

The Saviour's Name

THE PROMINENCE AND IMPORTANCE OF A NAME

merit attention. Peter's hearers were to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. This name was to be employed as a means for the removal of sin, as afterward it was found potent in the removal of bodily infirmity (Acts iii. 6, 16). Matt. xxviii. 19 gives the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as that into which the taught ones were to be baptised.

The name of the Son is central there, between Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ may be said to be representative in Acts, representing the Godhead. Scripture proper names have a meaning. Jesus means Saviour.

He saves His people from their sins. Christ means anointed. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. The Saviour's names are comprehensive histories compressed into a few letters. His name is not so much that by which He is known as that which is known of Him.

There was knowledge conveyed by His name. To publish His name was to publish what was known of Him. His character was revealed in His name, as by the name Jehovah the promise-keeping character of God was made known to the Israelites (Ex. vi. 2-8).

To suffer for Christ's name is to suffer for Christ; His name represents His person. There is power as well as appropriateness, in the name employed in baptism. The name in which we are baptised is of incomparable importance. There is no other name in which there is salvation, and no other name through which we have access to the throne of the universe (Acts iv. 10-12, 29-30).

"Upon the name of Jesus Christ" is the translation of Acts ii. 38 in the American Bible Union Version. 'Upon' implies leaning, trusting to. Faith is not asserted of the converts on the day of Pentecost; but it is seen to be involved. While attending to the ordinance, they were not to place their faith in it, but in the person in whose name they were baptised. Be immersed, trusting to the almighty name of the anointed Saviour.

(Conversion to God as Exemplified in the Acts of Apostles... by Alexander Brown, Edinburgh: Printed by H. & J. Pillans & Wilson, 1887, 42, Paragraph Structure Modified)