

## **Theology Proper**

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- I. How has God revealed Himself? Part 3: God's Names
- a. Review: We have seen that God has revealed Himself in the World and the Word.
  - b. Establish the need: **Have you ever met someone who says we cannot talk about God and that we can't give Him a Name? Is this how the Bible sees it?**
  - c. Purpose: In this lesson we will see that God has also revealed Himself by His Names. This is foundational for later in knowing more about God.
  - d. There is a sense in which the Name of God is a self-revelation of Himself in that His Name refers to Himself.
    - i. We should exalt God: *"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation," (Psalm 18:46)*
      1. Note the object of exaltation is *"the God"*
      2. Note also other description of God that are reasons to exalt Him:
        - a. *"LORD lives"*
        - b. *"my rock"*
        - c. *"God of my salvation,"*
    - ii. Our worship (including our exaltation) should be only of God: *"Jesus answered him, 'It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"* (Luke 4:8)
    - iii. Yet we also see should exalt His name: *"O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together."* (Psalm 34:3)
      1. Note the object of exaltation is *"His name"*
      2. **How can this be?** The only way we can do this without worshipping something that is not God is that His name is synonymous with Himself.
    - iv. Other passages that shows worship directed towards His Name
      1. Sing praise to the Name (Psalm 7:17, 9:2, 18:49)
      2. Glory is due to His Name (Psalm 29:2)
      3. Fear His Name (Psalm 61:5)
    - v. The Name of God is associated with the Glory of God
      1. Exodus 33:18 records Moses asking God to show him His glory.
      2. Exodus 33:19 records God's answer: *"And He said, 'I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.'"*  
 Note the answer that in showing His glory the Lord found it important to *"proclaim the name of the LORD before you;"*
  - e. The Name of God also tells us content about God.
    - i. The function of the Name of God tells us about God
      1. For example according to Psalm 111:9 His Name is Holy; thus we are not surprised elsewhere Scripture describe Him as Holy.
      2. For example according to Psalm 54:1 He saves us by His Name; thus we are not surprised elsewhere Scripture describe Him as Savior.
    - ii. God's various Names tells us about Him
      1. Note: We use the name Name and Title interchangeably.
      2. For example according to Genesis 17:1-2 God's Name is *"God Almighty"* showing He is one who strong and mighty.

- f. What does this mean for our lives?
  - i. Seeing how the Name of God is associated with God Himself we should greater appreciate the prohibition in **Exodus 20:7**: “*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not<sup>a</sup>leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*”
  - ii. Do not use His Name in Vain!
  - iii. **When you read the Scriptures, do you stop and note the significance of His Name? Do you pause to worship Him?**
  - iv. Do you meditate what we can learn about God’s attributes from His Name?
  - v. Do we understand Jesus and the Holy Spirit is God?
    - 1. Remember what God says about His name: “I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.” (**Isaiah 42:8**)
    - 2. Then we see **Matthew 28:19 and Acts 4:12** differently!