

The Wonderful Name of Jesus

Isaiah 9:6

Advent in the Prophets (Obadiah)

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, December 20, 2015, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois
livinghopechurch.net

“How amazing is it, that we should claim to love the Name of Christ, and yet talk so little about Him!” – **George Whitefield**

“If we cannot claim to live sinless lives, then the only thing that can keep us from despairing before a holy God is that we have an Advocate in heaven and He pleads our case not on the basis of our perfect name but of His perfect Name and propitiation.” – **John Piper**

Announcements

1. Welcome to visitors
2. So good to see friends and family here today!
3. Join us for our Candlelight Christmas service tonight at 5pm.
4. Great to have Debbie Fleming, Julie’s mom here. We missed you!
5. New Members class beginning in January.

If you don’t have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Isaiah 9**. We are continuing in our series entitled “Advent in the Prophets.” This morning we are looking at a message entitled: “The Wonderful Name of Jesus.”

A Long Name!

What’s in a name. Romeo told Juliet that a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet.

Names are very important. Sometimes people don’t take names seriously. I read in a recent article from the New York Times¹ of a father named Dalton Conley who is a sociologist at New York University. He and his wife, Natalie Jeremijenko, have two children. They recently sought permission with the city of New York to change their four-year-old son's name to Yo Xing Heyno Augustus Eisner Alexander Weiser Knuckles Jeremijenko-Conley. Knuckles was the name of the dog. His five-year-old sister is simply named “E.” An official for the Civil Court clerk's office said this was the longest name in their current records.

In the Bible, names are very important and should be taken very seriously. Today we come to a passage that describes four titles of the kings of Israel, and is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the ultimate King.

¹ Rebecca Traister. New York Times, “Dalton Conley's Parentology” March 14, 2014.

There's no other name like Jesus whereby we must be saved! At the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD!

Five Reasons Jesus Name is Wonderful!

This morning we are going to see five reasons you should trust in the Name of Jesus-what a wonderful Name!² Jesus has a Name that is above all other names! King of kings! Lord of lords! His name is Jesus!

We read about this king with four amazing titles in **Isaiah 9:6**,

“For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Outline

This morning we are to see five reasons Jesus Name is Wonderful

- There is **Wonder** in the Name of Jesus! He's “**Wonderful**” i.e. Supernatural
- There is **Wisdom** in the Name of Jesus! He's the “**Wonderful Counselor**”
- There is **Worship** in the Name of Jesus! He's the “**Mighty God**”
- There is **Wealth** in the Name of Jesus! He's the “**Everlasting Father**” i.e. “**Author of the Age to Come**”
- There is **Welfare** in the Name of Jesus! He's the “**The Prince of Peace**”

Feed on Jesus' Name

George Whitefield said, “How amazing is it, that we should claim to love the Name of Christ, and yet talk so little about Him!” I want to talk about that precious Name today! The Name above all other names!

The Titles of Jesus Imply Divinity

D.A. Carson gives an excellent examination of the divine nature of the titles ascribed here to the coming “child.” Even though Isaiah 9 seems to point to the birth of **King Hezekiah**, there is no way that Hezekiah is anything more than an imperfect image of someone so much greater that will come.

Carson says that these titles cannot ultimately refer to an Israelite king since each of the “titles imply divinity.”³

² The outline is from Adrian Rogers from a message entitled “His Name is Wonderful.” The Adrian Rogers Legacy Library © 2010 Rogers Family Trust.

³ Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 640). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

I. There is **Wonder** in the Name of Jesus! “Wonderful Counselor”

Jesus is the **supernatural** counselor!

The Package God Sent

Christmas is a time of sending packages. I’m told UPS is so busy they’ll probably not get your packages to you on time. But we read that in Galatians 4:4, “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters of God.”

The first Christmas God sent a package to earth. And this package was a gift of deity wrapped up in humanity. Well, what a marvelous thing this is. It's supernatural. Never forget this: Jesus is God in human flesh.

Look again at **Isaiah 9:6**, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” This child, is called the “Wonderful Counselor.” Wonderful means that He’s a supernatural king!

