

SLIDE What's In A Name?

Theme: There is salvation in the name of Jesus

Object: Book of Names

SLIDE Scripture: “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 NASB)

What's in a name? Has anyone ever asked you what your name means? Do you know what your name means? When your dad and mom found out they were going to have a baby, they spent a lot of time choosing a name. They may have looked through a book that gives the meanings of names. My name, William means – “Protector” and that is a good name because I protected Christians in foreign countries and now I protect the Word of God and teach it to our church.

I looked up a few names to see what they mean.

Benjamin is Hebrew meaning – Mighty in Spirit

Chloe is Greek and means – Filled with Life

Daniel is Hebrew meaning – God is my Judge

David is also Hebrew, meaning – Beloved

Draven finds its roots in Serbia and means - Precious

Gideon is Hebrew and means – Hearer – to be a spiritual witness by cutting through that which is not of God.

Hannah is Hebrew and means – Compassionate One

Isaac is Hebrew meaning - Child of Promise

Joanna is also Hebrew and means - God is gracious

Janelle's name finds its origin in Hebrew meaning - God is Gracious

Katelyn is English, meaning – Pure One – even though Katelyn is no longer I child

I had to look up the meaning of her name because it is her birthday - today.

Kiana is Hawaiian meaning - Devine One

Meredith is English and means - Guardian of the Sea or Faithful

Zack finds it origin in Hebrew and means – The Lord remembers

When Joseph and Mary found out that they were going to have a baby, they did not get a book of names and look for a name they liked. In fact they did not even choose their baby's name. God sent an angel to tell Joseph and Mary that they would name their son Jesus. Jesus means – "***the Lord saves.***" God loved you and me and really everyone who has ever lived so much that He sent His only Son to live, and die on the cross and to rise again, so that when we accept Jesus as our Savior; God forgives us our sins and we are to live in fellowship with God now and forever.

What's in a name? If the name is Jesus – then there is salvation for all who believe in Him as God.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for our salvation which comes through Jesus. His name means "***the Lord saves,***" please help us to remember that. The question is - Do each of us believe Jesus is the Christ or Savior? God our Father help us to believe. Amen

Baby Dedication – Jonathan Gresham

Children are a gift from God. God tells us in Psalm 127:3, *“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”* As believers we are called to recognize that children belong first and foremost to God. God in His goodness gives children as gifts to parents. Parents not only have the awesome responsibility of caring for God’s gift of children, but also the wonderful privilege of enjoying their children as God’s gift. Because children belong to God and are given by grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God.

We see examples of this in the scriptures; in 1 Samuel, Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord, in the Book of Luke Mary and Joseph brought their baby Jesus to the temple in order to present him before the Lord. In the same way, **Lester and Jennifer**, today bring their **son Jonathan Levi Gresham**, presenting first themselves and then their **son** before the Lord our God. The name **Jonathan** is from the Hebrew name **יְהוֹנָתָן** (*Yehonatan- yo·naw·thawn*) meaning **“YAHWEH has given”**. This is certainly true and is why we come today to recognize what God has given to **Lester and Jennifer** and to us as a community of Christ.

Supporting **Lester and Jennifer** are **Jonathan’s grandparents Bill and Joyce** who agree with this dedication and are committed to see **Jonathan** raised up to bring God honor and glory. In order that this might be accomplished, those standing here as family, are committed to teach **Jonathan** the Word of God that it might breathe life into **his** very soul. They are committed to pray for **Jonathan** that the Holy Spirit will breathe life into **him** so **he** may call upon Jesus Christ as **his** Lord and Savior. If you my brothers and sisters of Canyon Bible Church agree and are dedicated to support **Lester and Jennifer** in **Jonathan’s** Christian upbringing then I ask you to now stand, if you are able.

God commands those who are his children to follow what is written in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, “... *The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your sons (and daughters)** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*”

In Ephesians the Holy Spirit tells us through the Apostle Paul, “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*”

So we see that the Lord tells us as parents that we are to love Him with every ounce and fiber of our energy. **Lester and Jennifer** I know you deeply love the Lord and will strive to teach **Jonathan** to do the same. Brothers and sisters in Christ, even though **Lester and Jennifer** are committing to raise **Jonathan** to love the Lord, at times they may be sick or tired and we as their brothers and sisters are then entrusted to support them and help them for we love them. Do you commit to do this? (if so, please respond by saying “we do”). You may now be seated. **Lester and Jennifer** as you live your lives loving the Lord, lovely committed to each other, then you will model the Lord’s grace and love for the Lord to **Katelyn, Hannah, Chloe, Daniel, Benjamin and Jonathan** and any future children the Lord might bless you with. This will show your children the great love Christ gave to us by freely sacrificing Himself that we might be reconciled back to God.

