

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Names & Titles of the Saviour: Jesus of Nazareth

Jim Flanigan

The names and titles of the Savior are legion, and every single one is needed to portray in some little measure the greatness, grace, and glory of His Person and work. It was this greatness that caused Isaac Watts to write –

Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and power,
That mortals ever knew,
That angels ever bore;
All are too mean to speak His worth,
Too mean to set our Savior forth.

This lovely title, Jesus of Nazareth, has rightly earned a place in the affections of the Lord's people and has been enshrined in many of their well-known hymns. It is a title which is used in such a variety of circumstances, being found some 20 times in the New Testament, 13 times in the Gospels and 7 times in the Acts of the Apostles, including the single occasion where it is rendered "Jesus Christ of Nazareth." (Acts 3:6)

In these references it is used in connection with our Lord's humility, His deity, His ministry, His agony, and His glory.

His Humility

Paul writes, "He humbled Himself" (Phil 2:8), and a large part of that humbling was His choosing to be brought up in Nazareth. (Luke 4:16) Nazareth is a mean town in lower Galilee, about 70 miles north of Jerusalem. It is theologically obscure, being never mentioned in the Old Testament writings. It is generally poor and the Savior was a carpenter and the Son of a carpenter. It had a name too, for being morally corrupt, being a stopping place for merchants, soldiers, and traders coming down from the north. Their night-stops in Nazareth made it a veritable den of iniquity. Nathaniel, who knew it well, living as he did only but a few miles distant in Cana, said, when told that One Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) To this rather undesirable place the Son of God came, and here He lived for the most of 30 years, to become known as "Jesus of Nazareth."

His Deity

It may seem strange that such an apparently inglorious title should be associated with confessions of the Savior's deity, but in one of its earliest usages it is so. In a confrontation with demons the demon-possessed man exclaims, "Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God." (Mark 1:24) Demons knew better than mortals. They could see beyond the appearance of the carpenter and recognize that the humble Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Holy One of God. Then there was that almost involuntary recognition of His deity in the Garden of Gethsemane. A crowd had come to arrest Him and He went forward to meet them, asking, "Whom seek ye?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." "I am He," He answered, and they shrank backward, falling to the ground. He might indeed be but a Nazarene but He was deity incarnate, He was the "I AM" in Whose presence they could not stand and they fell before Him. Jesus of Nazareth was, in fact, Jehovah of eternity!

His Ministry

The men of Galilee knew the miracle worker as Jesus of Nazareth and the circumstances have been incorporated in one of our sweetest gospel hymns. He was travelling their province in a gracious ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.

Jesus, 'Tis He Who once below
Man's pathway trod, mid pain and woe;
And burdened ones, where'er He came
Bro't out their sick and deaf and lame;
The blind rejoiced to hear the cry,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

Etta Campbell

How many would rise up to call Him blessed! With what joy many would remember the day that they met Jesus of Nazareth in His ministry. Some heard His voice and were healed by His word; some felt His touch; one poor helpless soul reached out and touched only the hem of His garment and was healed instantly. Even the dead were included in His blessed ministry. There was a 12-year-old girl in Capernaum who had just died; there was a young man from the village of Nain on his way to be buried; there was a man in Bethany who had been dead for four days and had already

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Words That Promote Fellowship

Colin Anderson

Then they that feared the Lord spoke often to one another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. (Malachi 3:16)

Over four hundred years later the risen Christ asked two of His followers, "What manner of communications are these that you have?" (Luke 24:17) It is a question we sometimes need to ask ourselves. By offering hospitality, providing physical assistance and sharing financially, we show fellowship with other believers. Such things give evidence of the genuineness of our love and care. However it is only how we speak when with them that shows whether we know the joy to be found in conversational fellowship. That is the subject of this article.

