

Podcast 291 Hallowed be Thy Name.

Scott: Welcome to the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme! I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today! Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am very well, thank you.

Scott: I'm not.

Steve: Really sorry. We'll pray for you as we're praying for the podcast, how about that?

Scott: Thank you!

Father, thank You for Scott and his faithfulness, and here he is, pressing on, even when he's not near 100%. But I pray that You will meet him and meet his family's needs. We're talking today about the name of God, and it's in Your name that Peter raised people up that were sick. It was in Your name that mighty deeds were done in the past, and in Jesus' name, I pray that You will heal Scott and heal his family for the glory of God, that You'll give him life and strength in His name. I pray that whatever he's battling in his body will meet the name of Jesus and turn around, and I pray that he'll begin to heal from this point forward, in Jesus' name. And bless us as we talk today. Bless us as we consider this topic. And give us all ears to hear. This is what we need – we need the work of Your Spirit in our hearts, because there's lots of words in the world, but only the ones that are anointed by Your Spirit have the power and the unction, and I pray that You'll give us unction as we speak and give us ears to hear so that we can connect with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen. Thank you.

Steve: You are welcome. Well, we finished our last series as we discussed the full circle and the bottom line. Interestingly I had the opportunity to speak on that topic a few days after we had the podcast at a funeral this past weekend. The dear man who passed had found out that he had cancer about a year and a half ago, and we began emailing back and forth, and I began praying for him. As a result of our relationship, the family asked me to speak at his funeral.

One of the things I shared at the graveside was how important it is to know your bottom line, especially when you go through situations like a funeral. Or when you're going through sickness, doubt, and other valleys. My bottom line now – which is very different than it was nine years ago – is that God is with me always. He is with His people always, every day, every minute of every day. This is number one.

Number two, nothing can separate us from His love. Nothing. And number three, He doesn't change. There are so many passages that reinforce those three eternal

realities. While there are many wonderful promises in Scripture, those three have kind of worked their way down, filtered, and become my rock.

It was nice to be able to share these truths with the family. These blessed folks have adopted four children from China, who had a dad for the first time. Now they don't, and I'm praying that they will find God real and never forget that God is with them, and God loves them, and nothing can separate them from that love, and He never changes.

Let's shift gears a little. As you know, I've been thinking and meditating on Psalm 100 for a couple years now, and I continue to go deeper into this Psalm of David. One of the things that we've talked about before, and I continue to dig into, is the importance of God's name. In Psalm 100 we are directed to "bless His name" or "praise His name." There's so much to the concept of God's name that we'll do an overview today, and then we'll go deeper as God leads.

God commands us to bless His name, praise His name. This is David's exhortation. This is one of the keys to coming into God's presence, to praise His name. And as I have meditated and blessed His name for the last several years, I believe that God's name is an insight into His character. When you say He's a "Redeemer," that evokes all kinds of things about His character. He's faithful. He's merciful. He's gracious. He's longsuffering.

As we meditate on His name and then praise Him for Who He is, and which His name signifies, we see that the name of God is a reflection of the character and essence of the person of God. As I increase in my understanding of God, I find that I know Him more, and the more I know Him, the more I love Him, which is the first and great commandment.

I believe that if I'm doing activities, spiritual activities, that don't inspire or motivate me to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, then I have to reevaluate, because all work for God should be drawing us closer to God. After all is said and done, God is the source, He's the beginning, He's the end, of all things.

For almost a year I have been meeting with a group of men weekly and we've been discussing John 17. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He said, "Our Father, Who art in heaven." This is then followed by the phrase, "Hallowed be Thy name." This prayer was given to His disciples who had asked Jesus how to pray. Because of their query, perhaps we should call it the Disciple's Prayer. I owe Stan John for that insight, because Stan pointed out that it's really not the Lord's Prayer – it's the Lord's instruction for His disciples how to pray.

