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INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME

By: C. D. Cole

Philippians 2:9, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

INTRODUCTION: In the moral realm a name stands for the character of a person or deed. Our moral reaction to the call of a person's name is according to the character of that person in our estimation. If we admire or love a person, the name of that person strikes a responsive chord in our hearts whether it be Bill or John or Joe. We do not think of the combination of letters that make up the name; we think of the person back of that name. The names of Judas and Benedict Arnold to the Christian and patriot are synonyms of treachery. The name of Caesar stands for human authority. The names of Alexander the Great and Napoleon represent ruthless conquest. The name of Ghandi is associated with hunger strikes and non-violence. Pearl Harbor will always be a synonym for treachery and double-crossing.

In the long ago when the whole earth was of one language and of one speech, as they journeyed from the East, they found a plain in the land of Shinar. And they said one to another, "Go to, let us make brick and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime, had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name." This expresses ambition for fame and this inordinate thirst for prominence is the most cruel of the sinful passions. The devil originated this spirit and with his sharp needle of temptation gave humanity a shot in the arm so that this desire for a name is still in the blood stream of the human race.

The soldier with a sword for a trowel and blood-red bricks has reared a tower to make himself a name. The author with his pen has piled together bricks of thought, hoping to make himself a name. Artists, architects,

musicians, engineers, mechanics, etc., all have built themselves towers to make themselves a name.

But I am to tell of One who was different. He too planned to build a tower whose top should reach to heaven and a city too, wherein a multitude might dwell forever in safety. He built it of strange materials--a manger, a cross, and an empty grave. And cementing them with his blood. He reared a tower to the skies, a stairway leading up to the pearly gates of the city which hath foundations.

And when God came down to see the cities and the towers which men builded, His work alone was found worthy of a perpetual memorial, Wherefore God hath highly exalted him."

**READ
THIS COPY
AND
PASS ALONG**

I. The fact of his exaltation. He has already been given a name above every name. The name of Jesus even now enjoys unrivaled pre-eminence. There is no name like the matchless name of Jesus Christ.

A. It is above every name for purity. No other name in human history has been without spot or stain. Noah was a great man--prominent in the Old Testament, famous for his faith, but there is also a black page in his history. Abraham was a great man, but time and again we find him in the mire. His name was not spotless. There was Jacob. What a man! But there was trickery and cheating that stained his name. And Moses--great general and lawgiver, but even he was not a perfect man. And David, musician and poet king, writer of psalms, but everybody knows of his sins. And it is no better when we turn to the New Testament. Peter and Paul were outstanding men of God, but even they had their defects. Only One who ever walked this earth who could safely say, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" Nobody can find any fault with Jesus. All ranks bear testimony to his sinlessness. Judas, who betrayed him, had to say, "I have betrayed the innocent blood." Pilate, who delivered him to be crucified, exclaimed, "I find no fault in him." The name of Jesus stands as a synonym for perfection.

B. It is above every name for popularity. No other man has ever had so many worshippers. Others have compelled worship of themselves, but only Jesus has received glad and voluntary worship from men. Napoleon: "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself, founded empires, but they have all passed away; but the name of

Jesus still stands, and today millions of men would gladly die for Him."

C. It is above every name for power. In the name of Jesus, the apostles healed the sick and raised the dead. There was a time when the name of Hitler filled the world with fear because of the power he wielded. But he died a broken idol in shame and confusion. In the commercial world, there are men of power. Certain names have dominated the financial world because of the power of wealth. But Jesus is the heir of all things. His name opens the door into the presence of God. His name is the password to the skies. To Him all authority has been given in heaven and earth.

D. His name is above every name for permanence. His name is not for a day, but forever. His reputation has been made. His name is secure for all the future. Earth's heroes are soon forgotten. Popular esteem is a fickle thing. The man who is reckoned great today, may be despised tomorrow. Alexander the Great is only a dim memory. Napoleon, who led his thousands, died in exile. The Kaiser who ruled Germany for awhile, spent his last days as a woodchopper in exile. But the name of Jesus shines on. It loses none of its luster as time rolls on. Do not be alarmed at reports that Christianity has failed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will never lose its power until the ransomed church of Christ be saved to sin no more.

II. The reason for His exaltation. What is the explanation of the difference between Jesus Christ and the great men of earth? Why does His name stand while theirs go down?

A. God hath highly exalted him. It makes no difference what men say about Him; God hath exalted him. The professors may say he is only a man; they may deny his virgin birth and His essential Deity, but God hath highly exalted him above all other names.

I suppose there will be men until the end of time who will be as foolish as Voltaire, who promised that within a given time the name of Jesus would be forgotten in France, or known only to be derided. Yet the very house where those words were spoken is now used by a Bible Society. It is the other way around--it is the name of Voltaire, which is either forgotten or remembered only to be derided.

