshelf. In time there was acquired other books on the person of the Lord, and as I began to muse on this lovely man I began to understand why Oswald Sanders called Him incomparable. In reading of His Person, Power, Prerogatives, Positions, and Passion, I met a man who was unequalled in his revelation of the Father and God (Jn. 1:18; 14:9). In contrast to all that is seen and positions held, or dominions and kingdoms that rule, all these which are temporary He and His alone remains (Dan. 2:44; Heb. 1:11). There is no successor after Him.

Let every member of the intelligentsia in every realm of life, whither it be horticultural, zoologically or human, let them take their stand with every philosopher and academic, and we discover no true knowledge can be gained without Him, no fulness of understanding can be achieved without him, for in Him "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). He is the center and circumference of all intelligence.

When our thoughts turn to the fulness of His teaching, its preciseness and exactness is without equal. He never had to put a "slant" on a behavior, change his mind on a statement spoken, or change words from "I told a lie" to "I misspoke".

No planning of man can be fulfilled without His authorization, and no higher goal for living can be reached beyond His glorification. The purposes of man will only be fulfilled to the degree in which they are in fellowship with His purposes, or when He permits man to follow his own folly.

He never can be blessed by bestowment but is the blesser of every spiritual blessing. He alone is the sustainer of the spiritual development of every believer. Being perfect He knows the struggles of every saint and seeks to succour them in their distresses (Heb. 2:18). No Shepherd ever cared more perfectly (Jn. 10:11, 14), no teacher

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ever spoke more tenderly (Jn. 20:16), and no judge adjudicated more righteously (Psa. 72:2; 98:9; Rev. 19:11). He knows no weariness, no waning of rights or abilities, there is no wavering of His control.

When we consider the glory of His power, influence, love, light, grace, and especially mercy seen against the wonder of His condescension and incarnation, He is without peer and successor. The consideration of Him brings us to the awareness of personal ignorance, for such is the monumental display of His glories that neither human or angelic minds can appreciate his glories. Neither can any have the vocabulary to unfold the perfections of His character or declare his excellencies.

The Lord is never to be compared with others, but always contrasted. No other human will be able to:

- a) Reveal in such depth so many avenues of truth.
- b) Govern over so many spheres of dominion.
- c) Declare and manifest the fulness of deity more perfectly.
- d) Bestow such blessings of present comfort and eternal values.

He never needed to offer a sacrifice, never needed to come to God by means of another. He alone could look into the Heaven and call God "Father", "My Father", and "Holy Father" (Matt. 10:33; 11:26; Jn. 17:11) and know such in truth. He never needed grace for failure, or mercy for transgressions.

Yet, we stand in wonder at the beauty of His accessibility. His disciples called Him "Lord and Master" (Jn. 13:13); the religious leaders in pseudo acclamation called Him "Master" (Matt. 8:19); the noble Nicodemus in truth called Him Rabbi (Jn. 3:2), but so often the common people just called Him Jesus (Matt. 8:29; Matt. 14:12). The interesting thing is that while the name "Jesus" occurs in 605 verses in the gospels, it is nearly always in narrative form rather than individuals calling Him such. For instance, Matt. 1:1, 16, 18; 2:1; 4:12 are narrative. As far as I am aware, the first time He is spoken to as "Jesus" is by the demonic (Matt. 8:29). Later the people called Him "Jesus" (Matt. 21:11); Pilate called Him "Jesus" (Matt. 27:17, 22); the maid called Him "Jesus" Mk. 14:67; and the angel called Him "Jesus of Nazareth" (Mk. 16:6). When the Lord is viewed as the Lamb, there are automatically within the illustration several thoughts. A lamb is never harsh, hard hearted, or high minded. The Lord was the epitome and personification of humility and accessibility.

Paul will inform us of the various glories of the stars which are dying, as the glory of all else does, but:

- a) His glory shall never diminish (Heb. 5:6)
- b) His life shall never end (Heb. 7:16)
- c) His power will never wane (Matt. 28:18)
- d) His name shall be preeminently exalted (Phil. 2:9; Heb. 1:4)
- e) His judgeship is without peer (Jn. 5:22, 27)
- f) His position is supremely unequalled (Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:22)

### **He alone is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16)**

In our Lord we observe, majesty and meekness, might and mercy, strength and sympathy, chastisement and care, love and hate, justice and love, accessibility and authority perfectly blended.

Supreme in all His glory, Superb in all His might  
Secure are all His promises, To all the sons of light.

He is the King eternal, The Lord of love and light  
The Highest of the highest, The brightest of the bright.

The morning star unequalled, The theme of angels songs  
He is the Lord triumphant, To Him all praise belongs.

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No words can ere describe Him, His loveliness sublime  
My voice rises to praise him, By grace I call Him mine.

As we move into 2013 let us set our eyes on our Lord whose promises can never fail (1 Kgs. 8:56); purposes can never fail, and power can never fail (Matt. 28:18).

In the days which lie ahead, be they dark or bright, being alone or with company, in joy or in sorrow, let us seek with His help to:

Turn our eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

**He shall not fail thee.**

*. . . . Rowan Jennings*

**JESUS IS LORD**