



Who is God? Knowing Him by His Names Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2008 Daily Study

Jesus, Name above Names

We have seen in the last 4 days how God has progressively revealed Himself to man over the course of time. His purpose in the progressive revelation has been to show us His plan of redemptive history which He purposed before time began. He revealed Himself, among other ways, by His names. Now we come to the New Testament period and the arrival of Jesus on the stage of human history. Read Hebrews 1:1-4. It says that God has now spoken to us “by His Son.” What this literally means is that God has spoken “in Son.” The Son Himself IS the spoken word. God has revealed Himself to us in the person, works, and names of His one and only begotten Son, Jesus. This is why John opens his gospel letter by referring to Jesus as “the Word.” (Read John 1:1-5)

For the most part, we probably associate “God” and “LORD” with God the Father. The Bible, for the most part, uses these names for the Father, although both names are used in reference to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit one or more times. This reminds us that all three persons of the Trinity are all equally God.

Let’s turn now to the names of the Son. We are now in the New Testament and so have moved to Greek instead of Hebrew.

Jesus (Ihsou-v – pronounced ee-ay-sooce).

This name comes from the Hebrew “Joshua” (Y’shua) and means “Jehovah is Salvation.” This is Jesus’ proper name – His real, earthly, fleshly name. He had a name just as we do, yet His is the “name that is above every name.” (Read Phil. 2:9-11)

Christ (Xristo/v – pronounced kristos)

This name means “anointed” and is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word ‘Messiah.’ To the Jew, someone or something that was “anointed,” usually by a prophet, was chosen by God for a special purpose and plan. When was Jesus anointed? (Read I Peter 1:18-21) It was the Messiah that was promised to the chosen people of Israel. It was the Messiah that the Jews looked for and longed for. It was the Messiah who was first promised in Genesis 3:15.

We may sometimes think of Christ as the last name for Jesus, but in reality it is a title. He is THE Christ. (Matt. 16:16, 20; Luke 4:41 – even the demons know who He is.) Jesus is referred to this way over 40 times in the NT. Even though it is a title, it is also used as a proper name (See Romans 5:6-8). How important is this name? Today it may be taken lightly and is many times used to curse the God who goes by that name. In the early church, many Christians died for that name. During the time of the Roman Empire, citizens of Rome had to swear allegiance to Caesar by swearing “Caesar Kurios” or Caesar is Lord. Instead, Christians would go to the lions swearing “Kristos Kurios.” Who would die for a name?

It is to that name that we will all one day bow. Will you bow as a defeated foe or as a Son of the King? Let’s spend a few moments considering what Jesus revealed by taking on flesh. Spend some time reading Christ’s prayer in John 17. Note what He modeled for us: a life of perfect obedience, love for the Father, complete submission to the will of the Father, and giving glory to the Father. All of these things are what God requires of us. God not only told us what He demands, but He also SHOWED us in the person of His Son.

God stooped down and painted a picture for us that could not be missed, and yet, most did miss it. (Read Ephesians 4:11-16.) We are to “grow up” in this Christian life to be like Christ – Christians are “little Christs.” This is why He saved us.

