

What's in A Name?

Scripture Text: Matthew 1:21

Names are important, they serve as an identifier.

Defined: "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing; reputation; family or clan."

Some people's names have had a lot of thought put into them – every name has a meaning:

- Joshua – "Yahweh is Salvation"
- Jesus – Matthew 1:21 – "Savior"

What's in A Name? 3 Examples:

- I. Adam – Genesis 2:18-25
 - a. Created by God – the first man
 - i. Jesus is referred to the "2nd Adam" – I Cor. 15:45
 - ii. Although Adam sinned, Jesus could not sin and defeated sin.
 - b. He had a job in early Eden – Gen. 2:18-19
 - i. Adam was literally brought every animal before him and he assigned each one a name. Can you imagine this process?
 - ii. The reason we call them giraffes? Adam. Pigs? Adam. Etc.
 - c. Problem: after naming every animal, there was not one suitable for Adam
 - i. Gen. 2:20
 1. Important to note that man should not be with animals.
 2. If that was the case, there would be no need for woman.
 - ii. Gen. 2:21-23 – Adam names the woman
 1. Adam and Eve were married – v. 22 – "brought together." Marriage is a special name as well that many try to corrupt.
 2. Names her "woman" because she was taken out of man.
 - d. Animal names are important; however, the name of Man and Woman is even more important.
- II. Apollos – Acts 18:24-28
 - a. His name
 - i. He is a Jew – Apollos is a Grecian name, not a Jewish name. Like Saul and Paul.
 - ii. "Apollos" means "of Apollo," the god of truth and light.
 1. An oracle from Apollo was highly valued as it was written in an easy to understand manner.
 2. May have characterized Apollos' oratory.
 - iii. "Of Alexandria" – Grecian city founded by Alexander the Great in Egypt near the mouth of the Nile.
 1. University is there that aspired to be the learning center of the world.
 2. Library there had over 900,000 scrolls.

- 3. Influential city. A man from there to the Jews was like being a “Harvard Man.”
 - iv. “Eloquent” – in the Greek, “Learned.”
 - 1. Classical education
 - 2. Skilled in speaking
 - v. “Fervent in the Spirit” – he was not a dry professor, his heart burned with his message.
 - vi. “Spoke and taught boldly” – not brashly but with courage, expressing the confidence he had in the scriptures and the appropriateness if the message he delivered.
 - vii. “Mighty in the Scriptures” – the kind of preacher that all the younger preachers would try to emulate. Certainly, a powerful presenter.
 - b. His problem
 - i. Ac. 18:25 – he only knew of the baptism of John the Baptist – Mt. 3:2
 - ii. Jesus had already been and established the kingdom!
 - iii. He had to be taught – Ac. 18:26
 - iv. Even though he was an educated man and had a good name, he did not know everything and had to be taught.
 - c. Today, regardless of your name, pedigree, etc., you must be taught to be pleasing to God!
- III. Christian
- a. Today – the most important name one can have is “Christian”
 - i. There as so called “family dynasties” – Bush, Clinton, Kennedy, etc.
 - ii. Only one person died for your sins – Ac. 20:28
 - b. Biblical examples:
 - i. Ac. 11:26 – first called at Antioch
 - ii. Ac. 26:28 – Agrippa was almost persuaded to be a Christian
 - iii. I Pet. 4:16 – not promised a rose garden
 - c. Problem: people are going by all sorts of names not found in Scripture!
 - i. Buddha never died for sins.
 - ii. Joseph Smith, Alexander Campbell, John Wesleyan, the Pope, etc., etc., etc. NEVER died for sins!!
 - iii. Only Jesus Christ did that!
 - d. Since Jesus is the only one, why wear any other name?

Names are so important and we are known by our names.

John 13:35

What name are you wearing?

MONTH DAY, YEAR AM Wood Church of Christ