

Wonderful Name

#0483

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 22, 1974

What a wonderful hope we have, brothers and sisters, the hope of seeing Jesus and seeing Him soon. Praise His wonderful name.

You remember in our closing verse a week ago, we were reading that exhortation of the apostle Paul in Hebrews the 12th chapter in which he presents Jesus as the Author and the Finisher of our faith, and urges us to:

“...run with patience the race that is set before us”
Hebrews 12:1.

And what are the next three words?

“Looking unto Jesus...” Hebrews 12:2.

“Looking unto Jesus...” Hebrews 12:2.

It is as we behold Him that we long to be more like Him. It is as we look to Him that our hearts are drawn in response. So, let's look tonight at our wonderful Lord.

We'll begin with Philippians the second chapter, beginning with the fifth verse. These verses take us to the depths and to the heights—infinite depths, infinite heights.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” Philippians 2:5–11.

Hundreds of years before His birth, it was prophesied concerning Him:

“...His name shall be called Wonderful...” Isaiah 9:6.

Thank God, this One who was born into the human family is:

“...The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6.

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful.

Now, you notice in the Scripture which we have read, He was:

“...equal with God” Philippians 2:6.

And He didn’t think that was something to hold onto. He had something that was more important to Him than to be there on the throne of the universe. Somebody was lost. That was me, my friends. I was lost. And Jesus could not rest in heaven with me lost in this world. So, He left all that to come and hunt me, like the shepherd leaving the ninety and nine and hunting for the one lost sheep.

Remember, He loves you just as much as He loves me. It’s a personal, individual quest. He’s looking for me; He’s looking for you. Let’s let Him have what He wants. What do you say?

Notice that this journey took Him not merely into humanity, but it took Him to death, and the death was the most cruel and ignominious and shameful—the death of the cross. Here at the cross, He plumbed the depths of earth’s woe and guilt and sin. Here, He who had been the highest took the lowest place.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name” Philippians 2:9.

And someday, all this universe will be unanimous, praise God, every creature in heaven and earth singing the praises of the Lamb that was slain. It’s a wonderful story. And like all stories *ought* to be, this is a true story. What a shame to waste time, worse than waste it, spinning yarns, reading stories that never happened, when the greatest story of eternity awaits our understanding and our appreciation. This is love, wonderful love.

Turn to Colossians 1, verses 19 and 20, just a few pages after Philippians, and let us notice what God’s purpose is in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

“For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of His cross; by Him, to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven” Colossians 1:19–20.

Notice that through the blood of His cross, God proposes to reconcile everything in heaven and earth, unite us all in one family through that great sacrifice. This is God’s eternal purpose, to unite the whole universe in an understanding of God, in love *for* God through this sacrifice of the cross.

Now, I want you to notice how Paul presents this One who went to the cross. It didn't start with Calvary. It didn't start with Bethlehem. No, no. Notice the 16th verse:

“For by Him...” Colossians 1:16.

This same One, Jesus Christ.

“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell. And having made peace through the blood of His cross; by Him, to reconcile all things unto Himself...” Colossians 1:16–20.

This One hanging there on the cross then is none other than the active agent in creation.

“...By *Him* were all things created...” Colossians 1:16.

Can it be that the One who died for me is the One who gave this planet its being, who set in motion all the planetary systems? This says:

“...By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...” Colossians 1:16.

Everything: forces, power, matter of every kind, all owes its origin, every bit of energy, every bit of matter owes its origin to whom? To Jesus Christ. And He's the One that gave His life for me on the cross. Indeed, indeed. What a wonderful power is His—the power of the creative Word. But it took the revelation of His love on Calvary to help us to understand the character of God.

Let's linger on this thought of the creatorship of Christ. Turn to John's Gospel, another Scripture beautiful and clear on this point. Long before Calvary, we see Christ sharing with His Father from eternity.

John 1:1, what are those first three words?

“In the beginning...” John 1:1.

You hear that as an echo from what chapter? Genesis 1:1.

Moses wrote:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”
Genesis 1:1.

But we've already read from Colossians 1 that the One that actually spoke the world into existence was none other than the second Person of the Godhead—Jesus Christ.

Don't misunderstand, friends. We must not think of God the Father as off somewhere not participating, just sending His Son on a mission. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are very much united, they're very much agreed, they're very much participants in the affairs of the universe.

We note that at the baptism of the Savior there in Matthew 3. We see Jesus buried in the waters of baptism by John, kneeling on the bank of Jordan, praying to His Father and the Father answering by a voice from heaven:

“...This is My beloved Son...” Matthew 3:17.