Healthcare

We are in political season now. We're fighting about healthcare but let me tell you about a King who can heal all your diseases. He'll wipe away all your tears. But all the politicians that promise you utopian healthcare will fail, but not Jesus!

Psalm 103:2-5, “Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who **heals all your diseases,**
4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Here is a King that is supernatural. And it may not be so clear now, but one day it says, “the government shall be upon His shoulders.”

Enemies

We think about politics and the experience people have to deal with our foreign enemies. We talk about enemies like ISIS or Putin or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or Kim Jung Un. But King Jesus is a supernatural king of wonders, that when He comes again, He will put “all enemies under his feet” (**1 Cor. 15:25**).

Change You Can Believe In

In politics, you have to be able to enact change. The last election, it was “change you can believe in.” Well I don’t believe it. Politicians fail at change! Now it’s “Make America great again!” I tell, you I don’t believe it.

I’ll tell you who’s going to bring change. Our supernatural King Jesus. That’s change we can believe in. He’s going to usher in a new heavens and a new earth. He’s going to change us.

1 Jn. 3:3, “We know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

1 Cor. 15:52, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

1 Thess. 4:16-17, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” We shall be changed! We shall be transformed into His glorious image!

The Moon Landing

The United States' Apollo 11 was the first manned mission to land on the Moon, on July 20, 1969. And the President of the United States (Richard Nixon) said, “The planting of human feet upon the moon is the greatest event in human history.” No disrespect to the office of President, but I want to say he was totally wrong.

The greatest event in human history was not planting human feet upon the moon. But when God came to earth, and His feet were planted upon planet earth. That's, that's the greatest event that ever happened. We call that the **“incarnation.”** That Almighty God stepped out of heaven, came out of the ivory palaces into this world of woe and put His feet upon this earth.

What good does it do us to put a man on the moon, if we can't get God in our hearts? What good is it to know astronomy and how the heavens operate and not know Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star, and how to go to heaven?

The Wonder of Jesus' Name

Do you stand in awe of the Lord Jesus Christ? Or **have you become distracted**? Do you not get excited when you think of Jesus? If you don't, you've lost the wonder. You have calluses on your heart and soul.

Dear friend, Jesus is **wonderful**.

- Wonderful in His **birth**.
- Wonderful in His **life**.
- Wonderful in His **teaching**.
- Wonderful in His **miracles**.
- Wonderful in His **death**.
- Wonderful in His **resurrection**.
- And yes, wonderful in His **Second Coming**. His Name is wonderful!

Wonder

- **Mary** wondered about all these things and pondered these things in her heart. Would God take up residence in her womb?
- Wonder was the first emotion expressed by the **Shepherds**.
- I challenge you to worship a wonderful God who loves you. If you know Him, His name is wonderful. He is supernatural! He's unlike any other!

The Incomparable Christ

Listen to words of my favorite books, titled: “The Incomparable Christ” by J. Oswald Sanders—

“More than 2000 years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of nature.

He laid aside that glorious robe of His majesty for a peasant's tunic. He was rich, yet for our sake he became poor. This man lived in **poverty** and was raised in **obscurity**. He received no formal education and never possessed wealth or widespread influence. He never traveled extensively. He seldom crossed the boundary of the country in which He lived.

But this man's life has changed the course of history.

In infancy He startled a king. In childhood he amazed religious scholars. In manhood He ruled the course of nature—walked on stormy waves and hushed the raging sea to sleep.

He healed multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services. He never practiced psychiatry. Yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

He never wrote a book. Yet his life has inspired more books than any other man. He never wrote a song. Yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army. He never drafted a soldier or fired a gun. Yet no leader ever had more rebels surrender to him without a shot fired.

Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not seduce Him. His enemies could not destroy Him. The grave could not hold Him. After three days He rose from the dead, alive forevermore!"⁴

Can you say today, that the name of Jesus is WONDERFUL?! Oh there is *wonder* in the matchless Name of Jesus!

II. There is **Wisdom** in the Name of Jesus! “Wonderful Counselor”

The Supernatural Counselor

And His Name is called “Wonderful **Counselor!**” He is the Supernatural counselor! Oh the wisdom in Jesus' Name! This child will be endowed with supernatural wisdom.

