

**God Our Savior seen in The Face of Christ  
Sermon Prepared for WellSpring Church  
Dec. 4, 2011**

**Matthew 1:2; Isaiah 43:10, 11**

**1. Introduction**

**a. Engage:**

**i. How can we hallow the name of God? One way is to focus on the Names that the Father shares with the Son. For the Son has come to show us the Father-both in his life, death and all his works, but also through the names by which the Son is called.**

**1. John 1:18**

**2. II Cor. 4:4-6**

**ii. There are three things every religion has and needs. First a religion must have a God. There must be some source of life or power to call upon, that will answer or define questions of origins, morals, ethics, meaning and ending. Secondly there must be a solution to the alienation, trouble, angst, guilt, shame, meaningless and hopeless of life. In other words there has to be a way to establish a reorientation of life from the troubles we experience to a preferred present and future. This solution will always be in the form of a person. It will either be a deity that makes things better, or it will be the human self who achieves the solution. The solution comes from without or within those are the only two options. Thirdly there needs to be a revelation that tells us who to escape this words trouble and access the solution.**

**1. Origins**

**2. Solution**

**3. Revelation**

**4. In Christianity these three are embodied in a single person. For the next three weeks we are going use the names of the One we Call God, Heavenly Father, Lord, or the Almighty to help us more fully appreciate and understand what we are saying when we say "Father, Hallowed be**

**Your Name.” More specifically we are going to show how the names of Jesus are reflections of the Names of the Father as we move through this season leading to our celebration of Christ’s birth.**

- b. Review: Last week and the weeks before**
  - c. Preview: Today we are going to look at the Name of God that is repeated in one of the titles of Jesus that speaks to the solution to our problem. Later we will look more closely at how Jesus is the source of all that there is and the one who unveils Both God, our problem with God, and the solution. We will see that when we pray to God the creator we pray to Jesus, when we pray to God the one who discloses himself and his ways, we are praying the Jesus, we will see that when we pray to God who gives us the solution to our problem we are praying to Jesus. To properly pray the Lord’s prayer we pray to Jesus.**
  - d. Big Idea: Hallowing the Name of the Father comes when we know the Names of the Son**
  - e. Text Matthew 1:18-22**
- 2. The Angel’s Announcement to Joseph:**
- a. Context of course is Mary’s pregnancy**
  - b. You shall call His name Jesus**
    - i. The importance of Names in the Bible**
      - 1. not fads**
      - 2. whimsy**
      - 3. Even the honor of People, but**
      - 4. Character**
      - 5. and the person of God**
    - ii. God sometimes changed Names**
      - 1. Abram to Abraham**
      - 2. Sarai to Sarah**
      - 3. Jacob to Israel**
      - 4. Simon to Peter**
      - 5. Saul to Paul**
    - iii. He also gave names**
      - 1. Isaiah, Hosea**
      - 2. John the Baptist**
      - 3. Jesus**
  - c. Jesus is the same as Joshua in Hebrew and it means “God Saves” or “Savior”**

- d. **Two significant Joshuas in the OT**
  - i. **Joshua who led the people from the wilderness to Promised land**
  - ii. **Joshua who led the people back to the promised land following the Babylonian captivity**
- e. **Common name in the first Century (longing for a savior?)**

**3. There is a problem with this announcement that we do not immediately see since we are not first century Jews and because this story and the name Jesus for Mary's Son is familiar to us. We pass right over this without much thought. The problem is what God has said in Isaiah 43:11 According to the verse There is only One God and Savior. God speaking through Isaiah says, "I, I am the Lord, besides me there is no Savior." Joseph is presented with three shocking or surprising pieces of information here: (1) Mary's child is not by normal human means, (2) He is indentified as "Immanuel, God with Us" the fulfillment of Prophecy, and (3) He is given a title that belongs to God alone. Savior. When the Jews prayed to God, they prayed to the Savior, they called Him among other things,**

**a. The Rock of their salvation and Savior**

- i. **Deut. 32:15**
- ii. **Ps. 18:46**
- iii. **Ps. 24:5**
- iv. **Ps. 25:5**
- v. **Ps. 27:9**
- vi. **Ps. 42:5**
- vii. **Micah 7:7**
- viii. **Hab. 3:18**
- ix. **Zeph. 3:17**
- x. **Luke 1:47**

**b. When the Jews hallowed and honored the name of God, at least a part of their worship was to the God Who Saves.**

**c. It may Surprise you to learn the word Savior is applied to God in the Old Testament nearly twice as many times as it is applied specifically to Jesus in**