And is the Spirit there? Oh, yes. The Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the visible form of a dove on that occasion. So, there's the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And so in creation, we hear the Father and the Son saying:

“...Let us make man in Our image...” Genesis 1:26.

We read Moses' account that:

“...The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”
Genesis 1:2.

So, in speaking of the Son and His mission and His work, I do not want in any way to eclipse or to leave out the Father and the Spirit. But the Son is the visible representative of God that you and I have been privileged to get acquainted with, as One who sojourned on this planet, as One who took up His life with us, later as a member of our family. All right.

But here, John is giving us the background. Will you read with me verses 1–3 of John 1?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” John 1:1–3.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? Everything was made by Jesus Christ. How do we know that this is Jesus he's speaking of? The 14th verse says of this Word that was with the Father in the beginning:

“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” John 1:14.

So, that One that became flesh who was born in Bethlehem is none other than the Creator of the universe. Notice the name that is given Him by John—the Word, the Word. The word, you know, is what we use to convey thought. And Christ was God’s thought made audible. God had thoughts in His mind concerning the universe that was to be created. He had plans for each one of us. Christ was the Word in which those thoughts became audible. He was the One through whom we hear God speaking. And oh, what a Word, what an almighty Word.

Do you remember when He came here, He began to demonstrate in His ministry this wonderful power of the creative Word? In the second chapter of John’s Gospel, the opening verses deal with the marriage at Cana of Galilee. And there, when the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus suggested that He might do something. And at the appropriate time, He took hold of the problem, telling the servants to fill certain waterpots with water and then to take what had been water and bear it to the governor of the feast. And lo and behold, it was the most delicious wine he’d ever tasted.

Who was it? It was Jesus that did that. And who is He? The Creator. It takes creative power to turn water into wine, friends, takes creative power. Jesus was demonstrating that His creative Word was just as strong in Cana of Galilee as it was back there at the beginning of the creation of the world. It lost *none* of His might and power. Thank God, it’s lost none of it today, friends. You don’t deplete infinity. There’s always as much. When God has done something, there’s just as much as there was before. What a wonderful, wonderful friend we have, a wonderful Savior. Truly, indeed:

“...His name is Wonderful...” Isaiah 9:6.

Now, He’s not only the Creator, He’s also the Revealer. He’s the One through whom God speaks in all time. There are two great channels of communication that God has had with men since the Garden of Eden. One is His law, and the other is His gift of prophecy—speaking through prophets.

When the law was given on Sinai, God was speaking directly. And when I say “God,” I include the Son with the Father. For James, the 4th chapter, and the 12th verse says:

“There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save...” James 4:12.

Who is the Savior? Christ. It was Christ along with the Father who, amid the thunders and lightnings of Sinai, proclaimed the Ten Commandments and wrote upon the tables of stone those immortal precepts. And so, we have in those Ten Commandments the law of Christ.

Then, through both the Old Testament and the New, we have that same blessed Savior speaking through the prophets. Let’s turn to 1 Peter, the first chapter. I want you to notice Peter’s testimony on this point. We’re looking at Jesus tonight, His wonderful name, His wonderful names, for He has many names, many

names. And all through eternity, we shall become better acquainted with His name, His character, the different facets of His love and wisdom and power.

Now, in 1 Peter the 1st chapter, you'll notice in the 11th verse, 10th with it:

"...The Spirit of Christ which was in them..." 1 Peter 1:11.

The prophets.

"...testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" 1 Peter 1:11.

Sometimes, it's very apparent that Christ is speaking through the prophets. I mean the very wording of it. For example, in the 40th Psalm, David speaking by inspiration, speaks words which the New Testament says were spoken by Jesus Christ:

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within My heart" Psalm 40:8.

Another example is the 22nd Psalm. How does it begin?

"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me..." Psalm 22:1.

Who was speaking? David? David wrote it down. But oh, it was the Spirit of Christ in him that was testifying. And a thousand years later, from the cross, we hear that cry of anguish:

"...My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
Matthew 27:46.

The entire 22nd Psalm is filled with prophetic statements that Jesus inspired David to write, and that were fulfilled that day on Calvary when He hung there in anguish.

Again, the 16th Psalm speaks of His resurrection. Peter so applies this 16th Psalm in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Turn, please, to Psalm 16, verses 8, 9 and 10. I want you to see that one. This is a wonderful example of the Spirit of Christ in the prophets, speaking. David was the penman that wrote it down. It was the Spirit of Christ that was speaking:

"I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell..." Psalm 16:8-10.

That is, the grave.