The king given this message is Ahaz, a very wicked king. He's going to have a righteous son named Hezekiah, but as wise as Hezekiah is, he does not have supernatural wisdom.

The Counselor Who Can Solve All our Problems

Sometimes people come to me for counsel. I can't solve their problems. So when I counsel with people I try to lead them to the One who can solve their problems—the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't want them dependent upon me. I want them to know Jesus. He is the Counselor. There is wisdom in His name

The Bible says that Christ is made “unto us **wisdom** from God...so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’” (1 Cor. 1:30-31).

⁴ J. Oswald Sanders. *The Incomparable Christ* (Moody: Chicago, 2009).

He Gives us the Wisdom to Know How to be Saved

In **Isaiah 53:11** we read, “By His knowledge shall my Righteous Servant justify many.” In other words, this “Wonderful Counselor” knows exactly what we need to be saved. He knows exactly what to do to save us. He knows exactly what needs to be known in order to save sinners. He is a wonderful counselor.

Our Advocate: The Holy Spirit is our Wonderful Counselor

It is the Holy Spirit that carries out the ministry of Christ. The Spirit gives each of us godly wisdom and the humility to handle that wisdom. Remember Jesus’ promise in **John 14:16-17, 26**, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [Advocate], to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 26 But the Helper [Advocate], the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

Harnessing the Space Shuttle

Making wise decisions in this life is like harnessing the Space shuttle. There so many buttons do so many things – we are not wise enough to make decisions on our own. Jesus is the wisdom of God – we are not “to lean to our own understanding,” but to “trust in Him” with all our heart and soul (**Pro. 3:5-6**).

You see we are all broken – rebellious – we have rebelled against God we have chosen to go our own way – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way” (**Isa. 53:6a**). When we make bad decisions, it’s always because we think are wiser than God. “...The Lord has laid upon Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all” (**Isa. 53:6b**).

The Great Exchange

In wisdom, God made a great exchange. We were enslaved by the greatest terrorist of all time – Satan himself. Our “eyes were blinded by the god of this world.” The price to get us free was to infinite. Jesus paid for our sins and gave us His righteousness!

God sent His only Son to ransom us and take the punishment for our sins! What amazing wisdom, that God would place all our sin upon Jesus. “He [God] made Him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (**2 Cor. 5:21**).

God’s Wisdom So Much Higher than our Wisdom

God’s ways are higher than our ways –

Isaiah 55:8-9,

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God knows your past and in His **wisdom** He paid for your sins. And He knows your present, and in His wisdom he sanctifying you from your sins presently. And God knows your future, and He promises to glorify you and to take away all of your sins – one day those who are in Christ will inhabit a sinless body!

Jesus Sympathizes with Your Weakness & Trouble

Are you going through a problem right now? You don't know the way out. You don't what to do. Every answer seems wrong. I want to recommend my counselor to you.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15, HCSB)

Jesus gets it. He understands it. He can relate to you. Sometimes when we are going through a difficult situation and someone says, “I understand what you are going through...” it seems empty because unless they have been through the same situation how can they possibly understand our problems. But Jesus does understand. He knows exactly what you are going through.

He calls you today: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NKJV)

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

Have you lost your way? Jesus says, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn. 14:6). Jesus Christ is the exclusive way to heaven!

Can you rejoice today, that the name of Jesus is WONDERFUL?! Oh there is *wisdom* in the matchless Name of Jesus!

III. There is Worship in the Name of Jesus! “Mighty God”

The Child is God in Human Flesh

Jesus Christ isn't just a *wonderful counselor*.

He isn't just a *great teacher*.

He isn't just a *good example*.

He IS the **Mighty God!**

This child, we are told, is called, “Mighty God.” That is, He will be God Almighty, in human flesh. This is one of the clearest verses on the **incarnation** in the Old Testament. Here Isaiah gives unmistakable testimony to the divinity of the Messiah in this remarkable title: Jesus is the “Mighty God!”

As Isaiah says two chapters earlier, Jesus is called “Emmanuel”, or “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14).

Matthew 1:21 says, He shall be called “Jesus” or “Jehovah God” saves! “for He shall save His people from their sins!” Jesus is mighty to save you!

