

En. N. June 14, 1970 P.M. WKRJ.

THE ETERNAL NAME

Psalms 72:17

No one here requires to be told that the name of Jesus Christ shall endure forever.

If I understand the Christian Gospel, I need to know more about Jesus Christ. There is a whole lot about faith, God, Heaven, eternity. But Jesus lived in this world. It is true he was more than man, in what he did, in what he said, and in what happened to him. We need to know more of these things and to understand them. He came into the world to show us the way to die.

This prophesy of the prosperity and the continuing of the Kingdom of Christ was given under the shadow of the reign of Solomon.

In Verse 2 - there is a plea for prayer - that it shall be a righteous government. The great and precious promise.

Verse 3 - It shall be supported as a peaceful Kingdom.

Verse 4 - The poor and needy shall be cared for,

Verse 5 - Religion shall flourish under Christ's government.

Verse 6 - Christ's government shall be comfortable.

Verse 8 - Christ's Kingdom shall be extended very far - greatly enlarged.

Verse 9 - Even to the wilderness. Plus the enemy shall be brought down.

Verse 10 - They shall be made to bow.

Verse 11 - They shall fall down before him.

Verse 15 - He shall be honored by all of his subjects.

Verse 16 - There shall be a wonderful increase in his government.

Verse 17 - The government shall continue in happiness and His name shall endure forever.

But now have we ever been disappointed.

We have old Pharaoh in Egypt who built up his pyramids and said, they shall stand forever. Indeed, some of them, will stand. But the time is approaching when age shall devour even these.

The proudest works of man whether they be temples - and they may write everlasting on them, but what God has ordained - they will pass away.

The most stable nations pass away. Nineveh and Babylon - where are these great cities. Where are the temples of Greece. Where are the vast armies of the Roman empire.

Man calls his works eternal but God calls them fleeting. *Reminding those Americans* Man feels as though he has built upon a rock. God says these things are built upon sand. Man erects them for eternity. God sends a mighty wind and in a moment where are they. It is wonderful knowledge to know there is one thing which is to last.

First, the religion and name of Jesus is to endure forever. Imposters have tried to gather people around a certain standard, and delude people - saying my religion will out shine the stars and last through eternity. But they are mistaken.

False systems have started up and passed away. Some of us have seen in our short lifetime these groups that rise up like Jonah's gourd. In a single night and they pass away as swiftly.

But these false prophets are like - every dog has his day. They have gone - they have ceased.

Infidelity in the past couple hundred years boasted of power to change things by reason. Voltaire bragged about this. Thomas Paine said he would change the course of all religion.

There are others who have said they would change things by secularism and they keep things attached to the world.

Today, and probably in the next 20 years you will see some new infidelity. And they will say, we will alter the saints. We will alter their names and their ways. But their nature will still be the same as opposing Christ. And blaspheme his truth. There system of religion is no religion. For it is a system - it is like a fading flower and it is unreal.

But with Christ's religion - it shall be said that His Name shall endure forever. There are many things to prove it.

First, was there ever a time which it did not exist? Can you think of a time when Jesus was an unheard of thing. Somebody would say, yes, before the days of the Apostles. But we must answer that Bethlehem was really not the birthplace of the Gospel. Long before the birth of Jesus, there was a Gospel in the wilderness at Sinai. As far back as Eden, there was a Gospel. The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpents head.

As far back in eternity.

Where were false religions born. Perhaps, Mecca or maybe point your finger to Rome, or to Buddah or Confucious.

But we point you back to within the time when Adam was walking upon this earth. The first born.

But here is the name of one who existed before all time.

The Hebrew word for Christ was Messiah. And this word was in the Old Testament - used in the Hebrew language. And the word Christ is used in the Greek language, for Messiah. Just like the word Caesar is used in Latin, Kyzer in German and Czar in Russia. These titles are all closely related to each other. Some have been selected and installed in a certain office. The Old Testament pointed forward to the time of this special person to bring salvation to his people.

When Christ Jesus is spoken of as Son of God - reference is being made as to his origin. In a sense that he was not the son of Adam. The title - son of Man is given to Christ to show he had a human body. This does not imply that he was a sinner like all men. He was the God man. Because he was the son of God. He is God. To wherever the word son is used - we naturally have in mind, Father, Being together.

At his baptism in the river, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. In another place we read, this is my beloved son, hear him. The Father has loved him and given all things unto his hand. The son of God is God and was always with God. He is eternally the son of God. He was willing to come down in human form. And this is where we have the incarnation.