Speech That Attracts

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah's physical appearance would not be that which would draw people to Him; He was to have "no form or comeliness...no beauty that we should desire Him." (Isa. 53:2) It was His words that attracted those who had any hunger for the truth. His words were like "apples of gold in settings of silver. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold"; always "fitly spoken." He was "a wise rebuker" to those with "an obedient ear." (Prov. 25: 11,12) This was true whether the one who had ears to hear was a Nicodemus looking for instruction, a Peter requiring correction, or a penitent woman bathing His feet with her tears; His words were always apt. We are not suggesting that we will be able to come close to that level of perfection, but true conversational fellowship between two believers is of the same order. It is spiritually attractive in the same way, lifting the spirits of both in a manner not known among the lost. It offers a deeper, sweeter, purer, more rewarding socializing than can be known in any human society, even that which can be experienced by those in the same physical family; it is a foretaste of heaven. The bonds of love to which it gives expression are eternal. It is supernatural thing, a coming together, a meeting of spirits, known among those whose tastes in other ways may be quite different. It is the result of our being united to "Him who was raised from the dead that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (Rom.7: 4) and our being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, thus becoming members of one Body. (1 Cor. 12: 12,13)

How is it that we know so little of the working out of Christian fellowship in our speech? So often we are not ourselves, our true selves, but act as though we are what

we once were -- that is, before that wonderful change came about and Christ became our life!

Cluttered Air Waves

Fellowship is not Christian simply because Christians are talking to each other. Most, if not all the readers of this article, are mature enough to keep clear of gossip. But even though we refrain from harmful speech, we may still forfeit opportunities for a much richer experience. It happens when we allow what goes on in the school yard, on the campus, in our place of employment, in parliament or in the world generally to fill the time we are with each other. That kind of conversation is common among those who are lost. It rises no higher and does not resemble what is suggested by the idea of fellowship in Scripture. It is not necessarily evil, but it does not edify. When you part from your Christian friend you are not left longing for more of the same.

Trivial Words?

We are not suggesting that all conversation that deals with what might be called trivia is to be avoided. Even though such things are not of eternal value they can be used to promote right thinking. Comments about the weather may be of little consequence, but important lessons can be learned from it. Jesus said, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west...you say a shower is coming...you can discern the face of the sky...how is it you do not discern this time? (Lk. 12: 54-56) Incidentally, we cannot imagine the Son of God complaining about the weather, can we? Instead, He used the sun and the rain to teach that God is kind, even towards those choosing to be His enemies. (Matt. 5:45) Bringing the Creator into the picture moves things on to higher ground. I once heard a young Christian complaining about the rain. The lady to whom he spoke replied graciously but with conviction, "But God sent it, didn't he?"

My wife was brought up in a tiny northern mining community known as Dome Extension. Years later, after we were married and living in southern Ontario, she received an invitation from someone who had attended the same small school. She thought it would be for a kind of reunion of "northerners." Some of them had not had contact with the others for years and so knew little of each other. You can imagine the chit chat that went on. Then one of them spoke of Christ. Immediately the tone of things changed. It turned out that most of those invited had experienced His grace in one way or another. Heaven seemed to come down to earth and His saving glory filled the room! Joan came home walking on air. That is what can happen when someone is not too shy (ashamed?) to break the ice and believers are encouraged to enjoy true conversational fellowship.

Filled With The Spirit

Sometimes we need to discipline our wayward tongues; the apostle James has much to say about that. But the

outflow is best regulated by the heart's inflow. If we live according to that principle it will enable us to be spiritually natural and naturally spiritual! "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matt. 12: 34) What we are advocating will not be the outcome of merely following rules that restrict and constrict. Nothing will be stilted or stiff in our speech if it is our habit to drink from the pure stream of God's word. Instead, we will find ourselves happily sharing from our little cup that which will provoke us and our friends to live closer to the Spring. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt." (Col. 4:6)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Robert. Robinson

Stick With It

G. Campbell Morgan

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

"Steadfast," that refers to personal faithfulness, sticking to it. That is not an elegant phrase, but it is a great one after all. Sticking to it steadfastly, personal fidelity. Does not the next word mean the same thing? Not at all. "Unmovable" means faithfulness against opposition. Some people cannot stick. They are not always there. We really cannot depend upon them, even if they take a class in the Sunday school. "Steadfast" means always there. That is the great idea, and we cannot be in the work of the Lord without confronting opposition. There are many adversaries. Not only be faithful within yourselves, but do not be moved from your loyalty. Stay there in spite of all adversaries. Then he puts in that little phrase, "always abounding." Abounding? Yes, that is running over, more than is demanded. The same Greek word occurs in the account of the feeding of the multitudes, when they gathered up the fragments that remained. That is the word, the overplusage. That is the idea. Faithful personally and faithful against opposition, and going on, and always on, and for evermore, always abounding. Then the last word, "Forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord." Not your work merely but your labor, that kind of toil that has in it the red blood of sacrifice, that kind of toil that wears and weakens by the way. That is not vain in the Lord. *

Continued from page 1 — Names & Titles...

