



Jeff Sweeten

# Thus Saith the Lord **WHAT'S YOUR NAME?**

By Jeff Sweeten

Some claim that names are not important but I don't buy that. If names are not important, if a name doesn't matter, why are courts clogged with slander and libel lawsuits? Why do people get upset when they are called a "bad" name? Because, names are important!

It is a fact that names are important to God. He changed Abram's name to Abraham, Jacob's name to Israel and Simon's name to Cephas? Evidently, names are important to God; and in spiritual matters, it really matters to God!

One of the condemnations Jesus would heap upon the religious leaders of His day were against those who took on names to elevate themselves above their fellow humans.

"They love... to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ." Matthew 23:6-10

So, when someone asks you about your faith, whose name do you glorify? Years before "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26), God predicted that His followers would wear a new name (Isaiah 62:2). The only proper name mentioned in the New Testament that the disciples of Christ adopted was Christian. Agrippa figured that out (Acts 26:28) and it is the only name in which those who suffer for Christ's sake can glorify God (1 Peter 4:16). The name you wear religiously matters to God and it should matter to you, too.

I wonder, if a soon-to-be wife expressed her undying love for her soon-to-be husband, and made it clear that she wanted to spend the rest of her life with the man, but tells him that the name "Sweeten" sounds so... sweet. So, she says to him, "Yes, I'll marry you but don't want to wear your name; I want to wear the name "Sweeten" (instead of yours) because it sounds so... sweet."

I don't know many fellas that would be ok with that. No, I think a prospective husband might question her love.

Yet, so many sincerely religious people would assert that they belong to Christ but you could never prove it by the religious name they wear. Bible believers, they say, but their religious names can't be found anywhere in the Bible! You see, the church that Christ established belongs to Him and He calls her His bride (John 3:29; Revelation 21:2, 9). Consider how offensive it must be to the Father for religious people to claim to belong to His Son, asserting they are the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:2), yet choose to wear a human name! What amazing unity there would be among those who claim to believe in Christ if all the human names were abandoned and people just called themselves Christians, like they did in the New Testament. If only....

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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