

Today's Sermon

The Name of the LORD

Romans 9:17

Pastor Phil Layton, GCBC, April 3, 2022

Let's turn to Rom 9. We've spent 3 weeks in Rom 8, this week in Rom 9 we come to what brings all the past messages on God's character together. This is mentioned thousands more times in the Bible than those other studies. It's arguably **the most mentioned reality about God**, the motivating reality of all He does, the message He has for the world till the end. We often overlook this about God but it's an overarching unifying defining phrase that **ties all His attributes together** and drives them: His name, or **'the name of the Lord'**

This is a massive subject in scripture with massive implications

We've studied God's characteristics in Romans, His name is His character. It's not a separate attribute, His name is the sum of His attributes. It's also the purpose behind what God does. Look at Rom 9:17: *the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that **my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.**"*

This is **God's purpose: His name proclaimed**, His fame, renown, reputation. In ch 1 God reveals His righteousness, wrath, power and divine nature, and other attributes in the book, but ch 9 tells us why ultimately: to proclaim His name in all the earth, to magnify or glorify His fame, renown, or reputation¹

Name=His glory, His identity, the reality of who He is

Mark Jones writes in *God Is: A Devotional Guide to the Attributes of God*, **'His name is identical with his attributes** in terms of how he manifests them to us in his Word ... as he reveals himself and relates to his creatures ... his character, the sum of his attributes...**to know his name is to know him.**'²

Outline:

1. What proclaiming the name of the Lord means
2. What this means for us (application, transformation)

1. What proclaiming the name of the Lord means

Spurgeon's 1st sermon ever printed starts saying the greatest subject 'which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature...of the great God... I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of grief and sorrow; so speak peace to the winds of trial... It is to this subject I invite you this morning... **blessed be his dear name**...'³

- Job said as the Lord gave and took away *blessed be the name of the Lord!*
- Solomon said *the name of the Lord is a strong tower we run to for safety.*

- Psalms: '*our **help** is in the name of the Lord...in your name I will **hope***'
- As everyone feared Goliath, this gave David courage: '*I come to you in the name of the Lord...whom you have defied...the Lord will deliver you into my hand...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel*⁴

God raised up Goliath and Pharaoh that the name of Israel's God would be proclaimed in all the earth. That's the end of Rom 9:17, but look at v. 15: *For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy..."* That's part of the context of v. 17, His power and name made known to Pharaoh in judgment and to Moses in mercy. Both of Paul's quotes from Exodus show us what it means to proclaim the Lord's name. So let's turn back to Exodus and we'll spend a lot of time in that context. Let's start in Ex 33 and this is Moses on the mountain asking the Lord if He can see more of who He is.

Look at Ex 33:19, this is God speaking to Moses: *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."* That's what Rom 9 quotes from. And notice it's the Lord Himself proclaiming His name. And notice LORD in all capital letters, in the Hebrew it's *Yahweh* (Jehovah in KJV, hymns).

This is His covenant name, some Jews call it The Name (*ha' shem*)

In English, 'the Lord' is a title, but *Yahweh* is His proper name proclaimed. The Hebrew title *Adonai* (Lord with just capital L) is used over 700x in OT, but the proper name *Yahweh* (**LORD** in all caps) is used almost 7000x in OT. And many more times the Bible speaks of His *name* (singular) not names in the plural. This is a big deal and big subject that should impact us big time. Isa 42:8 *I am **Yahweh**; that is my name; I do not give my glory to another.*

2 weeks ago Ha'aretz published YHW found on 3,000+ year old artifact⁵

Lord and God are not names, God is a generic word for a deity, but *Yahweh* is His name proclaimed by *Yahweh* Himself. It's His name and very nature as a gracious merciful Savior. **34:5** *'The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name of the LORD.*** ⁶ *The LORD passed before him and **proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD [Yahweh 2x], 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...'*

He's a just judge, that's part of His name along with love, faithfulness, and patience and the rest. But notice literally *Yahweh* proclaims His name 2x to make it emphatic: "*Yahweh, Yahweh, a God merciful and gracious ...*" In v. 8 Moses bows his head to the ground and worships at the name of the Lord.

