



The Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27 Phil 2:1-11 Luke 2:21-40

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I've always thought that these verses in Philippians are some of the most *uplifting* and **POWERFUL** verses in the Bible:

God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every Name, so that at the Name of Jesus EVERY knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and EVERY tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

That will happen on the Last Day, on Judgment Day, when *every single person ever conceived* will realize that Jesus is real, that He really is the One, True, and Only God, and that He is the Savior of the world.

Unfortunately for most people, since they rejected Christ and His Word in their lifetime, it will be the last gracious thing they see and do before they are thrown into the darkness of hell¹ forever ☹️.

By God's grace alone, we do not have to wait until the Last Day and be **forced** to bow and acknowledge that **Jesus Christ is Lord!** By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the water of Baptism and the Word of God, we *joyfully* bow and acknowledge that **Jesus Christ is our Lord** to the glory of the Father!

The name of Jesus is the greatest name of all; it's the name of our God and Lord! The Name "**Jesus Christ the Lord**" summarizes everything about Him: Who He is and what He has done for us!

¹ Be sure NOT to underestimate how terrible and serious hell is --> it is the place for the devil, his depraved demons, and those who reject Christ. It is described as darkness, never-ending fire, punishment, separated from God and His mercy, restlessness, weeping and gnashing of teeth, and torment. There is no escape, there is no second chance. Faith in Christ is the only salvation from this; Christ gives eternal life in Heaven to those who trust in Him!

The name “**Jesus**²” is the name that God the Father gave to His only begotten Son, who was born in Bethlehem. The name “*Jesus*” means *Savior*; and it describes what He has done for us. *Jesus* has saved us from terrible danger; He has rescued us from our sin and its consequences. When we were dead in our sin, and crushed in our guilt, *Jesus* came to our aid and took our place under those dreadful things; and you are set free! *Jesus* has saved you from certain death: that is, eternal death in the darkness of hell forever.

When we say Jesus “**Christ**³”, we do not mean that Christ is His last name; rather *Christ* is a **title** that means “*Messiah*”; Jesus was *anointed* by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world. Jesus **fulfills** all the **prophecies and promises** in the Old Testament about the coming *Messiah* and Savior. In His office as “*Christ*”, He will suffer and die for the sins of the world.

Scripture teaches us that *Jesus Christ* is “**LORD**⁴”. The word *Lord* in the New Testament is the equivalent to the name of God in the Old Testament. It is usually pronounced as *Yahweh*, and it identifies Jesus Christ as the *One, True and Only God*; the God who saved His Old Testament people Israel; the God who now saves both Jews and Gentiles alike in these New Testament days!

God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on Him
the Name that is above every Name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee
should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue
confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

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² The name “Jesus” highlights His human nature, a specific man born in Bethlehem who lived in Israel.

³ Think of the title “Christ” (= “Messiah”, *anointed*) as His office of Savior of the World.

⁴ “Lord” highlights His divine nature. In the Athanasian Creed, we confess Jesus’ divinity like this: “So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.”

That **Name of Jesus** identifies you; it is your identity! You are known now as a “Christian” --> one belonging to “Christ”. A Christians, we “*live and move and have our being*” in the Name of Jesus. Think about the **power and significance of Jesus’ Name** in your own life – the Name of Jesus intersects with your life in many, many ways ... for instance:

- ⇒ It all begins when you were *baptized* “*in the Name of Jesus*” Matt 28
- ⇒ You were *washed*, you were *sanctified*, you were *justified* in the *name of the Jesus* 1 Cor 6:11
- ⇒ We *gather for worship* “*in the Name of Jesus*”, trusting His promise that where two or three are gathered together “*in His Name*” that He is here in the midst of us. Matt 18:20
- ⇒ Our sins are forgiven in *Absolution* in the “*name of Jesus*”. John 20:23
- ⇒ We *confess* “*Jesus’ Name*” with our lips as we worship here in church and then go out and witness to our neighbor Rom 10:9
- ⇒ We “*call upon His Name*” as we *pray* to God the Father “*in the Name of Jesus*” John 14:13-14
- ⇒ We *glorify* “*His Name*” as we live holy and godly lives as His People 1 Cor 10:31
- ⇒ We know that there is *no other Name* under heaven by which we must be saved! Acts 4:12
- ⇒ We have *hope* in Christ – the sure and firm conviction of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting because of Jesus’ own resurrection from the dead on the Third Day!
- ⇒ At times, we are even *persecuted, ridiculed, and excluded* because of *the Name of Jesus!* Matt 5:11
- ⇒ On the Last Day, *every tongue will confess and every knee will bow* at *the Name of Jesus!* Philippians 2:9-11

THE NAME OF JESUS PERMEATES OUR LIVES;
you live and move and have your being in the Name of Jesus! Acts 17:28

Your identity is found in the **Name of Jesus!** It's who you are! It is who God created you to be! Since Holy Baptism, you live and you will die *in the Name of Jesus!* *If we live, we live to the Lord; if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord!*

An interesting thing happens in the *Benediction* that we hear each week in worship. Here is the Benediction again:

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

The *very next verse*, says this:

"So they will put *My Name* on the Israelites, and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

God has put His *Name* on you!

You belong to Him!

He promises to bless you!

Your reputation is that of a "Christian" --> one belonging to Christ.

God has put His *Name* on you!

That motivates us to live Christlike lives. We have learned from Jesus how to love God and serve our neighbor. We no longer live in the darkness of sin with death and hell looming over us --> you have been saved and set free by **Jesus Christ the Lord!** Everything about you shines the light of Christ; everything about you proclaims Jesus to your neighbor! God has put His Name on You. You belong to Him!

**By the grace of God,
now, during our lifetime,
we have the joy of knowing, believing, and confessing
that Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father!**

AMEN!