Christ Called God in the NT

“Unto us a child is born – unto us a Son is given...and He shall be called... the Mighty God!”

Christ is described in **Hebrews 1:3** as “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

Christ Calls Himself God

He calls Himself God in **John 14:1**, “Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me.” He said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9).

Christ calls Himself the eternal, Almighty God! In **Revelation 1:8**, Christ says, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”.

God will share his glory with no one. He says in **Isaiah 42:8**, “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another”, yet Christ said in **John 17:5**, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” In **John 5:23**, He says, “all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent him.”

By His own testimony, Jesus Christ is God robed in a human body.

ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Jesus Has All the Attributes of God

Paul said, “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (**Colossians 2:9**). Therefore, we would expect for Jesus to have all the attributes of God, and He does. Now these are attributes that none of us can have. We can be like God in some ways. He says, be pure as I am pure. We are to love as He loved. We are to be merciful as he is merciful.

But God **never** calls us to be all powerful or all-knowing or omnipresent or eternal or self-existing. No, these are attributes of God that cannot be transferred to men. Yet Jesus Christ of Nazareth had them all. He said, “he that has seen me hath seen the Father” (**John 14:9**).

Jesus Set Aside the Active Use of His Attributes

St. Paul tells us in **Philippians 2:6-8**, “though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [HELD ON TO],⁷ but emptied himself [OF THE ACTIVE USE OF HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES], by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Jesus set aside the active use of His attributes so that He could be born as a man. And as a man, He was **born to die!** The Mighty God was born to die for your sins and mine! Death on a Cross!

Though Jesus for the most part chose to live as a normal human being, at times He does exercise the attributes of His divinity.

OMNIPRESENCE

As God, Jesus Christ is **omnipresent**. He says in **Matthew 18:20**, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”; and in **Matthew 28:20**, He promised, “Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.” He promises to be everywhere at once with each of His children when he says, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” (**Hebrews 13:5**).

OMNISCIENCE

As Jehovah God Christ knows everything. He’s **omniscient**. Christ never met a person he didn’t already know. He already knew all about the people he would meet for the first time.

Christ is so all-knowing, that He judges the world for sin. He says in **John 5:22**, “the Father judges no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

Christ knows everything you and I have ever done. And all judgment has been given to Him, because He is the Mighty God.

OMNIPOTENCE

As God, Christ is **omnipotent**. He says “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (**Matthew 28:18**). When Jesus spoke, the creation obeyed His voice, and the disciples asked, “What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (**Mark 4:41**). As God He has power over life and death.

This one who was born with the animals and laid in a cow’s trough, is the one who will one day destroy use His omnipotent power to destroy and remake the world. Christ is coming “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

John says:

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (**Revelation 1:7**).

IMMUTABLE

As Jehovah God, Jesus Christ is **immutable**—He never changes! **Hebrews 13:8** is a familiar declaration of the immutability of Christ: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today, and forever.”

RECEIVES WORSHIP AS GOD

Jesus Receives Worship as God

After Christ was raised from the dead, the women were greeted by Jesus and “they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him” (**Matthew 28:9**).

Again after Christ was risen, we read of Christ’s disciples in **Matthew 28:17**, “And when they saw him, they **worshipped** him... And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

Thomas after seeing the risen Lord said in **John 20:28-29**, “said unto him, My Lord and my God.”

GRANTS ETERNAL LIFE

Christ grants **eternal life**. He says in **John 10:27-28**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand” (cf. **Luke 10:22**).

J.I. Packer Quote

As **J.I. Packer** said, “The divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets.” The Almighty became helpless to help you out of hell and into eternity with Him!

Can you shout for joy today, that the name of Jesus is WONDERFUL?! Oh there is *worship* in the matchless Name of Jesus!

IV. There is **Wealth** in the Name of Jesus! “Everlasting Father” i.e. ‘Author of the ages to come.’

Father of Eternity, or Author of the Age to Come

This title has the idea “Father of eternity.” St. Jerome translated it literally. He said, Jesus is the “Author of the Age to come.” There is wealth in the Name of Jesus! So many of us look for the treasure that is in this life alone. But Jesus says, “Seek first my Kingdom and righteousness and everything else will be added to you.” That’s where the real wealth is.