Proclaim His name=declare His nature, His character, who He is

Moses in Dt 32: *I will **proclaim the name** of Yahweh; ascribe greatness to our God!...Call for songs of joy, O nations...*" (v. 3, 43 LEB). Proclaim the name=ascribe greatness, and the nations are called to worship His name, too

Go back to Exodus 3 where God first **proclaimed His name at the burning bush**:

- READ 3:13-15 – '*I Am*'=self-existent, unchanging, note v. 12 '*I will*
- READ 5:1-2 – note '*who is Yahweh? ... I do not know Yahweh ...*'
- READ 7:5, 15a, 17a, – note the Egyptians will know, so will Pharaoh
- READ 8:20, 9:13-16, 20, 27-28a – v. 16 is what's quoted in Rom 9:17
- Ch 12 is Passover, death, Pharaoh says '*go serve Yahweh...bless me*'

But as they go Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he goes after them, and God drowns the Egyptian army in the red sea. Why? Rom 9:17 says it's to show His power to Pharaoh and to proclaim His name in all the earth. Ex 15 says God's power over Egypt was made known to the nations, Philistia, Edom, Moab, and Canaan. Even a Canaanite prostitute heard the name proclaimed. Rahab says in Joshua 2: *we have heard how **Yahweh** dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt...our hearts melted...for **Yahweh your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth*** (v. 11-12 LSB)

Centuries later, Solomon prayed for foreigners coming '*from a far country **for your name's sake** (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm)... [phrases for power shown in the exodus] in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name.*'⁶

Ps 105: *call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.*

Ps 106 says Israel rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Yet he saved them **for his name's sake, that he might make known** his mighty power (Ps 106:7-8)

Just like Rom 9:17: to show my power and proclaim my name

Neh 9: '*bless Yahweh... You gave signs and wonders **against Pharaoh, all of his servants... You made a name for yourself**, as it is this day. And you divided the sea before them...*'⁷ He did it for His name. David: '*You made a **great name for yourself** when you redeemed your people from Egypt.*'⁸

And 'magnify the Lord with me...let us exalt his name together'⁹

Isa 63 says He '*led them by the right hand of Moses, With His glorious arm, Dividing the water before them **To make for Himself an everlasting name** ... So You lead Your people, **To make Yourself a glorious name**...*'¹⁰ Not for Israel's name, they were sinners deserving wrath. 48:9: ***For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And for My praise I restrain it for you, In order not to cut you off... For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.***'¹¹

That's the key issue for everything, God's name, praise, and glory

He says in Ezek 20: *'I acted **for the sake of My name**...in the sight of the **nations**...in whose sight I made Myself known to them by bringing them out of the land of Egypt...I said I would pour out My wrath on them in the wilderness...**But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations**... [again] **I turned back My hand and acted for the sake of My name**... you will know that I am Yahweh when I have dealt with you **for My name's sake, not according to your evil ways**'¹²*

Why will God restore and save Israel in the end times after centuries of sin? Eze 36: Thus says Lord Yahweh, *"It is **not for your sake**, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but **for My holy name**...I will prove the holiness of My great name...**the nations will know that I am Yahweh**...when I will take you **from the nations**, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land... you will inhabit the land that I gave to your fathers ...I will **save you** from all your uncleanness...**I am not doing this for your sake**... Israel...**the nations that remain all around you will know that I, Yahweh, have rebuilt** ...I, Yahweh, have spoken and will do it...**they will know that I am Yahweh**"¹³*

39:21 *"**all the nations will see**...Israel will know that I am Yahweh their God from that day onward...I will return...and have compassion on the whole house of Israel ...**for My holy name...in the sight of the many nations**. Then they will know that I am Yahweh their God because I made [Israel] go into exile among the nations, and then collected them again to their own land."¹⁴*

But it's not just future Israel, the prophets talk about God's future grace for other nations called by His name (Amos 9:12). Even Egypt, Isa 19 promises *'cities in the land of Egypt will be...swearing allegiance to Yahweh ...they will cry to Yahweh because of oppressors, and He will send them a **Savior** and a **Champion**, and He will deliver them. Thus Yahweh will make Himself known to Egypt, and **the Egyptians will know Yahweh in that day**...whom Yahweh of hosts has blessed, saying, "**Blessed is Egypt My people**..."¹⁵*

'Savior' there is Yeshua, Jesus will deliver Egypt as God's people

God also said through Isaiah *'Surely the **coastlands** will hope in Me...**For the name of Yahweh**' (60:9 LEB), and **'Greece, and...distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations'** (66:19 NIV). That's being fulfilled in our lifetimes in Greece and distant islands where Bob and Seth serve, and our coastlands!*

We're called to proclaim the fame of the name and His glory to all nations.