**the New Testament. (12 in the OT compared to 8x in the NT) In fact God is referred to as Savior in the New Testament nearly as often as Jesus is! (6x for God, 8x for Jesus, both together 2x. Look in Concordance)**

**4. How is God savior?**

- a. First of all because he is the God who saves. He is the source of rescue and deliverance.**
- b. From what does he save? Lets look at the eight references**
  - i. Violence II Sam. 22:3**
  - ii. Bondage and Slavery Psalm 106:21**
  - iii. Oppressors Isa. 19:20**
  - iv. "Waters, Rivers, Fire" Isa. 43:103**
  - v. From the Chastisement of the Lord Isa. 45:14-17, 21**
  - vi. Shame Isa. 49: 23, 26**
  - vii. Captivity and the consequences of rebellion and sin. Isa. 60:16,; 63: 7-9;**
- c. And now the eighth:**
  - i. Sin: Jer. 14:7-9 (Notice here "Name's sake " and "by your name")**
  - ii. It is this eighth reference that the angel spotlights and emphasizes. Jesus is the embodiment of the Father's Saving Activity in the realm of Sin.**
  - iii. When we think about deliverance and being saved and salvation we can think of many things from which we want to be and need to be saved. For example:**
    - 1. Habits and addictions**
    - 2. Sickness and physical impairments**
    - 3. Troubles in money, family, relationships, cars, houses, school.**
    - 4. Pain from the past.**
    - 5. Guilt and shame**
    - 6. I highly recommend Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave, Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel, by Edward T. Welch. P&R Publishing**

- d. This is not the accent that the angel gives to the saving work of God in Joseph and Mary's soon to be born son. "He shall save his people from their sins."
- e. We need to talk about sin and salvation right now at Christmas because if we go wrong here, if we ignore this, if we downplay this, if we forget the reality and necessity of the coming of Jesus as the one Who effects the salvation of God we will go completely wrong about Christmas. Let me say this another way, If we fail to understand and put the saving mission of God at the center of our Christmas celebration we will fail in our prayer to hallow the name of God who is our savior and has come as our savior.

**5. So What is this thing we call sin?**

- a. It is a transgression of the law of God. The law of God is God's design for the ultimate Good of the Creature. Archibald Alexander reminds us that the law of God is nothing less than what is best for us as human beings, for our safety, well-being and happiness. For God not to give us his law would have been hateful and evil. It would have been evil because he did not show us the way to Him as the highest good.
- b. Sin is any lack of conformity with the law. Here we all fail.
  - i. One way immediately is that we have not loved God with our whole hearts
  - ii. Another way is that we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
    - 1. Every Sin hurts another person. Think through the Ten Commandment (5-10) and every one of them is against another. There is no such thing as a private sin.
  - iii. Any lack of complete obedience: Let me give you an example. One of the easiest commands to understand is "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" or You shall not lie...
    - 1. Out and out lies
    - 2. Deceptions
    - 3. Protections.

- c. Sin is a serious matter. Our sin is very great. We need to be saved from our sin and our sin. Why is sin a serious and great matter?
- i. First every sin is against God himself. This is what David says in Psalm 51:4. We must see this
  - ii. Secondly it is an act against conscience
  - iii. Thirdly is serious because sin is against others, people made in the image of God
  - iv. Fourthly it is an act against ourselves.
  - v. Sin is serious because of the complete inability and weakness we have over it.
  - vi. The seriousness of sin is seen in the Punishment it brings: Death both physical and spiritual. The problem with spiritual death is that it continues in eternal consciousness.

**“The law is perfect; it could not be better and holier than it is. It requires man to love his creator with all his powers, but it requires no more than the right exercise of the faculties bestowed. The law being a just expression of the moral excellence of the Lawgiver, the transgression of it, or any disconformity to it, must be the opposite of this excellence. This is sin,—the vilest thing in existence.... Sin is the most unreasonable thing, for it opposes itself to all that is good. Sin is the height of fallow, for it turns away from the only true source of happiness. Sin is odious in its intrinsic nature. It deforms, defiles, and disorders the soul into which it enters. It is the essence of ingratitude, for it returns evil for good. It is rebellions against the most rightful authority. It is the proper cause of all misery, the prolific poisonous seed, which produces a harvest of woes. We can conceive of no evil, which is not included in sin. There is nothing else with which we can compare it, to show its evil.” (Archibald Alexander [1772-1851], Sermon: “The Name Jesus” in Evangelical Sermons, Practical Sermons for the Christian Home, Birmingham, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2004 [First Published, 1850, Presbyterian Board of Publications]68-75)**