He took the human form, and thought it not robbery, to be equal with God. He did not think it was something to be grasped at - to remain equal with God, he did not try to maintain his position. But he became a servant in the likeness of men and became obedient until death.

The idea is that Jesus was the Son of God before he ever became Jesus of Nazareth. He existed from all eternity. We ask the question, was there ever a

time, that he did not exist.

Second, what religion is to surplant it? If we should ask a wise man - suppose Christianity is soon to die. What religion would you have instead. And we would have the heathen telling us to bow before their gods - images of wood and stone.

Or we would either go and follow orgies - worship the God of the flesh. But such things must not be tolerated by civilized men. What would we have. Would we have superstitions. Preach craft, fables of wickedness. We would have all sorts of things. What would we have in the place of Christianity.

Infidelity you say. And would you have that.

Then what would be the consequences. What do many of them promote?

These things that disrupt all society at the present. Would you desire a reign of terror here. Do you wish to see all society shattered, as the mighty sea dashing its waves. And destroying it.

The life of Christ - nothing much about it as a boy. At 12 years he is in the temple with the doctors. And then not until he is 30 years old - does the Bible mention anything about his youth. That does not seem important. He came into the world for the ransom and purpose.

I have often wondered what kinds of a record would have been given if they had told all the things about Jesus as a boy. What would have happened to him - for he was one who always told the truth. What would have happened to the one who would never do anything wrong. One who would not fight to defend himself. One who lived a lonely life. One who became a suffering servant. Isa. 53.

He came and had power and control over nature. For 30 years he lived like others. He helped the sick. He cared for them. But he did not stay with them.

He treated them and passed on. When he came to his care for the poor - he took the lunch of a little boy, to feed 5000. Now, no human being could do that.

He had control over demons. Men are skeptical today over such things. There is no question about this in the Bible. His death - he went straight to it. Most people today would put it off. And then we find in the resurrection - he came forth to live again after death.

What religion is subplanting.

By what means would you crush it. Suppose the name of Jesus - and you wanted to get rid of the religion of Jesus, how would you put it out?

You would think first of the old practice of execution. Would you try to put it out by burning his followers at the stake.

Would you become an instrument of torture. Would you treat it with indifference.

You may try a thousand ways - His Name shall endure forever. For how can you destroy our love for it.

Would you invent a better religion. We might encourage you to do it. Let us hear about it.

Now you may deceive the multitude, the curiosity seekers, but God's people shall not be led astray because they have been tried through the ages. And we have taken this, the Bible - the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible is still the religion of Christians. And these old doctrines of this great old Gospel is helping us to live and to die. How will you put it out? If you wish to do it, where can you find the means. Do you have the power to do it?

Now you may try to do it and you hope that you accomplish your purpose.

Our age testifies to the fact that no previous generation of preachers since the 1st century has been called upon to face an age which has more problems than ours.

Earl Baldwin, prime minister of Great Britain, years ago said, this is the most irreligious age since Christ was born.

Huxley said ~~that~~ in the annals of humanity we find no age in which religion is more slighted or ignored. Even the first century was saturated with false religions. And it is religion in which men reach out and try to touch God, and men today - seek to glorify man and ignore God altogether.

The modern man has sought to become his own Saviour because he has science. Even the people of Christ are caught up by these humanisms.

Billy Graham said, men no longer bow at the altar, of God - but at the altar of science. I think the fact that heart disease continues to be the greatest killer among Pastors demonstrates the stress and strain under which they are laden. Because people begin to equate religion by meetings and programs. And all of this will fail. Because the situation grows worse. The world today largely has past by the source of the solution of the world's problems.

If man relies upon himself, he can do only what man can do. But if he relies upon God, then he can do what God alone can do. God said that we were to bear fruit and he can do this through us. Now they have sought to crush it and get rid of the name of Jesus.

In the fourth place, suppose you did, what would become of the world?  
Suppose you could get rid of this name which is going to endure - what would  
happen in this world.

Robert Hall said, I might hang the world in mourning. I might make the  
<sup>sun</sup> ~~earth~~ the chief mourner. And the howling winds would tell of the death march  
and I would clothe all nature in blackness. And I would bid hurricanes to howl  
the death of the world.

What would become of us if we should lose the Gospel. If we should not have  
the Gospel - but it should be blotted out. What would become of civilization if  
we should take away Christianity and the name of Christ.