So Many Garbage Dumps on Earth

Those who are in Christ are “heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ” (**Romans 8:17**). And one day Jesus as the Author and Father of the Age to come is going to renew the earth.

This earth has so many garbage dumps. Things fall apart. Our hearts have fallen apart. But it is in the Age to come that Jesus sits on the throne and says, “Behold I make all things new.” There are no garbage dumps or grave yards in the Age to come. There are no grave plots in eternity, where Jesus is the Author and Sustainer of all things.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Most of the prettiest things we have will all end up in the **garbage dump** 100 years from now. The **second law of thermodynamics** is taking its toll on all things. Everything is expanding and falling apart. That includes human beings, you and me!!

There is no sun in the age to come because Jesus is the light. There is no night in the age to come. We never get tired. There is no medicine or funeral in the age to come.

What are You Living for?

The question is, what are you living for? The here and now? Or are you living for the ages to come? Jesus says, there are people who stockpile on this earth and lose their own soul. They get the best education and the best job and they marry right, and they get on the hamster wheel, and then one day they die.

No U-Haul’s Behind Hearses

Can I remind you that there are no U-Haul’s behind hearses? You can’t take anything with you. Jesus is the Father of Eternity. He’s the Author of the Age to come. He is the one who died and yet lives. He conquered sin, death, and hell so that you could live in that age to come.

Everything Belongs to Jesus

Everything is a gift to you from God. The Lord Jesus is the Author of the Age to Come and so there is wealth in that name. That means it all belongs to Him. He made it all. What’s the world coming to? The world is coming to Jesus. It came from Him. It is for Him. It is coming back to Him.

Jesus made it all. Billions of suns came from His hand when He spoke. Oceans dripped from His fingers. He made it all. Trillions of innumerable stars and suns mightier than ours. This little planet earth is a speck in the galaxy, just a tiny blue dot in the vast cosmos. And yet He made it. The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.

The Prosperity Gospel is Not the Gospel

There is this teaching out there that says, “God’s blessing on you is that you have everything in this life now. His spiritual blessing is reflected in your material blessing.”

In other words, if you are saved, the blessing of God is not simply that you are forgiven and cleansed, but that you are rich with health and wealth in this world. I want you to know that that is not the Gospel. That is not good news.

John Piper on the Prosperity Gospel

John Piper when asked about the prosperity Gospel said: “I’ll tell you what I feel about the prosperity Gospel: hatred.”

He said, “It is not the gospel. It is being exported from this country to Africa and Asia. Selling a bill of goods to the poorest of the poor, “Believe this message, your pigs won’t die. Your wife won’t have miscarriages. You’ll have rings on your fingers and coats on your back.” That’s coming out of America!” And its idolatry! It is pagan worship!

John Piper in his book “Desiring God” said it well: “God is not glorified when we keep for ourselves (no matter how thankfully) what we ought to be using to alleviate the misery of unevangelized, uneducated, unmedicated, and unfed millions. The evidence that many professing Christians have been deceived by this doctrine is how little they give and how much they own.”⁵

The Prosperity Gospel is Paganism

Anyone who worships God for what He gives us is involved in paganism and idolatry. God is our treasure! We say with David...

Psalm 73:25-26

“Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

(As Piper said): “THAT makes God look glorious, as GOD, not as giver of cars or safety or health. When your cars and houses perish and your health is gone and your safety is ripped away from you, God is all-satisfying.” He is the Author of the age to come.

He says to Abraham in **Genesis 15:1**, “Fear not, Abram: I am your shield, and your exceeding great reward.”

(As Piper said) “Oh how I pray that [Chicago] and the entire world would be purged of the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel and instead be marked by suffering for Christ.”

Life is a Gift

All that you have is a gift, but you weren’t meant to worship it. You weren’t meant to be completely satisfied and sustained by food, relationships and music. Houses and cars cannot save you. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4).

You see, Jesus Christ is the Father or Author of Eternity. He made it possible for us to enter into the Age to Come.