- 6. But the Bible tells us that we have a Savior! God is our Savior! This is what Paul writes in I Tim. 1:1; 2:3, 4:10 and again in Titus 1:3; 2:10; and 3:4. Jude uses this title**

**in the great benediction of Verse 25. But why is it that Paul uses this term and not the name of Jesus in these places? When we are used to using the phrase and thinking almost exclusively about Jesus Christ as savior. What does this mean?**

- a. Most modern day commentators pass by the phrase and merely note that it is unusual and that Paul does use it in I Tim 1:1; 2:3; and 4:10—and that’s all.**
- b. Patrick Fairbairn says that this is a reminder of two things**
  - i. God himself is the source and provider of salvation and**
  - ii. That Jesus is not some new savior, nor a new way to God, he not teaching something new—It is God. Another way of saying this is to say that God has always been savior. It has never been anyone else other than God who is the savior of humanity.**
- c. John Calvin writes,**
  - i. “The Father is Savior because he has redeemed us by the Son’s death that He might make us heirs of eternal life; but the Son is Savior because He shed His blood as the pledge and price of our salvation. Thus the Son brought us salvation from the Father, and the Father bestowed it through the Son.**
  - ii. In another place: “...it is a title well befitting the Father to assign Himself for it was He who gave us the Son, so that it is right to assign the glory of our salvation to Him. For we are saved only because the Father so loved us that it was His will to redeem us and save us through the Son.**

**7. God our Savior means that it is God who is the source and fountain, the author and originator of our salvation.**

- a. It is not an idea that comes from mankind as an attempt to get what we need from God. Man could not have thought up the plan of salvation. We know this because every religious system in the world and in the history of the world is different from Biblical Christianity.**
- b. It is neither a second plan from God following the fall. There was no plan B**

- c. It is his plan according to his eternal purpose Eph. 1:4
- d. He has waited with great patience to give it Romans 2:4-5
- e. He provided it at just the right time Gal. 4
- 8. God our Savior means that God himself is the provider and grantor of salvation.
  - a. He promised the skull crusher
  - b. He gave Adam and Eve clothes at the expense of animal lives
  - c. He saved Noah
  - d. He came and saved Lot from the destruction of Sodom
  - e. He prefigured the lamb
    - i. Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:1-14
    - ii. Passover
    - iii. The whole of the sacrificial system
  - f. He not only is the giver, but he is the one that he gave in order to make salvation possible
    - i. Again Abraham
    - ii. John the Baptist—"Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."
    - iii. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. II Cor.

**John MacArthur Writes: "God is the deliverer from sin and its consequences; He is the source of salvation, and planned it from eternity. The...notion that the God of the Old Testament is a wrathful vengeful God while gentle loving Christ placated is both false and blasphemous.... No, indeed it is the joy of God to save sinners and the sorrow of God when they are lost."**

- 9. So who is your savior? And How do you have God as Savior?
  - a. Listen to what the apostles Peter (Acts 2:21) and Paul (Romans 10:31) say: "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." It is the same things that the prophet Joel said hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.
  - b. And what does it mean to call upon the name of the Lord? It is call out to him as savior, as Jesus, as the only name by which you can be saved. This is what the apostles preached "There is no other name

**under heaven whereby you may be saved.” (Acts 4:12)**

- c. Jesus the Savior, Jesus whose name means Savior, Jesus upon whom we call for our salvation. Jesus who has come that we might see the Father, Jesus who has come that the veil might be removed from the Father’s face, Jesus who has come that we might know that the Creator, Lawgiver, and Judge is also the Savior- The Name of God is the God who Saves!**
  - d. It is the angel connects The Name of the Saving God with the Son to be born to Mary and Joseph. When we pray hallowed be your name, we are praying to the Saving God, who has made himself known to us with the Active, powerful, meaningful name Jesus, Savior.**
- 10. Here is why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper—God has made himself know in the death of Christ for our salvation.**

**“Jesus, the Savior, leads all his chosen people from the bondage of Sin and captivity of Satan, into the liberty which God gives; and finally, he will conduct them to those mansions in his Father’s house, which he has gone to prepare for them.” (Archibald Alexander, Sermon: “The Name Jesus”)**