Jesus is teaching us, when you start to pray, say, "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name." Praise be Your name. Honor to Your name. Glory to Your

name. This is how we first begin to address God. Then in John 17, which should be titles, the Lord's Prayer – since that whole chapter is Jesus praying to the Father.

In the sixth verse: "I have manifested Your name to the people who You gave Me out of the world." What does that mean? "I have manifested Your name." Has He revealed God's character to the people? Is that what it means when He "manifested [His] name"? Has He shown the people, "This is Who God is. You have seen Me; You have seen the Father." Perhaps that's what we're getting here, but let's just take note of it for now. "I have manifested Your name to the people who You gave Me out of the world."

In the eleventh verse, He says, "I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name." I woke up the other day, and I thought, "Jesus prayed for me. He prayed for those who are now in the world, even though He isn't, and He said, 'Father, keep them in Your name.'" Wow! You know, Scott, you and I have been prayed for way ahead by Jesus, Who gets all of His prayers answered, because He is the absolutely righteous one, and He is at the right hand of the Father.

But notice that before He left this earth, He asked the Father, "Keep them in Your name, which You have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Your name. I have guarded them." I think He's talking about His disciples in the immediate context, but I think that it extends to us. He's praying to the Father that we'll be kept in His name.

In the twenty-sixth verse, the last verse in the chapter, He says, "I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them." So I think there's great benefit is studying God's name, which is why we're going to go deeper.

I'm trusting that God will bring these thoughts to mind and help us all to comprehend in a different way, what does it mean when Jesus says "hallowed be Your name"? What does it mean when David exhorts us to "praise His name"? What does it mean in John 17, "I have kept them in Your name; I have manifested Your name to the people; I have guarded them; I have made known to them Your name"?

Remember, when He gave the Ten Commandments, He said, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain."

Because I am seeing how important God's name is, let's replace the capital letters LORD with Yahweh, the personal name of God. Here is this command once again, "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." I think God's name is so special, so unique, so powerful, so tied to His being and His nature and His character, that when you

dishonor His name, you dishonor Him. And when you don't praise Him, and instead take His name in vain, you are doing the exact opposite.

There is power in that name, and I don't want to put a vanilla – general “the LORD.” I want to use my intelligence, the best I have, to articulate that His name is “Yahweh.” Leviticus 19:12, “You shall not swear by My name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am Yahweh.”

Malachi 1:6, “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says Yahweh of Hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name.” Oh! What an awful experience to hear those words directed to the priests in the time of Malachi – “You despise My name.”

The sons of Aaron were taught in Numbers 6 how to bless God's people. As we think about this benediction, think about the power inherent in each of these words: “Yahweh bless thee and keep thee” – okay, there you go, you're being kept and blessed – “Yahweh make His face to shine upon You and be gracious unto You.”

Whenever I see that word “face”, it impacts me in a deeper way since my study on Psalm 100 and doing the research for **Come into His Presence**. The Hebrew for presence is panah or panim which means face. So this verse actually says, “Yahweh make His face to shine upon You.” But when it says, “Come into His presence,” it says, “Come into His face.” The same words appear in Psalm 27 and are translated “Seek My face.” Three different ways but all me, His presence, His face, and His countenance.

The next verse in this blessing: “Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” Notice the 27th verse, which is often forgotten: “So shall they put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.” By blessing in His name, by pronouncing this benediction – which was specifically laid out, in verses 24, 25, 26 – the result will be, they will put His name on the children of Israel, and God then will bless them.

I don't know about you, but I want to have His name put on me. I do. I don't want there to be any question who I belong to. I belong to Jesus. I belong to Yahweh. I belong to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Perhaps that's why in Antioch, the believers were called Christians, because they were followers of Jesus Christ. I want to be known as that.

I noticed that we've changed that appellation in recent years. Some people will say we're “Jesus-followers” or we're “followers of Jesus.” Many years ago we were referred to as “born-again followers of Jesus,” and some people will just say, “I'm a believer.” I don't know how you want to cut the cake on that one, but I want to be identified with His name – Jesus, Yahweh. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I want the whole package, and I don't want there to be any question who I belong to. Amen?

