

Today is Easter! I prefer the name “Resurrection Sunday”. Today I invite you to think about the risen and glorified Lord Jesus, whose **Name is above all names** – an expression we see in God’s Word. Today let’s consider how this situates Jesus as **Lord over all**. Now, what is the idea of someone’s name being above another name? What does this bring to your mind?

- Playground – think about choosing sides for soccer. Will your name be chosen before another?
- Awards – will your name be called? We even use the phrase, “he was named number one”.
- Google - you be thinking about might appear if you were to search your name!

Proposition

Easter emphasizes the great name of Jesus. The essence of Easter is not only what Jesus has accomplished for us. Of course, that is a key part of the story. But looking at the resurrection of Jesus from God’s perspective, we must acknowledge the victorious realization of God’s redemption plan. And this leads to the glorification and exaltation of the name of Jesus.

- In Philippians 2, Paul connects Jesus’ exalted name with His selfless sacrifice.
- In Ephesians 1, Paul connects Jesus’ exalted name with His resurrection power.

Let’s read Ephesians 1:15-21 (which is one sentence!). Paul was a caring pastor. He prayed for his friends in Ephesus. And he longed for them to fully grasp what became theirs because of the resurrection of Jesus. In Exodus 3:15 God used the burning bush to reveal Himself to Moses. He is the great “I Am”. And God emphasized that “this is my name forever”. As God Himself, Jesus is wonderfully understood by all the names of God. Check out [Praying God’s Names](#).

And Jesus’ great name comes wonderfully into focus when He accomplished salvation for humanity. Jesus is now glorified above all others. His name above every other name! Listen to [No Other Name](#). Let’s explore just two aspects of Jesus’ exalted name.

[A] The name of Jesus points to His power – v. 20

In verse 19 we find the phrase: “immeasurable greatness of His power”. These words are the source of English words: υπερβαλλον μεγεθος της δυναμεως. This of course, speaks of God’s power which, as we read in verse 20, He “exerted” or “operated” in Christ by the resurrection! Romans 1:4 tells that Jesus is “*declared the Son of God **with power** according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead*”. What amazing power is in the name of Jesus. His resurrection is the critical climax to God’s redemption story. His physical, bodily resurrection is the cornerstone to God’s Good News. “Seated at God’s right hand” indicates completion and approval of the work that Jesus did – His death, burial, and resurrection. It also reminds us that Jesus continues to be powerful today – as our Advocate in heaven.

Cherry blossoms are a familiar sign of spring. The most well know is the Sakura (Japanese Cherry Tree). In Japan festivals for cherry blossoms going back to the year 700. But when we speak of new life in a cherry tree, we refer to the awakening of the latent life of the plant. Jesus has demonstrated in His resurrection that He has the power to create life where there was death. That is why Paul shifts his thoughts in Ephesians 2 to the way Jesus solved being “dead in sin”...“made alive with Christ” (2:5).

[B] The name of Jesus points to His authority – v. 21

What we read next about the name of Jesus is that it eclipses all rulers (αρχης), authorities (εξουσιας), powers (δυναμεως), lordships (κυριοτητος), and title (ονοματος). Further, this extends throughout all of eternity present and future! In the words of Jesus himself in Matthew 28:18, “*all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*” We all have some sense of how a narcissistic, vicious dictator might function. They act according to their character and nature. In an infinite contrast, the authority of Jesus is conditioned by His holy character and divine nature. We need not fear, but bow our knee to Him!

The great Christian thinker and writer, C. S. Lewis, said, “*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*” (“Is Theology Poetry?” 1945) The authority of Jesus must be embraced or rejected. The certainty of the resurrection confirms this. [Check out Why Do We Believe the Resurrection](#) – Lee Strobel.

Conclusion

In Job 4:17, Eliphaz asked, “*Can mankind be righteous before God?*” In Psalm 16:11 David wrote, “*You will make known to me the way of life.*” The place where the exalted name of Jesus intersects with human brokenness, is where true hope is to be found.

Have you ever noticed how quietly the grace of Easter arrived? No angelic choirs heralded Jesus’ return from the grave. No foreign dignitaries arrived bearing gifts. No voice thundered from heaven. The sounds of the Resurrection are different...After all the public pronouncements at Jesus’ birth, the tumult of His life, and the public horror of His death, I must confess that I like the peace and quiet of Easter Morning. The Resurrection unfolds entirely in a series of intimate conversations between Jesus and His followers. It’s all family business. As He did with Mary, Jesus rises for each of us and calls us by name. The promise is for everyone, but the experience of Easter is only for those who believe and have longed for His appearing. (**A Violent Grace**, Michael Card, 2010, Chpt. 20)

At Cornerstone there is a booklet for you: **The Case For Easter**. Please watch the trailer for [“Hope Explored”](#)...tell us if interested!