

Nothing In A Name?

Many in the religious world affirm that there is “nothing in a name.” They contend that it really doesn’t matter what you call yourself. In some cases, the name by which they are known is derived from their doctrine, organization, founder, or other identifying characteristics. It should be evident to all that it is extremely important that we know how the Bible regards the name by which we are called.

The Bible teaches that we have a name promised to us through prophecy and given to us from heaven through divine revelation. How can any man contend that there is nothing in such a wonderful name as this?

The Name Christian (Route 8)

Isaiah 56:5 God promised to give a name better than that of sons and daughters. It would be an everlasting name. It would be a name for not only Jews, but also the strangers from the nations that would come to the Holy Mountain, the house of God (see: **Isaiah 2:1-4**). This would be the name of God’s people in the days of the Messiah.

Isaiah 62:2-3 The prophet tells us God would give His people a new name. It would be given when the Gentiles saw the righteousness of Jehovah.

Isaiah 65:15 God would call his people by another name in the new Messianic kingdom (**Isaiah 65:9**) composed of a remnant of Israel and the Gentiles that seek the Lord (**Isaiah 65:1**).

Amos 9:11-12 After the destruction of the Jewish economy, God promised to re-establish the throne of David in the Messiah and give His name to the faithful remnant and the Gentiles that would believe.

Acts 11:26 These prophecies were fulfilled when the name “Christian” was given to the Disciples at Antioch. Observe that they “were called” by this name. The word “called” is used in these texts: **Matthew 2:12,22**; **Hebrews 11:7**; **Romans 7:3**. It does not indicate that their enemies gave it in derision, but, rather, it indicates that it was given by revelation from God. All the conditions of the above mentioned prophecies are satisfied in this text. The name Christian is the “new name” which God promised His people.

Acts 26:27-29 Paul recognized the name Christian as the divine name.

1Peter 4:14-16 Peter states the only name which it is possible to wear and glorify God. It is the name of Christ; it is Christian.

James 2:7 The Disciples were called by a “worthy name.” What was it? It was Christian (the name of Christ, **1Peter 4:14-16**).

Acts 4:10-12 Why is His name “worthy”? Jesus has been raised from the dead. He is the stone that was made the chief corner stone. There is salvation in no other name than His. The name is important.

2Corinthians 11:2 The bride wears the name of the bridegroom (cf. **Genesis 5:1-2**).

Ephesians 3:14-15 The family wears the name of the father (**Hebrews 2:12-13**; **1Peter 1:22-23**).

Acts 20:28 The name often denotes ownership (e.g., John’s car). The next few verses will have to do with the ownership thought. Here we learn that Christ purchased the church with His blood. He owns it.

Matthew 16:18 Christ promised to build His church. He did build that church. It should wear His name to denote His ownership (cf. **Acts 16:15,40**).

Romans 16:16 We ought to call the church by its owners name, “Church of Christ” (**1Timothy 3:15-16**).

2Timothy 2:19 Who are those that belong to the Lord? Only those that have named the name of Christ belong to Him. What is that name?

1Corinthians 1:12-16 Paul states the conditions upon which one may wear another’s name: (1) crucifixion for the one who wears the name, and (2) baptism into that name. What name would Paul wear?