As I was praying about this the other day, I prayed, “Lord, how do I get into Your name? I want Your name to be upon me.” And as I was praying that, right away it came to me – baptism. In Matthew 28:18–19, Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

I checked with my very smart oldest son, who knows lots of different languages, and he affirmed that the “name” word is singular, not the “names” of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It’s the “name.” He pointed out that this is significant for the application to the Triune God in that one passage. Excellent insight.

In Acts 2, the disciples did exactly what Jesus taught them to do. Acts 2:38: “Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” I want to be in His name. I want to have His name upon me, and I believe that at baptism, when I was baptized into the name of the Triune God, I was marked, and associated in a new way with God.

I’m going to make a couple more points, and maybe this will be enough for today to get us started. I mentioned the connection in Psalm 100, where it says, “Come into His presence” – “Come before His face” is what that’s literally saying – “with singing, giving thanks, and praising His name.” There’s a connection between knowing God more deeply, coming into His presence, seeking Him, thanking Him, and blessing and praising His name.

Psalm 89:15–16 says, “Blessed are the people who know the festal shout” – which, by the way, that same Hebrew word is also used in Psalm 100, when it says, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him, bless His name.” But it starts with, “Make a joyful noise,” that is the festal shout! Psalm 89 continued, “who walk, O Yahweh, in the light of Your face.” Got it? So these folks utter the festal shout, and they walk in the light of Your face, “Who exult in Your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.”

They exult in His name. They bless His name, they praise His name, and now they’re walking in the light of His face. Connection – Revelation 22:4 says, “They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.” Revelation 14:1 says, “I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads.” Isn’t that good? This blessed band of believers were identified with God. They were totally sold out to Jesus. They were followers of Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

As you read the rest of Revelation 14, they went with the Lamb whithersoever He goes. They were followers of Jesus, and sold out to Jesus, and had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads. We live in a tattoo world. I’m not interested

in getting a tattoo, but I hope that somehow God writes His name and His Father's name right across my forehead, because I want to be identified with Him.

I've already mentioned, Malachi 3:16–17. I hope that I get in this book. "Those who feared Yahweh spoke with one another. Yahweh paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared Yahweh and esteemed His name. 'They shall be mine, says Yahweh of hosts, in the day when I make up My treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.'"

These are a group of people who esteemed God's name. They thought about it, meditated on it, hallowed it, and honored it. Perhaps they received His name at baptism, or had it scribed on their foreheads in the last days, or maybe as they received the benediction of the priests, "So shall I put my name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

I'm not sure that I comprehend all that I'm talking, but I want to put it out there. I think that this is a privilege and an opportunity to know God better. The more we know His name, the more we know Him, and the more we know Him, the more we love Him.

I keep thinking of a song in the back of my mind. Perhaps you know it. "I will proclaim the name of Jehovah." I don't know if you ever remember singing that song back when you were in your hymn-singing church, but it's taken from the Old Testament. "I will proclaim the name of Jehovah." It's a great hymn and comes from Deuteronomy 32:3–4. "I will proclaim the name of Yahweh, Jehovah. How glorious is our God! He is the Rock. His deeds are perfect. Everything He does is just and fair. He is a faithful God Who does no wrong. How just and upright He is!"

We can see the connection between proclaiming His name and proclaiming His character because His name and His character go hand in hand.

Father, thank You for teaching us to be able to say "Jesus" and say "Jesus is Lord." We know we can't even do that except by Your Spirit's help. And thank You that we have been baptized into the name of the Jesus and the name of the Father and the name of the Spirit. We have been baptized into the Triune God. I pray that You would help us to hallow Your name. Help us to esteem Your name highly. Help us to have faith in Your name and to acknowledge Your name in every situation. And let Your name be a portal into not only Your presence, but into Your character so that we can know You more, love You more, and understand You better. In Jesus' name, amen.