Lester and Jennifer, by coming before God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, do you declare your desire to dedicate yourselves and your son **Jonathan** to the Lord? If so, please respond by saying “we do.”

Modeling this kind of love cannot be done alone. It requires the help of others. For this reason, **Lester and Jennifer** call upon the help of their parents who raised them and to this community of Christ. Will the Gresham children please come forward and will the Hammond family come forward. I now direct my question to you, the members of the **Gresham and Butler** families. Do you hereby declare your desire to help **Lester and Jennifer** fulfill the vow they have just made by becoming their helpers in raising not only their children, but all the children of this church in the ways of our Lord? If so, please respond “**we do.**” You may now return to your seats. I remind you, my brothers and sisters, this is a vow taken before God and you are charged to do everything within your power to fulfill this vow.

Then having come before God freely, I ask now that you enter into the following commitment in the presence of God and his people. **Jennifer** please present **Jonathan** to **Lester** as a sign of your willingness to submit to his headship and spiritual leadership of your family. So that **Jonathan** may walk in the abundant life that Christ and Christ only offers to all that come to Him, do you **Lester and Jennifer** make a solemn vow by God’s grace and help and in partnership with the church – your brothers and sisters in Christ, to provide **Jonathan** a Christian home of love and peace, to raise **him** in the truth of our Lord’s instruction and discipline, and to encourage **him** to one day trust Jesus Christ as **his** Lord and Savior? If so, please respond “**we do.**”

Lester as the father of **Jonathan** and the spiritual leader of your family I ask now that you present **Jonathan** to me as a sign of your willingness to submit to the authority of the church and our Lord Jesus who is the Head of His church and God our Father in your own life and your willingness to give **Jonathan** back to God who blessed you with **him**.

Please bow your heads in prayer before our holy God.

God our Father I present to you **Jonathan**. **He** is Your gift to **Lester and Jennifer** and to all of us present here. May we value **him** as Your special gift and be dedicated to raising **him** for Your honor and glory. May we teach **him** Your word, Your love, Your truth, Your mercy, Your righteousness. **He** is Your child and the child of **Lester and Jennifer** his parents and guardians. Please, Lord, give them the strength to raise **him** well. Help them, Father, to be good models of your love by the way they love you, live for you, share the gospel of our Lord Jesus with those who do not yet know You. Help us as the brothers and sisters of **Lester and Jennifer** to support them with our love and our very lives to see **Jonathan** and all the children of this body of believers come to know You and believe in You, Jesus. We ask Your blessing upon **Jonathan** that **he** will grow into a **man** of Christ living **his** life in service to others with Your love, oh, Lord. Praise the name of the Lord – Jesus Christ! Amen.

July 21, 2013

Reading – Matthew 1:18-25

SLIDE Why Celebrate the Lord's Supper

The Bible has only 2 ordinances in the New Testament that Christians and the Church are called to continually practice. They are baptism and communion. There are different names for "Communion" depending on your religious affiliation. Some of these are the "Eucharist," "Lord's Supper," "Lord's Table," or sometimes the "Last Supper." But, what is communion, where did it originate and what is its purpose? I will attempt to address these questions this morning.

Jesus gave His followers instructions that they should take or practice "communion" until He returns again. This practice or taking of "communion" is still followed by most evangelical churches today. One thing that Jesus did **not** prescribe is how often to partake communion. Some churches do communion every week and others do it anywhere from monthly, to quarterly, to yearly, to just special events. This is debated over, discussed and prayed about as church leaders seek to officiate the ordinance of communion regularly but do want to have it so often that it loses the special place that it deserves during the worship service. Here at Canyon Bible we do not want Communion or the Lord's Supper to become just another "thing" we do.

SLIDE Covenant of Communion

Being in fellowship with God and sharing meals with God has its roots in the Old Testament. As humans who God created for His pleasure and to worship Him – God made us a people where food and fellowship often go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately

the first sin involved food. On the positive, often it is around food that people come together and fellowship. Luke speaks to this, what the New Testament church is about in the Book of Acts, “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42 NASB) The covenant of communion is built upon the Old Testament, as we see in Exodus chapter 24 where God tells Moses to climb Mount Sinai for a special time of fellowship and communion. Let me read to you from Exodus, **SLIDE**⁹ “Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab **נָדָב** (*naw·dawb*) and Abihu **אַבִּיהוּא** (*ab·ee·hoo*), and seventy of the elders of Israel,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. **SLIDE**¹¹ Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and **they saw God, and they ate and drank.**” **Blank** (Exodus 24:9-11 NASB). Seventy-four men ascended Mount Sinai to represent all Israel in the covenant meal, a special eating ceremony between God the maker of the covenant and His chosen people without which the covenant would not have been understood to make them in relationship or fellowship. God initiated this covenant with Moses and Moses could accept it or reject it. Man does not place conditions upon God his Creator. God showed Himself in some manner – God chose not to strike against the 74 men. The Old Testament teaches that for one to look upon God – one will die. Back, to communion with God and sharing a meal with God. In the ancient world and many places in the modern world people eating together was and is understood to convey acceptance, to declare approval of those with whom one dined. By Moses and the other men sitting with God and eating before God they showed their acceptance of God’s covenant and that they were in fellowship with God. Just as Jesus’ dining with tax collectors, non-practicing Jews or “sinners”, and other such persons was regarded by many in Jesus’ day as an act of approving of their behavior. As the Apostle Matthew

records, **SLIDE**¹⁰“Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, ‘Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?’ ¹²But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, ‘*It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.*’ ¹³But go and learn what this means: ‘*I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,*’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’ ” **Blank** (Matthew 9:10-13 NASB) In this passage and a number of others we observe that eating a meal with others was understood to demonstrate mutual agreement, cooperation, acceptance, and respect. Joyce and I use to visit a village in Pakistan, when we entered the house of a friend the women immediately separated and went into another room with Joyce. Young girls served refreshments to the men, but not women. This demonstrated the protection of the women from those outside the family. On one visit we entered the house and the women did not get up and leave. This made me nervous and the father observed the concern on my face. He then informed me that they now considered us family and the women would stay. Eating together communicated and demonstrated that we were family. So it is with our taking communion or the Lord’s Supper. We are demonstrating our agreement that Jesus is the risen Lord, He is the Christ and it is through His sacrifice that we are reconciled back to God the Father. – it is Jesus and only Jesus who has brought us back into the family of God. Communion is then a meal of fellowship and acceptance of God’s covenant with those He has saved.

SLIDE Acceptance or Acknowledgement

Again, Moses tells us in another of the books of scripture God inspired him to write that, **SLIDE** “**You shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where**

He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so **that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.**" (Deuteronomy 14:23 NASB) Here it says we are to **eat in the presence of the LORD.** Even though this verse is dealing with tithes and sacrifices brought to the temple and is considered symbolic by many theologians – Moses says, **SLIDE** "You shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God" and I take Moses at his word for we indeed live **in the presence of the Lord.** Moses continues by saying we are to give a tithe and a sacrifice of the **firstborn of your herd and your flock.** These acts of obedience were instituted to teach awe, respect and fear of the Lord your God and to teach our need for a Savior. The Savior of mankind came as the permanent and final sacrifice in Jesus Christ. We celebrate communion or the Lord's Supper **SLIDE** **at the place where He chooses to establish His name.** By partaking of communion we are eating **in the presence of the LORD our God** and we are **establishing His name** above all names both as individuals who have repented of our sins and as a community of Christ that places His name above all else in our lives.

SLIDE Fellowship of Communion

Living in community, the community of church is the place Jesus has chosen **to establish His name.** We read in Psalm 8 that, **SLIDE**¹"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth ...² ... You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease." (Psalm 8:1-2 NASB) The psalmist is saying **not** all consider the majesty of God and the Savior Jesus – only those who God calls - for the rest of the world are His adversaries and He makes their opposition to Him cease. It is God the Son who has called for us to live in community of His church. This is why a person cannot be a Christian as God teaches in the scriptures without being in a community of Christ or Christ's church. We read

in Deuteronomy 14:23 that God desires we **SLIDE** eat in the presence of the LORD your God. Then three verses later, verse 26, Moses writes that when we fear God and honor Him above all else. When we honor God we then will be able to **SLIDE** “... spend the money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.” When we give our first fruits or tithe to God in recognition of His sovereignty in our lives, when we worship God above all else then we shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household. By giving freely of our resources back to God’s ministry does not only fund ministry, but more importantly it reveals the condition of our hearts. **Blank** When we have things in the right order then all we do will be pleasing to God and we can then fellowship with Him and rejoice. We then are able to come before God with the right attitude to eat the meal He has invited us to eat – Holy Communion. As fathers, God calls us to lead our households by placing God first above all else. When we do this, our houses will be homes of rejoicing. Wives you are to place the needs of your husband before your own, before your children and this attitude will help the household to be in union with God. But before your husband you are to place your love of Jesus – Jesus is to be first. Husbands you are to love your wife as your flesh. However, God calls us to love Him even more. This kind of love builds a house of rejoicing, a home that is living in communion with one another. This is a home that eats in the presence of the LORD your God. This is a household that is acknowledging the sovereignty of God in their lives. A church made up of such families is a church that eats and lives in the presence of the LORD your God. This is the purpose of partaking in the Lord’s Supper. Remembering what God the Father has done through Jesus, God the Son, for our salvation – that we might be in fellowship with God and that He is to be the

purpose of our living.

