

Don't Forget the Wonder of Christmas!

John 1; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-10-2023

The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man—that the second person of the Godhead became the “second man” ..., determining human destiny,... and that He took humanity without loss of deity ... ” - JI Packer, Knowing God

Three Encouragements this Christmas

- Don't forget the Name in the manger.
- Don't forget that receiving is believing.
- Don't forget to act like a child.

Don't forget the Name in the manger.

But as many as received **Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in **His name**, - John 1:12

What's in a Name? We think of names in terms of what we call a person. The Bible thinks of names in terms of what that person is. (1 Samuel 25:25) 'Name' is what Jesus/God is! 'Name' is what Jesus/God is for His people (all who see the beauty of His name and trust Him)!

The Name is 'I Am' (John 8:58)

- Yahweh = Jehovah** = Lord, Master, Self-Existent One (Genesis 2:4; Exodus 3:14) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to be all that you need and desire?
- Jehovah-Nissi = The Lord My Banner** (Exodus 17:15) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to overcome all the enemies in your life?
- Jehovah-Rohi = The Lord My Shepherd** (Psalm 23:1) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God is always guiding you to what will nourish you and give you rest?
- Jehovah-Rapha = The Lord My Healer** (Exodus 15:26) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to heal your hurts, whether physical or emotional?
- Jehovah-Shammah = The Lord is There** (Ezekiel 48:35) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was present to exercise His power to restore the ruins in your life?

- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu = The Lord My Righteousness** (Jeremiah 23:6) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to give you a record of perfect righteousness that satisfied all His expectations for you?
- **Jehovah-M'kaddesh = The Lord My Sanctifier** (Leviticus 20:7) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to cause you to live and love in ways that you can't imagine now?
- **Jehovah-Shalom = The Lord My Peace** (Judges 6:24) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to give you a profound peace of heart and mind that transcends any circumstance or any guilt?
- **Jehovah-Sabaoth = The Lord of Hosts** (1 Samuel 1:3) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to make sure that those who are with you are much greater than those who are against you?
- **Jehovah-Jireh = The Lord My Provider** (Genesis 22:14) Would it make a difference if you really and always believed that God was able to provide a Substitute to pay the penalty for all your sins?

The Name is the Divine “Word” (John 1:1, 14; Judges 13:17-19; Isaiah 9:6) God's glory is His beauty and His beauty is His strong love and His strong love is seen in the revelation of His Name. This is why we are called to trust Him. (Psalm 9:10; 20:7; 31:3; 34:3; John 3:18; 17:26; 20:31; Acts 2:38; 4:12; Romans 10:13) The name of Jesus is who and what He is. It is His identity. It is the reality of what He is and what He has promised to be to all those who trust Him. Don't forget the Name on the manger and on the Cross and on the Throne!

The Name is “Love” (1 John 4:8; John 1:14; Exodus 34:6) The divine disposition revealed in the incarnation is ‘goodwill to men’! To find any comfort or encouragement in the Name of God/Jesus, we have to really believe that He is disposed to be that for us, that He desires to be all these things to us personally!

The Threefold Love in God:

- The love of benevolence (disposition/desire/goodwill)
- The love of beneficence (doing/giving/acting)
- The love of complacency (delight or pleasure in someone)

We see this disposition in the Gospel of John as he talks about God and the ‘evil’ world. (John 3:16; 1:29; 3:19; 4:42; 7:7; 15:19; 17:21; 1 John 4:14; 5:19) How should you pursue love? By seeing the beauty of God's love for you! (1 John 4:16-19; Psalm 27:4; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16*