That takes us from what proclaim His name means to what it means for us

2. What this means for us (application, transformation)

1st application: Proclaim His name to all. Isaiah 12 commands ‘*call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, **proclaim that his name is exalted...let this be made known in all the earth***’ (v. 4-5). Proclaim with the heart of Isa 26 *your name and renown are the desire of our hearts*¹⁶

We’ve gone from Moses on proclaiming His name to all, to the prophets, listen to Ps 96: ‘*bless **His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.*** ³ *Declare His glory among **the nations...**Give to the LORD the **glory due His name...**Say among **the nations,** “The LORD reigns...”¹⁷*

This is **our day to day calling**: proclaim good news in His name that reigns. We’re to declare His salvation for His glory to the nations and neighbors.

1 Cor 6:11 says ‘you are...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus’

This takes us back to where we started. In Lk 24 Jesus brought it all together. ²⁷ *And beginning with **Moses** and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things **concerning himself...*** ⁴⁴ *Then he said to them, “...everything **written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms** must be fulfilled... ⁴⁷*and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be **proclaimed in his name to all nations...**’ (cf. Rom 9:17).**

His name=name of Jesus proclaimed to all the earth

We need to tell them like they did in Acts: ‘*all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved...repent and be baptized in his name...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which must be saved...everyone who believes in [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*’¹⁸

Jesus has that name above every name, bow and confess Jesus is LORD¹⁹

If He’s not yet your Lord, He’s not yet your Savior, but John’s gospel says ‘*by believing you may have life in his name...and become children of God... who believe in his name*’ (20:31, 1:12). If you believe in His name, proclaim it and support missionaries who proclaim it in all the earth. 3 John talks about those who ‘*have gone out for the sake of the name...we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth*’ (v. 7-8).

Cf. Doran, For the Sake of His Name; Piper, Supremacy of God in Missions

Go back to Rom 1 but that’s some biblical theology of the name of the Lord. We started in Rom 9, proclaim His name in all the earth. In Rom 1:5, it says why God gave Him grace in Christ: *through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith **for the sake of his name among all the nations...*** v. 14 gives examples of Greeks and nations outside and he says in v. 15 he’s eager to proclaim the gospel in the empire.

Are you eager to proclaim it? Will you be obedient for His namesake?

v. 16 says it's the power of God to save all who believe, Jews and Greeks. We saw in Rom 9 in the Exodus God showed His mercy and power so that His name would be proclaimed in all the earth. **The gospel is God's power now** and how His name is proclaimed among all nations for His namesake.

Ps 20:7 some trust in chariots...but we will trust in the name of the Lord

2nd application: Peace and hope in His name (look at Romans 15)

Rom 9:17 says God's name is to be proclaimed to all nations, Rom 15:9 is about us Gentile glorifying His name in worship (end of v. 9 *to your name*). So Paul comes back to the name of the Lord, and notice v. 12 ends with this phrase: *'in him will the Gentiles hope.'*¹³ **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.** All peace in believing, and abounding hope we need.

In Isaiah, part of what *'His name shall be called'* is **the 'Prince of Peace.'** It **gave David hope** under death threat, Ps 52:9: *in your name I will hope*²⁰ Whether walking through the valley of the shadow of death or lying down in green pastures, David had peace and hope in Him that led him to still waters and restored his soul. *He leads me in paths of righteousness* [not for my sake or because I deserve. It says what?] *leads me in paths of righteousness for...* Not our changing often failing state, His unchanging never-failing namesake.