⁵ John Piper, *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*

The Measure of God's Blessing: Conformity to Christ

God's work in this world is not giving us cars and houses and lands. He may bless us with those things. But that's not the measure of His blessing.

He is "conforming us into the image of His dear Son." He is getting us ready for the age to come.

1950s Celebrities: We are Wasting Away!

We need to be renewing our hearts and minds in Christ! Our cars and houses are going to break! Focus on what is important. If we focus on all that's breaking we will lose heart!

Sure we should try to groom ourselves, but I'll tell you no matter what you look like now, it's all downhill from here. Have you seen those beautiful pictures from the 1950s celebrities? I like to see what they look like today. I can guarantee they look a lot... different. You need to not put so much time into the outward part of you that you neglect the inner part of you, the heart.

Our Inner Self is Renewed Day by Day

St. Paul says in 2 Cor. 4:16-18, that we are not looking to the here and now but to the age to come! If we looked only to now we would lose heart!

But Paul says, **2 Cor. 4:16-18**, "We do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Jesus is the Everlasting Father, the Author of the Age to Come! He's making all things new!

Can you see the that treasure of the name of Jesus is WONDERFUL?! Oh there is *wealth* in the matchless Name of Jesus!

V. There is Welfare in the Name of Jesus! "The Prince of Peace"

No Peace for the Wicked

There is no doubt about it, Isaiah prophesied peace, the angels proclaimed peace, and certainly there is a need for peace. But look around in the world. I watched the news today and yesterday, and in the Middle East, that little town of Bethlehem, there will be very few people there tonight. And they will be under heavy guard because that little place where Jesus was born, where the angels said, "Glory to God in the Highest and earth peace, good will toward men;" it is ravaged there by war, division, bombing, terrorists' acts.

H. G. Wells in his book "Mind at the End of its Tether" said at the dawn of the nuclear age: "For man and his world there is no way out."⁶ He was right. If we look to human kind, there is no meaningful answer to our own self-destruction.

And as we look at history, it seems like we are just kind of looking into **the muzzle of a loaded canon**. And yet, the Bible **prophesies peace**. Well, why don't we have any peace right

⁶ H. G. Wells. *Mind at the End of its Tether*, 1945 – the estate of H. G. Wells.

now? I mean in the world. Well, we don't have to guess why we don't. **Isaiah 57:21** says, "There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked."

But Jesus is prophesied to be the Prince of Peace that will save the human race. "Behold the Lamb of God" who looks down the muzzle of that loaded cannon of our sin and takes it all. He dies for the sins of the whole world.

Being Justified, We Have Peace with God!

I'll tell you what, there's welfare in the Name of Jesus! Oh, the thing that your heart is yearning for is peace. We are such sinners.

John Piper said Jesus very Name gives hope to sinners who despair because they sin. He said, "[As Christians] If we cannot claim to live sinless lives, then the only thing that can keep us from despairing before a holy God is that we have an Advocate in heaven and He pleads our case not on the basis of our perfect name but of His perfect Name and propitiation." – John Piper

And Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Do you want peace? **Romans 5:1**, "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God." And then the Bible says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Col. 3:15).

Louis Zamperini: The Government of Your Life on Jesus' Shoulders

You see, God, through Jesus, came to give you peace. Jesus has come that the government of **your life** will be upon His shoulders.

There was a with big shoulders named **Louis Zamperini**. A recent movie was made of him called "Unbroken." Zamperini during WWII, was taken captive by Japan, and beaten and tortured, but he never gave up. In the closing scene was forced to hold up a large beam or else risk more torture. What great shoulders he had to carry that beam!

As great as Zamperini's shoulders were, let me tell you about the shoulders of my Jesus! His shoulders are so great that He can take the entire weight of your sin upon them!

What Does it Mean to be the "Prince of Peace"?

In order to bring peace to us, Jesus had to become the propitiation for our sins. A propitiation is an atoning sacrifice that satisfies the justice of God.

Jesus is the Prince of peace. He's the King of kings and Lord of lords! Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that He is the LORD. He is the great I AM. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! And as King of the universe, He has chosen to substitute Himself for your peace. He took on Himself your sin and the wrath of God for your transgressions to purchase your peace.

