

What's in a Name?
Part 2
John 17:26; Hebrews 1:1-4

Today we come to the second of two messages addressing the question, "What's in a Name?" While this question can be approached in various ways, our focus is on the Lord's name or names – how He is referred to in Scripture. Each name ascribed to Him highlights some aspect of His character, enabling us to increase in our knowledge of who He truly is. The significance of this truth is revealed in the final declaration of Jesus' prayer, "I have made known Your name to them and will make it known, so that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them and I in them" (17:26, See also vs. 6, 11, and 12).

1. God's eternal salvation is worked out in the context of time.
 - Historically, in the Advent of Christ (Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 1:1-4).
 - Personally, through God's Word and Spirit (John 17:6-8; Romans 10:14-17; John 6:37, 44; 16:8-11; Jeremiah 31:3).
2. God's revelation of Himself in the Old Testament was awesome and progressive, but incomplete.
 - God's names pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ because they were one in essence (John 10:30).
 - The Incarnation of Christ was God's final, perfect Word (Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-3, 14, 18).
 - Jesus perfectly expressed God's attributes, for He was God in human flesh (John 14:7-11; Colossians 2:9).
3. God's redemptive purpose was manifested through His Son during His Incarnation.
 - He made known the goodness and grace of His Father's heart (II Corinthians 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:3).
 - He made known the infinite love of His Father for His children (John 17:25-26; 3:16; I John 4:10; Romans 8:31-32).

Epilogue: How incredibly blessed we are to bear the name of Christ, and what a high calling and responsibility we have as His ambassadors (Psalm 69:6; II Corinthians 5:20).