SLIDE Demonstration of Communion

The account of the Lord's Last Supper is found in all gospels, but it is also found outside of the gospels. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11 correcting the church saying,

SLIDE ¹⁷"I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you..." (1 Corinthians 11:17-18 NASB) The purpose of church is

to live in fellowship community and strengthen each other to be holy and set apart from our society as the chosen of God. **Blank** Christians are called to a life of service, service of others. When the husband puts his wife before himself and the wife places the husband before herself and both have their focus and desire upon Jesus then God blesses them and there is a great marriage, a respected household both in and outside the church and children are being raised in the truth of the scriptures.

When a church is built upon Jesus above all and the truth of the scriptures they will naturally be a community that thinks more highly of others than themselves. This then is a church that is in communion with God everyday even if we do not celebrate ordinance of "communion" everyday. To be in communion with God and have the right heart for celebrating the ordinance of communion Jesus says, **SLIDE**

³⁰" YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' ³¹The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

(Mark 12:30-31 NASB). It is with this understanding that we live in the presence of God daily and are to dine with Him and enjoy Him and rejoice in Him that we can now look at the meaning of eating in the presence of God in the ordinance of communion or the Lord's Supper.

SLIDE Reverence of Communion

Let me take you back to Apostle Paul's writing to the church in Corinth to correct their attitude so that they might come before God as individuals and a church with a mind set that of God is holy, therefore, His church is to be holy. Please turn in your bibles to 1 Corinthians chapter 11 and I will begin reading in verse 17, **SLIDE** "But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. ¹⁹For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you." This church does not have its focus on Christ, but themselves and each person on themselves first. Paul continues and corrects them about their attitude toward the Lord's Supper, **SLIDE** ²⁰"Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ²¹for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you." (1 Corinthians 11:17-22 NASB) The church is not about us – it is about Christ first and foremost and about believers living and fellowshiping and eating *in the presence of the LORD your God*. Paul is shocked by the behavior of the Corinthian church. We are to come before the Lord with repentant hearts. The Prophet Isaiah made this clear, **SLIDE** ¹⁴"And it will be said (Listen to the very words of God), 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstacle out of the way of My people.' ¹⁵For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" We cannot come before God with proud hearts, for we have nothing to be proud of or to offer

Him. We are to be always grateful with **SLIDE** the heart of the contrite. Contrite means we recognize our sin and shortcomings and have reverence for God who called us and saved us despite of these. Paul is telling the Corinthian church they need to change and have an attitude of contrite hearts towards God as a way of live both as individuals and as a church.

Let us now take time to confess our sins and repent of our selfness and come before God with hearts that are contrite. Paul the Beloved tells us beginning in verse 27,

SLIDE “Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-29 NASB) **Blank** Please, each of us, seek God and His forgiveness – pray to Him who waits to hear you. We will have a time of reflection. (Pause for reflection and prayer)

Brothers please come forward and help with the Lord’s Supper. We will now partake in God’s holy communion or the Lord’s Supper. I believe we can now come before the Lord with contrite hearts and in reverence. Taking up in verse 23 of 1

Corinthians chapter 11, I agree with the words of Paul, **SLIDE** ²³ “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; (hold up bread) ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’

(Pass out the bread) Let me now give thanks to our Holy God. God, how can we hope to express our thanks for You calling us and giving Jesus that we might come before You as Moses and eat in your presence and receive Your blessings. This is a gift beyond all gifts. Help us forever keep our focus and purpose for living - Jesus –

our Lord and Savior Jesus. **SLIDE**²⁵ In the same way *He* (Jesus) *took* the cup also after supper, (hold up cup) saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.’ (Distribute the cup). My brothers and sisters, my beloved, as Paul reminds us,²⁶ “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” Please let us now take in the life given by Christ, eat His body. (Pause) The scriptures tell us throughout that blood is the very life source and therefore is not to be spilt. Jesus gave His blood that we might live. Please drink the source of eternal life, the symbolic blood of Christ. (Pause) Finally, I ask that all of us remember – remember communion everyday, remember our awe and reverence toward God in our daily living. Remember what Christ has done for you!

Let me close with the short prayer of Paul found in 1 Timothy chapter 1 beginning in verse 15, **SLIDE**¹⁵ “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”