His name gives peace and hope. 1 Sam 12:22 **'Yahweh will not abandon His people on account of His great name...'** Not on our account or because we're so great (we're not), but on account of His name, to make Him look great not us. That's good news for us that it's not based on us or how great we're doing

It's not about you! It's good God is driven by something higher than you!

That's not just OT, 1 John 2:12 *'your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.'* That's what motivates God and that should motivate us, in how we love and serve, like Heb 6:10 says *'love that you have shown for his name in serving.'* Jesus talked about welcoming a child in His name, gathering in His name.²¹ To the end, the Lord's name sustains us. Rev 2:3 *you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.* This should impact everything we do literally. Col 3:17 *whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God...*

3rd application: Prayer for His name (*'our Father who is in heaven _____'*)

'Let your kingdom come, let your will be done, so that everyone might know your name...we ask not for ourselves but for your renown.'

Psalm examples:

- 115:1 *Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory ...*
- 25:11 *For the honor of your name, O LORD, forgive my many sins*²²

- 79:9 *Help us, O God of our salvation, for the **glory of your name**; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!* PTL God helps us not based on our nature, but based on His name, its glory
- 143:11 *Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake!* (NKJV)
- 109:21 *'deal with me for your name's sake, because your loving-kindness is good, deliver me.'* That's good news that we can pray to God not based on our goodness, He answers based on His goodness. It's not because of our loveliness, it's because of His lovingkindness

As we come to a **time of communion and confession**, let's pray in this light.

Listen to how Jeremiah prays in Jer. 14: *Although our sins testify against us, O LORD, do something **for the sake of your name** ... For the sake of your name do not despise us; do not dishonor your glorious throne (v. 7, 21 NIV)*

Listen to Daniel 9: *O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who **made for yourself a name** that endures to this day, we have sinned...**For your sake**, O Lord, look with favor...**For your sake**, O my God, do not delay, because your...people **bear your Name**.²³*

Listen to Paul pray for the Thessalonians: *To this end we always pray for you ...that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him.*²⁴

Let's listen to Jesus pray as the last word before I pray in His name: *Father, glorify your name...[this is Jn 17] I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world...Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost...I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*
Let's pray in His name, meaning consistent with His character and will, for His sake, honor, glory.

Endnotes:

¹ Each of the past subjects are tied to His name:

- We've seen the grace of God in Romans, but notice the purpose of it earlier in the book: *'we have received grace ... to bring about the obedience of the faith for the sake of his name among all the nations'* (1:5)
- We've seen in Romans God's glory, God's love, God's faithfulness, those are all linked to God's name. Ps 115:1 *Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.* We've seen God is good, that also has to do with His name: *'I will give thanks to your name, for it is good'* (54:6).
- God is jealous and holy and righteous, God also ties that to His name in the prophets when He says *'I will be jealous for my holy name... this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness'* (Ezek 39:25, Jer 23:6). His name is essential to His attributes

² Page 91.

³ C. H. Spurgeon, "The Immutability of God," in *The New Park Street Pulpit Sermons*, vol. 1 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1855), 1.

⁴ Job 1:21, Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 124:8, 52:9 (NIV), 1 Samuel 17:45-46.

⁵ <https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/.premium-early-israelite-curse-inscription-found-on-mt-ebal-1.10696926>

⁶ 1 Kings 8:41-43, for "mighty hand and outstretched arm" referring to the exodus, see Deuteronomy 4:34, 5:15, 7:19, 26:8, etc.

⁷ v. 5-6, 11-12 Lexham English Bible.

⁸ 2 Samuel 7:23 NLT.

⁹ Psalm 34:3.

¹⁰ v. 12, 14 NKJV.

¹¹ NASB.

¹² v. 9-10, 13-14, 22, 42, 44 Legacy Standard Bible.

¹³ v. 22-38 LSB.

¹⁴ v. 22-28 LSB.

¹⁵ Isaiah 19:18-21, 25 LSB.

¹⁶ v. 8 NIV.

¹⁷ v. 2-3, 8, 10 NKJV.

¹⁸ Acts 2:21, 38, 4:12, 10:43.

¹⁹ Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 10:9.

²⁰ NIV.

²¹ Matthew 18:5, 20.

²² NLT.

²³ v. 15-19 NIV.

²⁴ 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.