

July 21, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

IS THERE NOTHING IN A NAME?

When discussing religious matters, it is often stated that “there is nothing in a name.” Usually this is said in response to the names by which the various denominations and other religious groups refer to themselves. Some “churches” call themselves by a name which designates a particular doctrine to which they hold (e.g. Baptist, Mormon, or 7th Day Adventist) or by their form of organization (e.g. Presbyterian or Episcopalian). Some religious groups have chosen names that reflect their religious goals such as “Jehovah’s Witness or” or “Community Church.” One writer suggested that in this “me generation” in which we live there should be a “church” with the name “The Church that’s All About You.” Is there nothing in a name?

Our names are important to us. If someone writes you a check you want your name to be on that check, not the name of another person. A couple having a baby spends a great deal of time deciding on what they will name that child. Most parents would never think of naming their baby boy Judas or their baby girl Jezebel. Names are important.

God has always placed a premium on the importance of names. He changed Abram’s name to Abraham. Why? Genesis 17:5 reads, “No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.” The name “Abraham” carried a very significant meaning in God’s plan for man’s salvation for the nation which came from Abraham’s seed was God’s chosen people Israel, through whom Jesus, the Savior, came into the world (Genesis 12:1-3; Luke 1:54-55; Galatians 3:16-29). The most significant name in human history is Jesus Christ. Joseph was told, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His **name Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins.” Later, the inspired apostle Peter declared, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Yes, friends, there is something in a name!

The church of the New Testament is not designated by any name originated by men. It is most often simply referred to as “the church” (Acts 2:47; 5:11; 8:1ff; 11:22, 26; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 6:4, etc.). Jesus called it “my church.” because He built it and He adds the saved to it (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:38-47). Surely, we should recognize that the church Jesus built should wear His name rather than those originated by men. “The churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16).

Join us on Saturday, August 18th for a special event: “*Golden Ways for Golden Days*” A Lectureship on Aging for All Ages beginning at 9:00 am.