

JESUS, SAVIOR

Matthew 1:21

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Intro: We have been thinking today about the Name of our Lord, Jesus.

In all of the talk we have heard since that disastrous day, September 11, much has been said about God, but practically nothing about our Lord Jesus Christ. I spoke to Tom Palsgrove this afternoon, and he had some questions to ask me about these recent events, and one thing he mentioned was that when our present spoke to the nation, he quoted from Romans 8 where the Apostle Paul wrote,

38 For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,

and then he stopped. The rest of the verse, and the key to the whole statement he did not read, the words, “which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We are in a situation where it is extremely important that we get our affairs in order with God. And we certainly cannot do that unless we give honor and worship to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. That is the reason that I have planned our sessions today around passages of Scripture that have to do with the Lord Jesus. Apart from Him we would not even know God. And to Him belongs all of the glory for our salvation.

With this in mind, as we prepare to observe the Lord’s Supper tonight, I want to call your attention especially to verse 21 of Matthew 1. (Read.)

His Name was given to Him by God. And it uniquely belongs to Him. Many others have had that name, probably the most famous was Joshua who was Moses’ successor, and who led Israel into the land of Canaan. But as good a man as he was, he did not live up to this Name because it means Savior, or Salvation. Jehovah is salvation. The angels interpreted the name for us, “for He shall save His people from their sins.” And this is what He came to do, and this is what He did.

The pronoun “He” in the Greek text is very emphatic. It distinguishes Him from everyone else, and gives Him a very emphatic prominence in this work of salvation.

And the word translated “shall save” is also a very wonderful word in the Greek text. It includes all of the work of salvation – Salvation from the penalty of sin which is eternal death, salvation from the power of sin itself, and ultimately a complete deliverance from the very presence of sins in our hearts and in our lives. And it guarantees our ultimate salvation even though all of us as “His people” have been guilty of sin since we were first saved.

And so we are not saved from disease, nor from death, nor from the troubles that face us all in this life, but we are saved from our sins! Oh, how can we possibly overlook His wonderful grace in giving us such a deliverance.

But how did He save us? It was not by His example, although we all want to be like the Lord. Nor was it just by His teaching, even though there never has been and never will be a greater Teacher than He was. No, we all know that it was by His death on the Cross, where He took the sins of His people, and perfectly satisfied God that our penalty was paid in full.

Spurgeon raised an interesting question when he spoke to his people on this text. He asked, How can you identify His people? And from this text he pointed out that they are all sinners, and they know that they are sinners, and they have fled to Jesus as the only One Who could forgive them of their sins.

Now we know, and Spurgeon knew, that there is not a just man on the earth who does good, but who has not sinned. But this is denied by most people. They don't like the word sin, and they don't like to be called sinners. But by God's distinguishing grace, He has opened the eyes of His people, and they know that they are sinners, and they know that He is the only Savior, and they have come to Him to have their sins forgiven and to receive the gift of eternal life. How our hearts should be filled with praise that by His grace we can say tonight that we are numbered among His people, and we know that we are only sinners saved by the marvelous grace of God.

This name “Jesus” is used either by itself, or in some combination with Lord or Christ, or with both of them, *almost one thousand times in the New Testament!* And so it is a Name which we cannot ignore, a Name which we as “His people” love above every other Name. We love to hear

it when it is mentioned by those who love Him. But it grieves us, and often angers us, when we hear that blessed Name blasphemed. We love to read of Him in the Word, and we are grateful to those who have helped us to understand more fully how wonderful He is.

And so we worship Him tonight as our Savior. He is our Example. He is our Teacher. He is our Friend, and our Keeper. But He is none of these unless He is our Savior. Our salvation has been for us a free gift because no amount of money could purchase it. It is infinite in its value. This is why He came, to save us from our sins. May we never cease to marvel at the love of God which sent Him, and the love of Jesus which brought Him, and this wonderful salvation in which He keeps us and assures us that someday we shall be with Him and like Him forever.

Close with the words of the hymn, "Jesus, and shall it ever be," #425.