

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
August 26, 2020

“WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

“So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” Philippians 2:10

As I drive the now much shorter distance from home to the church there are new sights to see and new things to consider. Take for example, this morning. I was looking at all the street signs and the various names for the different streets, roads, drives, boulevards, avenues, terraces, courts, etc...and wondered “who thinks up all of these names?” Gulf Cove is a pretty good-sized development and there are a lot of streets that originally needed a lot of names. Some of them were probably pretty easy, like the family name of the developer and the first names of his or her kids and grandkids, but once you get beyond that things seem to get a little bit arbitrary. Each day I drive past Albrecht Terrace. Now it’s probably quite simple to figure out how that one came to be. They knew that Kay and I would one day live there. They only missed by about a mile though, but still, that’s pretty good. I’ve noticed “Snow Bird Avenue”. Is this the place that was originally set aside for our northern friends who only spend a part of the year here? If so, there’s been a major breakout. Then there’s “Pandowdy Avenue”. I suppose this is a place that maybe an apple tree was growing, and it was hoped that some tasty baked goods might follow suit. Finally, I give you “Tarr Terrace”. I don’t have the slightest clue as to where that one might have come from. Oh yes, one of the main routes is David Boulevard. Is that one named after the Biblical king or my brother who lives in Owatonna, Minnesota? Enough of that. Whatever the root and significance these names once had I’m afraid it has all been lost on most of us who are living and enjoying Gulf Cove today. In ancient days names carried a great deal more significance. Let’s look to the Old Testament. The name “Moses” relates to the Hebrew word for “Savior”, and quite possibly “Drawn out of water”. The name of Isaiah, the great prophet, means “YAHWEH is salvation”. The name Zerubbabel (yeah, he’s in the Bible...Ezra 3:2) translates to “scattered seed of Babylon”. He was born in the Babylonian exile and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple. Of course, there is tremendous significance in the meaning of the name “Jesus” (Hebrew; Yeshua). In Matthew chapter 1 the angel tells Joseph that *“She [Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* (verse 21) The Hebrew name Yeshua comes from the verb that means “to save, deliver or rescue”. That’s the mission that the Son of God entered into human flesh to accomplish. Throughout the Gospels Jesus attaches many names to himself, all pointing to who He is and what He does for us. These names tell us his exact identity...“That He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. That’s the great confession that Peter made in the Gospel text this past Sunday. It’s that name and all that it means that we confess and believe, the only name that saves. The Apostle John writes in his Gospel, *“To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:12) Believing in the name Jesus means that we believe that He is all that He says He is! In Baptism we bear the name of God, the family name that is placed upon us, the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, as Jesus has come into the world to rescue all people from our sins and all the punishment they earn for us, in being God’s obedient Son and willingly laying down his life in our place to satisfy God’s righteous wrath against all sin, He has earned the position of Lord of lords and King of kings. His name is now glorified to the point of being above all others. In Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to the throne at the right hand of God the Father every knee SHOULD bow before him. Indeed, every knee in heaven does bow before him, and even those under the earth, grudgingly. Here on earth though, that’s not the case. Most in the world reject the Lordship of Christ and therefore are outside the eternal family of God. There will come a time, at the end of this age, that all will bow the knee. All will recognize the supremacy of Christ Jesus, but for many it will come to late. What’s in a name? In the name Jesus, or Jeshua, EVERYTHING. Christ is our all in all!