Jesus Leaves You His Peace

Has anybody ever left you an inheritance in a will? Jesus did. Upon the cross He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Now Jesus is going back to the heavens and this is the legacy that Jesus, young man, left for you. Jesus willed His body to Joseph of Arimathea for burial. Jesus gave His mother to the apostle John. Jesus yielded up His spirit to God the Father. But Jesus gave His peace to you, and there's no lawyer on earth that can break that will. It is yours. It is your throne gift.

Dying Woman: Jesus Made Peace with God

A woman was dying. They said to her, do you know that you're dying. She said, "Yes." Have you made peace with God? She said, "No." Perhaps she didn't understand so they asked her again. Said, "Do you know you're dying?" She said, "Yes." Have you made peace with God? She said, "No." She said, "I am resting in the peace that Jesus made for me on the cross." Amen. He made peace between God and man.

Bow Your Knee

What a wonderful Name Jesus has. In **Matthew 1:21**, the angel declared to Joseph, "You shall call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin."

And I'll tell you, in spite of all the chaos, the government is upon His shoulders. You can either bow your knee and declare Him Lord now, or when you die. You see, when people die they meet King Jesus. He is the Mighty God.

Some people say, "Well have you have to make Him Lord!" You're too late for that. God has already declared Him Lord. This is His sovereign, His sovereign nobility. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. And if you, if you miss that you miss the meaning of Christmas. You have to take the cradle and the cross and the crown and put them together or you don't have the true story of Christmas. He is King of kings, Lord of lords.

We can't make Him Lord – He's Lord of all whether you acknowledge Him or not.

You can and you ought to bow your knee to Him and say, "O Lord, You're the King and the government of my life is upon Your shoulders. Therefore, I yield my heart to You."

Conclusion: Stuck

I want to tell you how foolish your pastor is. One day when I was in college, I drove my automobile off the wet pavement out into a grassy area on the side of a mountain. I was trying to deliver newspapers, but the rain was so heavy that I slid into this great big hillbilly's front yard and almost went right into his living room!

I tried to drive away my tires just spun! I thought, oh no, the ground is wet. I'll be very careful. So I started to go very careful and my tires continued to spin.

I said, we'll I'll back up and get a running start. I went to back up, and nothing. I said, Oh, I'll rock the car a little bit. Still nothing but spin. And I'm sinking the whole time. By this time, I'm going down, down, down. I am stuck in the mud!

Well, there's two things I wanted. Number one, I didn't want anybody to see me. And number two, I wanted somebody to see me.

And so I prayed, I said, "Lord, I'm in the mud." I really prayed this way. I said, "Lord, I'm in the mud. I need your help. Lord, I'm, I'm helpless here. Lord, get me out."

And just almost at the same time, a great big hillbilly of a man came to me. He must have been 6 foot 6 inches tall! I didn't know if he was going to pounce me or what!

He saw me before I saw him. He came to be before I even asked him to come. He had a large truck vehicle with a tow on it. And he said, "You're stuck?" I said, "Yes!"

He said, "Stop doing what you're doing. You're making it worse." He said, "I have a cable and I have a hook." And we hooked that hook to my car, put that cable there on his bumper and that man with that mighty truck pulled me slowly out of the mud.

What About You: Are You Stuck?

I got back on solid ground I was so grateful that that man had come along. But I got to thinking about it. It's so much like salvation. We are looking for the things of this world and sinking in the mud.

We say, "I can get myself out of this." "I can handle this situation." And the more we try to handle it, the deeper and deeper and deeper we sink. We need somebody who will see us, care for us, come to us, and get us out.

Jesus is a Savior! He comes to us. He has what it takes to extricate us from the mud that we've gotten in. Well, he pulled me out.

He's taken us out of the horrible pit and set our feet upon the rock!

Put the Government of Your Life on His Shoulders!

Listen, we are all stuck, and we need to put the government of our lives on His shoulders! His Name is wonderful!

He is:

- The "**Wonderful** Counselor"
- The "**Mighty God**"
- The "**Everlasting Father**" i.e. "**Author** of the Age to Come"
- The "**The Prince of Peace**"

O the precious Name of Jesus! Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord! What a wonderful Name!