You might as well try to blow out the sun or pluck the stars as to rob Jesus Christ of any of His glory. You may be a sorry Christian, but He remains a glorious Saviour. You may forsake His church, but He remains true to it. You may dishonor it, but He will glorify it.

Great statesmen such as Lloyd George and Churchill may render conspicuous service to their nation and then be dragged from their position of pre-eminence and confined to the shadows of unimportance, but no one can drag Jesus from His throne or take the crown from His brow, for He has been exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on high.

B. God exalted Him because of His infinite condescension. He was equal with God, but did not hold on to it. He was not afraid to relinquish His sovereign rights for a season. He was not afraid to become a man and make himself of no reputation. He took upon Him the

form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men.

Jesus Christ introduced a new principle; He disclosed a new method of life; He laid down a new rule by which to get to heaven. He came to show us that the way up is to go down; that the way of ascension is the way of humility. He taught us that the way to make a reputation is to lose it; the way to live is to die; the way to be a conquerer, a sovereign, is to be a servant.

C. He has been exalted as the world's most distinguished servant. He came to be a minister. He came not to be ministered unto but to minister—to give Himself a ransom for many.

This world has had many benefactors, but none to compare with Jesus. Sir James Simpson, who discovered the principle of anesthesia, making it possible for us to go off into unconsciousness while the surgeon cuts us open and sews us up again. Lister, who discovered anti-septic, so that germs may be kept out of the wound made by the surgeon. Edison, Pasteur, Burbank, and other scientists have done marvels in making this present physical life more comfortable. But Jesus did a service nobody else could ever do. He is our benefactor in eternal blessings. He saw deep into human needs, He undertook the most difficult task. He saw man could never be safe until his sin debts were paid, and he came to pay them. He saw men resting under the curse of a Divine law and he came to redeem them.

III. The results of His exaltation. For what purpose is he exalted? That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

It is all fixed in the eternal councils. Jesus is

going to be Lord of all. He will not be cheated out of His honour. His name will never fade from human memory. The lost in hell will remember Him only to bemoan their unbelief and rejection of Him. The saved will never be out of his presence.

If men do not confess him gladly in this day of salvation, they will do it when it will do them no good to do it, but for the glory of God.

"His name shall endure forever."

He whom God exalted cannot be safely ignored by men. If God placed him on a throne, then you must bow before Him. If God anointed Him to be a Saviour, you better look to him. If God bruised him for sinners, you better trust him. And do it today--even now.



THE BLESSING OF THE BOOK

*O how love I thy law!
it is my meditation all the
day." Psalm 119:97*

*Each day our minds are
bombarded with numerous things
that demand our attention.
Our busy schedules keep us
moving from morning until
night. We regret that there
are not more hours in the
day to accomplish an even
greater number of tasks.
Too often, when we lay our
heads on our pillows at night,
we suddenly remember that
we forgot to take time with
our Lord in prayer and Bible
reading. We promise ourselves
that we'll be sure to do it
tomorrow, but when tomorrow*

*comes, there are more things
to fill our time and keep
our minds and hearts turned
away from God and His precious
word.*

*If only we would learn
to love our Lord Jesus so
much that we could not neglect
to take the time to fill our
hearts and busy minds with
His Word daily. God's law
gives us strength. It heals
wounds and broken hearts.
It tells of One whose love
can fill our lonely lives.
It contains the wisdom we
need to accomplish our most
demanding task and instructs
us on how to live our busy
lives. It helps us realize
that our priorities are to
be based on what God considers
important.*

*Take time to meditate
on God's word, and your daily
burdens will seem much easier
to bear.*

C. Park

NOTICE

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP!

The Bryan Station Baptist Church now has seven missionaries out from under its authority--they are listed below. You may have friends or family, saved or lost, who reside near one of these mission works. Put them in touch with each other by informing them of the Lord's work in their area. Or, write the missionary with their address, so that he may contact them. The result could be the salvation of a lost soul or a mission's membership of a person already saved.

Bobby Aldridge
Caixa Postal 1651
60,000 Fortaleza Ceara
Brazil, S.A.

Lindon Becknell
Route 35, Box 565H
Morehead, KY 40351

Jonathan P. Gordon
412 Main Street
Milford, OH 45150

Rick Kelley
710 Hamilton Avenue
Apartment C
Trenton, OH 45067

Walter Lauerma
Apartado 1773
San Pedro Sula
Honduras, C.A.

Poulose Thudian
BIBLE VOICE
'Dayavihar' Thana,
Cannanore, 670 012,
Kerala, India

Theodore Tweet
Apartado Postal 72
La Ceiba, Atlantida
Honduras, C.A.