

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Isaiah 62:1-2**.
- B. Shakespeare said: "What is in a name, a rose by any other would smell just as sweet." Names may not seem important, but they are.
- C. Remember the saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." It is fun to say, but isn't true! Words do hurt; good reputations are something to hold on to, and slander can ruin one's good name.
- D. Tonight's lesson deals with some of the Biblical names and titles found in Scripture. It does make a difference as to the names we wear, the titles we give in the Lord's church.

I. NAMES FOR THE CHURCH.

- A. The Lord's church is described in the NT. There is no one exclusive name for the church.
- B. Some of the descriptive phrases are:
 1. "My church" (Mt. 16:18).
"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."
 2. church of God (1Cor. 1:2).
to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:...
 3. churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16).
Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
 4. church of the Lord, as recorded in some ancient manuscripts (Ac. 20:28).
"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
 5. church of the first-born (Heb. 12:23).
to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,
 6. The kingdom (Heb. 12:28).
Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;
 7. The flock (1Pet. 5:3; see Ac. 20:29).
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
 8. The temple (Eph. 2:21; 1Cor. 3:16).
(**Eph 2:21**) in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; (**1Cor 3:16**) Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
 9. The body (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
(**Eph 1:22-23**) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.
(**Col 1:18**) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.
 10. The bride of X (Rev. 19:7-9; see Eph. 5:22-33).
"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." **8** And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **9** And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."
- C. The church is not a building of material things. It is not the synagogue, nor a denomination.

II. NAMES FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. God's covenant people in the OT were called Jews, Hebrews, or Israelites. There are several ways to refer to God's covenant people today.

B. Some descriptive names and titles are:

1. Christians (Isa. 62:1-2; Ac. 11:26; 1Pet. 4:16).
(Isa 62:1-2) For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. 2 And the nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.
(Ac 11:26) and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
(1Pet 4:16) but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.
2. Brethren or brotherhood (Gal. 1:2; see Jas. 1:2; 5:7; 1Pet. 2:17).
and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:
3. Saints (Rom. 1:7; see 1Cor. 16:1; 2Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:2).
to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Priests, a royal priesthood with JC being the high priest (1Pet. 2:5; Heb. 4:14).
(1Pet 2:5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
(Heb 4:14) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
5. The flock (Ac. 20:28).
"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
6. An elect race, a holy nation (1Pet. 2:9).
But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
7. Bond-servants or slaves (Phil. 1:1).
Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

C. Modern day denominational names are not found in the Scriptures. The Bible does not speak of Methodist Xians, Presbyterian Xians, or Catholic Christians. These names come from the creeds and dogmas of men and not from God.

III. NAMES FOR THOSE WHO HOLD OFFICE IN THE CHURCH.

- A. This area is the most misunderstood and most abused of all.
- B. Three Gk. words are used in the NT to describe the work of elders. Biblical names for those who serve in this way are:
 1. *Presbuteros* means is translated elder, or presbyter (Ac. 20:17; 1Pet. 5:1).
 2. *Episkopos* which means overseer or bishop (Ac. 20:28; 1Pet. 5:2).
 3. *Poimen* which is translated as shepherd or pastor (Ac. 20:28; 1Pet. 5:2).
(Ac 20:17, 28) And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
(1Pet 5:1-2) Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
- C. Preachers are not pastors! There are different words used for the work of preachers:
 1. *Kerux* which means a herald of the gospel, messenger (1Tim. 2:7).
And for this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
 2. *Kerusso* which means to proclaim openly after the manner of a herald (2Tim. 4:2).
...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and

- instruction.
3. *Euangelistes* which means one who brings good news (Eph. 4:11; see 2Tim. 4:5).
And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
 4. *Diakonos* which is translated servant or minister (Eph. 3:7).
of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.
- D. The terms clergy and laity are indirectly found in the NT but are not used as the denominational world uses them. There is no clergy/laity division in the NT:
1. Clergy comes from the Gk. word *kleroo* (Eph. 1:11).
also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
 2. Laity comes from the Gk. word *laos* (1Pet. 2:9).
But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- E. No apostle, elder, deacon, preacher, or other members ever wore the titles of:
1. Reverend.
 2. Cardinal or archbishop.
 3. Rector.
 4. Pope.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The terms and words we use to describe the church, Xians, and those who have special ministries in the church are very important.
- B. As we learn to change our lives from a sinful style to one that is more in keeping with X, may we also change the terms we use to come more in line with what the Bible teaches.
- C. May we also be patient with new Xian who may use the incorrect terms for a while until the are taught more perfectly the way of the Lord.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.