

JESUS

Luke 2:21

Introduction

Sometimes, it seems we don't take our salvation very seriously. Through circumstances in life, we may get out of the habit of coming to church. At those times, we are usually struggling with our faith. The irony is that church is where we hear the Word and receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. We say the Bible is our sole authority for daily living, yet at times, we do what is expedient or easy. Instead of trying to live a righteous life, following the Word of God, we *go on sinning so that grace may abound* (**Romans 6:1**). But is that how God wants us to live?

Called to Be Righteous

Paul begins **Romans 6** by asking that question: Are we to *continue in sin that grace may abound*? His answer is emphatic: *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?* (**Romans 6:2**). In the rest of **chapter 6**, Paul explains how we are slaves to righteousness.

Two Laws at Work

But in **chapter 7**, he tells us that there are two laws at work in our lives and shows the seriousness of our situation (Read **Romans 7:21-24**).

The Answer Is Jesus

He answers his question in **verse 25** (Read **Romans 7:25**). Notice, we still have the war of the two Laws within us. But Jesus delivers us from the body of death. So, today, we take a closer look at the name JESUS.

The Name Is Holy—Luke 2:21

The name Jesus was given by the angel before He was conceived (**Luke 2:21b**). His birth is ordained by God. He was not born of the will of the flesh, but by the will and power of God. Mary was *overshadowed by the Holy Spirit*, making Jesus the *Son of God* and *Holy* (**Luke 1:35**). He is holy; His name is holy. It is revered by all people in their own way. In Hispanic cultures, it is revered by using it frequently. In Anglo cultures, it is revered by not using it. But each culture reveres it in their own way.

Blessed by the Name—Numbers 6:27

At the end of services, I, as pastor, pronounce the Aaronic blessing from **Numbers 6**.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

In **verse 27**, God says: *“So shall they [the priests] put my name on the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”* As believers, we have had the name of Jesus placed upon us. Since we bear the name of Jesus, we are blessed by Him.

Heirs through the Name—Galatians 3:29

Paul says in **Galatians 3:29** that *if we are Christ’s then we are Abraham’s offspring and heirs according to promise.* The promise to Abraham was three-fold. He was promised to become a great nation. The name Abraham means “father of many nations.” He was promised a land for his people to rest in. He was promised a Seed that would bless the world. Jesus is the Seed who blesses the world. We are the answer to the first promise, Abraham’s descendants by faith because of our belief in Jesus. The promised land of rest is our life with God at the end of the age throughout eternity. We are heirs of eternal salvation.

The Power of the Name

There is power in the name of Jesus. Origin said, *So great is the power of the name of Jesus that sometimes it is even effective when spoken by the wicked. The name of Jesus heals the afflicted in mind, puts to flight the spirits of darkness, and to the sick is an ever present remedy.* His name has the power to accomplish whatever He sets out to do.

Circumcision and Baptism

The other thing we remember and celebrate today is His circumcision. It shows that He lived under the Law to be our Sacrifice. Because He was able to keep the Law perfectly, He was a suitable Sacrifice and His death was the propitiation, or satisfaction, for our sins. But Paul and the church have always seen circumcision as a type of Baptism. That is, it was meant to point to Baptism (Read **Colossians 2:11-12**). Cyril of Alexandria said of this: *His [Christ’s] death, therefore, was for our sake, as were also His resurrection and circumcision. We are circumcised with Him at Holy Baptism. It is our seal and mark that we belong to Him. We died to sin so we can live for Christ. As we receive Holy Communion, we receive the strength that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever (Small Catechism: Baptism p.25).* In the name of Jesus, receive His body and blood today and be strengthened to live for Him daily. Trust in His forgiveness and the power of His name.

And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
