Call His Name "Jesus"

MATTHEW 1:21

READ: Mt. 1:18-2:5. What is so important about a name?

Today, people name their child by the sound of the name; how good it sounds. In Bible times, names had more significance than today. A name meant something. It described a particular, outstanding feature about a person.

EX: Adam named his wife "Eve" = "Life gives" because she was the "mother of all living"

God named Abram "Abraham" = "Father of a multitude"

"Daniel" = "God is my judge"

"Esau" = "Hairy"

"Michael" = "One who is like God"

"Stephen" = "Crowned one"

"Doug" = "Out of the dark waters"

Of all names, the name of "Jesus" is most significant. The Bible says that "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow Why was this one, Who was born in a manger, whose birth is celebrated every year, called Jesus? This verse (21) gives the answer. "He shall save his people from their sins" The name "Jesus" (Hebrew: Yahhashua – Joshua) means Savior (Deliverer).

TONIGHT, GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION CAN BE YOURS!

If you will believe four truths in this one verse:

I. GOD'S SALVATION COMES FROM A SINGLE PERSON

(Salvation is only through Jesus; the exclusiveness of salvation)

"He"

Jesus said, "I am the way . . . the truth . . ."

Peter and John testified: "Neither is there salvation in any other . . ." (Acts 4:12).

Paul said, "For this is one God, and one mediator. . ." (I Tim. 2:5).

Philip preached unto the Ethiopian eunuch only one word in Acts 8:35 - "Jesus"

"I, even I am the Lord (Jehovah) and beside me there is no Savior" (Is. 43:11; cp. Is. 45:21-25).

Satan has offered hundreds of substitutes (counterfeits) for Christ (EX: Santa Claus - knows all, gives gifts, comes again and again, lives forever)

Satan also offers additions to Christ (EX: You need Christ plus St. _____; You need Christ plus a church, works, etc.)

Salvation is not from: a religion, baptism, church membership; it's not from good works, a priest, or a preacher. It's not from: turning over a new leaf, keeping the Golden Rule, or ten commandments.

---It is from Jesus!

God has no other means of salvation. There isn't one way for the Moslems, and one different way for Hindus, Africans, Chinese, etc.

The way to heaven is narrow! (Mt. 7) But praise God, it is available. Never a road block!

Why is salvation only through Jesus (`Eph. 2:8, 9)?

--Jesus is God's only plan - "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"

--Jesus is the only one who could pay for your sin - infinite penalty demanded an infinite payment

II. GOD'S SALVATION IS BASED UPON A SURE PROMISE

(Salvation is certain through Jesus; the certainty of salvation)

"shall save"

There are not many things that are certain today.

We are not guaranteed perpetual freedom, prosperity.

We don't know when we will die, what the price of gold will be next year, the interest rates, etc.

But we can be sure of our salvation.

God did not say: Jesus may save, might save, could save, or would save -- but shall save (future tense, pointing to certainty)

Why future tense? Jesus had to die. it was His death on the cross that secured our salvation. Satan knew this was how Christ would save the world, so he tried (through Peter) to talk Christ out of going to the cross (Mt. 16:23). This attempt failed, so he used the mob surrounding Christ's cross to say, "If you are the son of God, come down from the cross" (Mt. 27:40-42).

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Ro. 10:13).

"He that hath the son hath life . . . these things have I written unto you . . . that you may know" (I Jn. 5:13).

III. GOD'S SALVATION IS FOR A SPECIFIC PEOPLE

(Salvation is limited to those related to Jesus; the condition of salvation)

"His people"

"His own received Him not." Therefore Salvation is offered to all.

Salv. is available for all - it is sufficient for all (Luke 2:10, ll - "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.""

I Jn. 2:2 - "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

It is sufficient for all, but it is only to those who believe (Acts 16:31 - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ . . .")

IV. GOD'S SALVATION IS FOR A SPIRITUAL PURPOSE

(Salvation is a spiritual matter through Jesus; the spiritual nature of salvation)

"From their sins"

EX: When you speak about being "saved" people only think about the physical (EX: saved from drowning, saved from financial ruin, saved from illness, etc.)

God's salvation is spiritual.

From a Christmas card: "If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.

I Jn. 3:5 - He was manifested to take away our sins.

Why the name "Jesus"?

Jesus is called Emmanuel, Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace, the King, the Alpha and Omega, the Christ, the Cornerstone, the Lord, the Great Physician, the Rock, the Shepherd, the Servant, and the Son of God. But if there is a name sweeter than another in the believer's ear, it is the name of Jesus! This name occurs 972 times in the NT and fills our hymnal.

"Many of our hymns begin with it, and scarcely any, that are good for anything, end without it. It is the sum total of all delights. it is the music with which the bells of heaven ring; a song in a word; an ocean for comprehension, although a drop for brevity: a matchless oratorio in two syllables; a gathering up of the hallelujahs of eternity in five letters." (Spurgeon, p. 78).

"His name is Jesus" - Why? "He shall save His people from their sins."