Where would be the hope of peace. Where would government, where would Sunday  
Schools, where would missionaries be - they would all be gone and not a scrap of  
them would be left.

Where would your hope of Heaven be. And where would your health to cross the  
river of death be. His Name shall endure forever.

II. As his religion - so His Name will last.

Voltaire said he lived in the twilight of Christianity. He did live in his  
twilight. And all the scorners have said that we should soon forget to honor  
Christ. That one day no man should acknowledge him.

But my text says, his name shall endure forever. As long as on this earth,  
there is a sinner who has been reclaimed by the grace, Christ's name shall endure.  
As long as there is a Mary ready to wash his feet with tears and wipe them with  
the hair of her head. As long as there is a sinner who will wash himself in the  
fountain of blood - there exists a Christian who has put his faith in Jesus.



We can never give up that name - we may let the unitarian take the Gospel without the God head in it--let him deny Jesus. But as long as true Christians live, there will be the manifestation of his love, in that face, and in that life. We cannot cease to honor His Name. But if all these were gone, if we were to cease to sing His Praise, would Jesus Christ's name be forgotten then. No, the stones would sing. The hills would be an orchestra. The mountains would skip about like lambs.

And if the lips of all mortals were dumb at once, then there would be the sun and the moon that would take up the chorus and the shout. Can Christ's name be forgotten.

No it is painted in the sky - written on the floods. The winds whisper it. The seas chant it. The stars shine it. The thunder proclaims it. The earth shouts it. Heaven echoes it.

But if that were gone, if this great universe should all subside in God, then would the name of Jesus be forgotten.

Turn your eyes to Heaven and who are these that are in white. And whence came them. These are they that came out of great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and praise him day and night in his temple.

If the last praise of the saints had ceased, if all the praises of Heaven deserted him, would his praise cease?

No for yonder stands the angels. They too sing his glory. The (cherubim) and (seraphim) do cry without ceasing, holy, holy, holy - Lord God of Glory.

When we think about this name that will endure, this name meant far more than perhaps what we ever dreamed of. In the Hebrew, in the Old Testament history, they often used names that had meaning.

The very first name Cain was a wrong name. Eve called her first born Cain - which means acquired. Now she was doom to disappointment.

She had hoped that the promised seed had already come. Her second mistake - she called the next boy Able - vanity.

Sometimes names were tragic names but the name Jesus is but the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, Deliverer or Saviour. This means Salvation. And His Name shall endure forever.

### III. The power of that name shall also last.

You see the thief hanging on a cross. And there is another thief that is also condemned. And sweat and death is taking hold. He is dying. It seems one foot in Hell and the other hanging onto life. Only kept by a nail. And there is a power in Jesus' eye. He looked - and whispered, Lord, (remember me). Turn your eye again and you see a smile coming upon his face as he is justified. And that power will endure forever. He who saved the thief can save the last man who shall ever live. For there is a fountain filled with blood - (drawn from Immanuel's veins). And sinners plunge beneath that flood - (lose all their guilty stains).

The dying thief rejoiced to see (the fountain in his day). Oh may I there, though vile is he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying lamb, that precious blood shall never lose its power. Till all the ransomed church of God (be saved to sin no more).

His powerful name shall endure forever. Sometimes our feelings may fail us. John, The Baptist, preacher of the wilderness became a bit uneasy about Jesus. But Jesus hadn't failed. Whatever else fails - he had not failed.

When loved ones are taken, Christ remains. After you are buried, you still have Jesus and that was the thing the Disciples - took up the body of John and buried it - they went and told Jesus.

You might ask someone near the end, where the joy is - and he will whisper the name of Jesus. Often times, people forget everything else in that moment, except Jesus Christ. Because he is inviting him.

May God send this name to your home and to your soul. Now I am <sup>NSP</sup> particularly anxious about my own name - whether that shall endure forever or not - provided it is in the record book of the Master.

Somebody asked George Whitfield whether he would organize a denomination. He said "no". Brother Wesley may do as he pleases but he said let my name perish. And Christ's name last forever. I think we would all say "Amen" to that. Let my name perish but let Christ's name last forever. I shall be content to go away and let you forget me. But as you go, I would like for you to remember the Bible preached that His Name shall endure forever. Let all other names perish. But let Christ's name last forever.

V. 18-19  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus - crown him Lord of all.