

Sermon Notes – December 9, 2018

Jesus: The Only Way to Make Peace with God

[#1] *The True Nature of God & Why it Matters*

John 1:1–18



Children's Sermon: Getting a Bad Name

What does it mean to have a bad name? (Melvin)

Illustration: Have you been blamed for something you didn't do?

Do you think God cares about his name?

Ezekiel 39:7 (NLT)

"In this way, I will make known **my holy name** among my people of Israel. I will not let anyone bring shame on it. ...

Jesus came to set the record straight:

1. God will punish those who trifle with his name (Justice)
2. God will rescue his people from their sin (Mercy)



Why it Matters (The True Nature of God)

Notes:

- Truth/Reality Matters (**Illustration:** Sitting in a Chair)
- God Cares about His Name

"The 'name' is more than a label; it is the character of the person, or even the person himself." ⁱ

Ezekiel 36:23–28

²³ And I will **vindicate the holiness of my great name**, *which has been profaned among the nations*, and which you *have profaned among them*. And the nations will **know that I am the Lord**, declares the Lord God, when through you I *vindicate my holiness before their eyes*. ²⁴ **I will** take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ **I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols **I will** cleanse you. ²⁶ And **I will** give you a new heart, and a new spirit **I will** put within you. And **I will** remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will** put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and **you shall be my people, and I will be your God**.

- We are Inextricably Linked to His Name

➤ We Will All Stand Before Him

Hebrews 9:27 (Cf. Matt. 16:27)

...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...

God's Glory/Goodness (John 1:1-5)

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

The Triune God is far more abundantly glorious & good than we could ever ask or think!



God is Eternal & Relational (Triune)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ *All things were made through him*, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ...

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is *at the Father's side* (Bosom), he has made him known.

God is Eternal

1. Everyone/thing else is not Eternal (Distinct, Holy)
2. Out of Nothing (*Ex Nihilo*)

God is Relational (Triune)

God is Life & Light (Creator/Sustainer)

"Both Wisdom and Torah are commonly associated with life and light in the Jewish sources; John ties them in with Christ, the Word."ⁱⁱ

Life & Light of Men

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 3:19

And this is the judgment: the **light** has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the **light** because their works were evil.

John 8:12 (Cf. John 12:46)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the **light** of the world. **Whoever follows me** will not walk in darkness, but will have the **light of life**."

1. There is no contest between light & darkness
2. The truth is the truth regardless at how you personally receive it.

The True Light (John 1:9)

...⁹ **The true light**, which gives light to **everyone**, was coming into the world.

“John’s point is that the Word who came into the world is *the* light, the *true* light, the genuine and ultimate self-disclosure of God to man.”ⁱⁱⁱ

God is Good (John 1:16-17; Cf. 14)

¹⁶ For from *his fullness*...

His Fulness

Colossians 1:19

For in [Jesus] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell...

...we have all received, *grace upon (instead of) grace*.¹⁷ For *the law* was given *through Moses*; *grace and truth* came *through Jesus Christ*.

Grace & Truth (Faithfulness)

Exodus 33:18–20, 34:6–7

¹⁸ **Moses** said, “*Please show me your glory*.”¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ... (Backside)

⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in **steadfast love** and **faithfulness**,⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

D.A. Carson: “The two crucial words in Hebrew are *hesed* (variously rendered ‘steadfast love’, ‘mercy’, ‘covenant love’—but it has recently been shown quite clearly that it is the *graciousness* of the love that is at stake) and *’emet* (‘truth’ or ‘faithfulness’). This pair of expressions recurs again and again in the Old Testament. The two words that John uses, ‘full of *grace* and *truth*’, are his ways of summing up the same ideas...”^{iv}

God is Faithful to His Gracious Promise to Rescue His People

Are We Prepared to Meet Our Maker?

...Fired at our Life & Heart

We need God to rescue us from God!



We are Broken Images (We Need Rescuing)
Jesus is the Perfect Image (For us & In us)



2 Corinthians 4:4 (Those who can't see)

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing **the light** of **the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is **the image of God**.

This is the most important thing to get right about God!

ⁱ Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 125). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.* (pp. 118–119).

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.* (p. 122).

^{iv} *Ibid.* (p. 129).