

P240

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

TITLE: How to enjoy life - part 3

SONGS: How Majestic is Your Name

Call on Jesus

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We're in the middle of a study on the subject 'How to enjoy life'. So far, we've learned that the key to finding lasting happiness is knowing our Creator, through His Son Jesus Christ. Accepting Christ's free gift of salvation enables us to experience the love of God and understand our reason for living. We also found that God desires to prosper us, but tells us to beware of making idols of our possessions. We're to put our hope and trust only in Him. Today, Barbara Sandbek will focus on another aspect of enjoying life that you may not have considered, so stayed tuned...

My name is Barbara Jean Sandbek. My maiden name is Barbara Jean Houck. I had no part in choosing either of these names. Obviously, I was too young to cast my vote when I was born, and I was too in love to criticize my husband's name when we married. (I like it, though)

What's important about a name anyway? Our name establishes our identity. The last name places us in a family and our first name makes us unique within that family. Names have meanings, too. My name 'Barbara' means 'Joy Bearer'. I don't know if my mom expected me to live up to that, but I think God had that in mind.

In Old Testament times, first names were often given to reflect the situation in which the child was born. As Rachel lay dying in child birth, she named her son 'Benoni', which means 'son of my sorrow'.

God also commanded that certain names be given, even before the birth, such was the case with John the Baptist, and Jesus.

God saw fit to change names, too, to reflect a changed character or purpose. Abram's name, which meant 'exalted father' was changed to Abraham, meaning 'father of many', when God established His covenant with him, promising that he'd have heirs as numerous as the stars.

'Jacob', whose name meant 'trickster', had his name changed (I bet he was glad) to 'Israel', which means 'he fights and persists with God', after he wrestled for a blessing and won.

Yes, our name is important, but God's Name is sacred. It's a representation of His character - His essential nature. In Old Testament times, the name Yahweh, or Jehovah, was so sacred, priests never spoke it and even washed their hands before writing it.

In the Lord's model prayer for us, recorded in Matthew 6, Jesus said we should revere the Name of the Lord by praying 'Hallowed be Thy Name'. That means we're to treat His Name as holy. The third commandment in Exodus 20:7, states...

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord, thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who has taken His Name in vain.

How do we take His name in vain? One way is by frivolous use of it. Leviticus 19:12 says that we should not swear by God's Name falsely, or profane His Name. To profane, means to use it with irreverence or with undue familiarity. That reminds me of a contemporary Christian song that uses initials to refer to Jesus - I cringe every time I hear it.

Do we misuse the Lord's Name? Are we even offended by the misuse of it? We'll hallow His name more if we take time to think of who He is and who we aren't. King David understood the sacredness of God's Name. Listen to excerpts from Psalm 8...

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth!
You have set Your Glory above the Heavens
When I consider Your Heavens - the work of Your fingers,
the moon and stars which You have set in place,
What is man that You are mindful of Him,
the son of man that You care for him?**

**** HOW MAJESTIC ****

In the New Testament era in which we live, the Name 'Jesus' should command the same respect as Jehovah. Jesus said...I and the Father are one. The apostle Paul wrote of Jesus in Philippians 2:9-11...

God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The name 'Jesus' means 'the Lord saves'. Peter, in speaking of Jesus in Acts 4:12 wrote...

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Romans 10:13 reinforces that verse...

Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.

The Apostle Peter, in speaking to unbelievers said in Acts 2:38...

Repent, and be baptized...in the Name of JESUS CHRIST for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

So, what does the Name of the Lord have to do with enjoying life more? A lot! The name 'Christ' means 'the Messiah - the Son of God'. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we take on the name 'Christian', or 'follower of Christ', because, according to John 1:12, we, too, become sons of God - we're identified as part of God's family.

We're not only a King's kid, with all the privileges that entails, we have authority to call on the Name of the Lord and receive the Holy Spirit's power, the same power that God used to raise Christ from the dead.

Here are some of the benefits we're given.

We're instructed.

In John 14:26 Jesus said...

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send IN MY NAME, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

We're protected.

In John 17 Jesus prayed...

Holy Father, protect them (his children) by the power of Your Name, the Name You gave ME.

We're never alone.

John 14:18 says the Holy Spirit lives with us and is in us.

We have a Counselor, free of charge, who will be with us forever according to John 14:16 and will guide us into all truth per John 16:13.

We have a life-assurance policy.

1 John 5:11-13 says that when we believe on the Name of the Son of God, we have eternal life through Him.

In John 14:13 Jesus says that we can ask for anything in His Name and He'll do it, to bring glory to the Father.

In Jeremiah 33:3 God says...

Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.

**What a Name. What a life! What more could you want?
But you know what? We misuse His Name by lack of use.**

The writer of his timeless hymn understood that. He wrote...

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear.

O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear.

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

We should never let adversity get us down, except on our knees.

***** CALL ON JESUS *****

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