He raised them all, the men and the child. Jesus of Nazareth was superior to all and the miracles wrought during His gracious ministry were evidences of His deity.

During that ministry the Savior wore the titles of deity, as we see. He exercised the prerogatives of deity; He accepted honors that were due to deity alone, so that after His death and resurrection one who had been with Him in the days of His flesh could exclaim, "My Lord, and my God." (John 20:28) Others, while He was alive, proclaimed Him to be the Son of God, which was an acknowledgement of His deity.

His Agony

In several ways the title, "Jesus of Nazareth," is associated with our Lord's sufferings. How it must have pained Him on that last long night of sorrow to hear Peter's response to the challenge of a girl. Peter denied, and in a later challenge his denial was the more vehement, for "he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of Whom ye speak." (Mark 14:66-71) Poor Peter! The man who had vigorously protested, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I," had miserably failed. When eventually the Savior died, it was this very title that they wrote above His head on His cross. Only John however, includes the words "of Nazareth," writing, "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews." (John 19:19) How interesting that it is only in the gospel of the glory of the Son of God that we should be reminded that the crucified One is "Jesus of Nazareth."

The Glory

The angels used the title at the empty tomb, saying to the women, "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen." (Mark 16:6) But perhaps the most striking example of the title being used in glory is in Acts 22:8. Paul is recounting his experience on the Damascus Road. He had been stricken down, blinded by the glory, and had asked, "Who art thou Lord?" The answer was "I am Jesus of Nazareth." Notice that it is not, "I was," but "I am." Even in the glory, the risen exalted Savior was still willing to be known as "Jesus of Nazareth." *

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*And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:11*

September, 2013

Shepherding Conference

September 19-21

Greenwood Hills, Fayetteville, PA

Mike Attwood, Randy Amos, John Gordon, Mike Stoudt

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RELIGION OR CHRIST

Free Business Card Tract

Most people think their religion will earn them a place in heaven, but sadly this is far from the truth. Why is this?

First, most blindly follow their religion without ever comparing it to the Bible to see what it has to say. Despite what many think, most religions, even well-known “Christian” religions, do not believe what the Bible teaches.

Second, religion is *our attempt to reach God* by our own efforts—church membership and service, sacraments, living the best we can, etc. Simply put, religion teaches us to earn our way to heaven.

The Bible, on the other hand, teaches us that we cannot earn our way to heaven. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: *Not of works*, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

The good news of the Bible is that *God has reached man* in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is faith in Christ’s death and resurrection that saves us from sin and hell, not religious deeds.

Salvation is a gift of God to those who acknowledge their sin and by faith accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Read the Gospel of John and see salvation is in a Person, not a religion.

Write for free copies.

York Bible Study Program September 2013 - May 2014

Date	Topic	Teacher
September 14	Romans 12-16	Tom Irwin
October 12	Christ’s coming	Brian Gunning
November 8	Lessons from Proverbs	BruceHulshizer
December 14	25th Anniversary	Several
January 11	OT Appearances of Christ	Mark Kolchin
February 8	Basic Church Truths	Mike Attwood
March 8	Messianic Prophecy	Bob Spender
April 12	Fruit of the Spirit	Mark Shelley
May 10	Today’s Dangers	John Gordon

25th Anniversary

In January, 1989 the York Bible study program was begun. It met in the home of Steve & Nancy Hulshizer, which Steve had designed specially with the study in mind. Starting with approximately 30 students, the program grew to about 60 who met on Friday night and Saturday. In September, 2005 the study moved to the new North York Gospel Chapel, and meets on Saturday. Sessions start at 10AM and ends by 3PM. Lunch is provided.