"...neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption"
Psalm 16:10.

Now, in the 2nd of Acts, Peter, by inspiration, argues that David, who penned these words, *did* see corruption. He said, “David isn’t ascended to the heavens. He’s dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us to this day” [a paraphrase of Acts 2:29, 34].

Well, who was this Holy One that was not to see corruption? Why, it was the Son, Jesus, the divine Son of God. And thus, in His resurrection was fulfilled the statement that David penned a thousand years before. My point is it was Jesus speaking, testifying, revealing all the way through, all the way through.

And so, Christ could say to the Jews of His time in John 5:39:

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which...” John 5:39.

What?

“...testify of Me” John 5:39.

Do you know why the Scriptures testify *of* Jesus? Because He’s testifying *in* them, as we’ve seen here. His voice speaking reveals Himself, and in revealing Him, the Father is revealed, for the Father and the Son have one character. They are agreed on every point. If we see One, we understand the other.

What a great privilege, friends. How we should appreciate this Word then, the Word. Here, the living Word is speaking through the printed Word. Here, in chapter and verse, in word and sentence, we see that wonderful revelation of the character of God.

But now, while God was speaking through Christ, using the prophets as His messengers for all those hundreds and thousands of years from creation on, there came a time in the great plan of God when the event long looked for took place. And that living Word became incarnate. The One who had created the world, the One who had spoken to human beings through the prophets, the One who had spoken the law on Sinai, *He* became a little babe. He joined the human family.

What for? Well, for many reasons, friends. There are two great reasons that I want you to look at tonight. One is to be an example to show us how to live. The other is to die in our place the death that we deserve, and thus to be our atonement for sin and make reconciliation for iniquities—two tremendous, infinite purposes. We want to look at both of them very briefly tonight. Perhaps, another night we can look more fully.

But please turn to 1 Peter the 2nd chapter and the 21st verse. Let us see Christ’s role as our example.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us...” 1 Peter 2:21.

What?

“...an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth” 1 Peter 2:21–22.

You see, the great enemy of God and man has claimed that God’s law couldn’t be kept. Therefore, God was unjust, unreasonable, and when Adam failed, how the Devil triumphed. All down through the ages, he has sought to trip up men, to try to prove that Satan is right in his accusations.

And when Christ came, God incarnate, every weapon of hell was turned loose to try to make Him slip, fall, fail. But thank God, He didn’t fail, He didn’t fail. And notice that in all this, He gave us a what? An example, an example, an example (mark it) not only of what to do but *how* to do it. His power was through the Word, the same power that you and I can have.

You remember in those three great temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4 presents it), every time the tempter came, Jesus answered what? “It is written.” And in the power of that Word, He conquered. He, the living Word, quoted the written Word that He might put to flight the armies of hell. And in all this, He’s our what? Our example.

Someone has said, “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.”

Thank God, Jesus not only preached the Gospel, He lived the Gospel. He not only proclaimed the truth, but He also demonstrated the truth. He *was* the truth. And so, while in the law of God and the prophets, we find God’s message, as revealed through Christ and through those agencies, in the life of Jesus, we see those same truths lived out, demonstrated.

Jesus came down and showed how common people, poor people, could live the life of heaven here on earth and reveal the love of heaven here on earth. I’m thankful for that wonderful example. Aren’t you, friends?

And looking to Jesus then, we see Him as Creator, as Revealer, as Example. And then, we gather at Calvary, as we began our study tonight by doing, and we see that One who made the world, who spoke through all the prophets and showed us by His earthly life how to live this life, we see Him hanging there on the tree, a sacrifice for sin.

Let’s repeat together John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

Thank God. Do you love Him? Oh, let’s tell Him so. Let’s keep telling Him. We’re going to keep telling Him through eternal ages. Let’s tell Him tonight, shall we?

Now, I'm sure there are many of you that would like to bring your witness tonight, a word of testimony from your own heart of praise to the wonderful Lord. Come right up and let Jesus' heart be made glad by *your* praise, *your* thanksgiving.

[Testimony service.]

[Elder Frazee] What a reunion day ahead.

[Unidentified man] Our Father in heaven, we are so thankful tonight for the Spirit of God that's been in our midst, for the love of Jesus that's been proclaimed through many voices as well as spoken through Thy Word. We pray for each member of this congregation, for any who might be sick, or in distress, or on the verge of giving their hearts completely to Jesus.

May the Spirit of God give us a blessed Sabbath and make each one truly happy and truly experiencing day by day this sweet communion with the Savior. In the precious name of Jesus, amen.

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