

“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than that day of one’s birth”

A good name meaning the character or reputation of the person named, or the memory of them. A good name comes from an honorable and esteemed reputation; and we must know that there is none good but God; therefore, if you would have a good name in this world, you must first be a possessor of the Spirit of God!

There be GOOD and BAD names/people in the world. Those names that are good and/or bad ARE SO because of the honor/dishonor of those persons, because of their character and reputations.

Proverbs 10:7: “The memory of the just is blessed: (they had a good name); but the name (or names) of the wicked shall rot”.

Just hearing the names of certain persons, we deduce/discern them as good persons or bad or evil persons by what and who they were in their lives.

Cain, Esau, Jezebel, Judas Iscariot, Adolf Hitler, Sadam Hussein; these infamous men and women were cruel, wicked, and hateful. We know their names and we know the history of their sins.

Regrettably, although these infamous sinners have perished, their names relive themselves in the lives of sinners today who emulate them in their cruelty, hatred, and wicked ways!

But then there are many also whom we remember who had good names;

Do you remember the “woman” who took her precious/costly ointment and anointed Jesus with it; “TO THIS WOMAN”, His Good Name was BETTER and infinitely more valuable than her costly and precious ointment! To this day, we remember and are instructed by this woman’s deed. Jesus said:

Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her”

There was Cornelius, who was a devout and good man and one that feared God with his entire house. Barnabas, in the Acts is called “a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith”; and Demetrius, of whom the Apostle John wrote, he hath a good report of all men, and of the truth itself”. *Hebrews 11:4*

These persons had good names, and although they have long since passed into the presence of God in heaven, the memory of their lives (here on earth) continues to teach and instruct us in our lives toward that Good Name of Jesus Christ. For it was their faith in the Good Name of Christ that brought goodness to their names.

Does your influence, words, and reputation; does your name point sinners to that Good Name of Christ?

And so, a good name, (an honorable and highly esteemed name) is better (or more highly valued) than precious, (or the most costly of ointments) or the most valuable of anything earthly.

If any of us would have a good name in this life; it will only be because of that Good Name of Jesus Christ in whom we have come to trust. His Name is BETTER than every name, for His Name identifies Him as that Most Excellent Person of God who was manifest in the flesh, who left heaven, who laid aside His glory, and who took upon Him the form of a servant to suffer and die for a world of sinners.

It is through faith in His Most Excellent Name that we are saved and have forgiveness for our sins; it is through faith in His most excellent and worthy Name that we are changed from sinners to saints and from children of wrath to children of God.

Acts 3:13-16, 4:9-12, Philippians 2:8-11, Hebrews 1:1-4, James 2:7

Ecclesiastes 7:1b: “and the day of death (better) than the day of one’s birth”

We must first understand what Solomon is saying here; I believe he spoke of the day of death as being BETTER than birth for those that “die in the Lord”. Because the day of one’s death who is lost and at enmity against God is certainly NOT better than the day of their birth.

For to die in your sins is to perish and be eternally lost

However, for a saved man or woman; to die in the Lord is to enter into the state of eternal blessedness! *Revelation 14:13, Philippians 1:21-23*

When children are born into this world, they come into a world full of sin and trouble, beside the fact that they are sinners themselves. You do not have to teach them to sin; it is in them to sin.

Psalms 51:5, 58:3, Job 5:7, 14:1, 4

The day of one's death is only better when that one's soul has FIRST been regenerated; and born-again by the Spirit of God. Born again by believing in the most excellent Name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord and Saviour to all who put their trust in Him!

Let everyone of us EVERY DAY choose that Good Name of Jesus Christ above every precious but perishing earthly treasure.