

April, 2017

FROM PASTOR CHAMBERS: April is upon us, and I wanted to take a chance to thank everyone who helped with our Good News Club dinner a couple of weeks ago. We had a lot of families participate that we ministered to and the gospel was given and an invitation to our church was also given. Pray for these families that we minister to over at Bridgeview Elementary that they will be impacted for the gospel. April is going to be an incredible month! We have several to baptize on Palm Sunday, April 9. If you have been saved but never been baptized let me know so you can participate in this special day! We also have Easter Sunday coming up on April 16. In preparation for this Sunday we are going to canvass the neighborhood inviting people to church on Saturday, April 8 from 9-11 am. If you can please join us, for the more that comes out the quicker and more efficient we can be inviting people to church! On Easter Sunday night, the choir will be doing a cantata that they are currently working hard on. Looking forward to a great month! Don't forget to invite people to church, tell someone about the Lord, and be faithful. Thank you all once again for all you do to make Spring Hill Baptist move forward.

THE NAME ON THE CROSS: Last year on Good Friday, I went to a seminar in Ohio called "the Road to the Cross," with the events surrounding Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection in a Jewish cultural context. One particular lesson that interested me was entitled "The Name on the Cross." I wish to briefly share with you what I learned from John 19:19-22...

*"And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, **JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.** This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in **Hebrew**, and **Greek**, and **Latin**. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."*

According to the Gospel accounts, above Jesus' head they put the inscription "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews" in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. In those times and in that culture, inscriptions were carved on wood and on stone, and were abbreviated. For example, if you go throughout the ruins of the Roman Empire, you will see "SPQR" inscribed on many of the buildings. This abbreviation means - "Senatus Populusque Romanus" or "The Senate and People of Rome." So the Romans worked with abbreviations when inscribing things. With this cultural example in mind, adding it to the account of the sign above the cross, we can see how it might have been communicated. Two questions remain: **Why did the chief priests want it changed?**; and **Why did Pilate say no?** According to Matthew 1:21, His name would be called "JESUS" - "Yeshua" - "Yahweh is Salvation." In the Bible, your name is your character or reputation, and you would live your life living up to that name. God told Moses that his name was "Yahweh" or in Hebrew YHWH - eternally self caused. In Exodus 20:7, the Bible commands us not to take His name in vain. In other words, I am not to empty God's name of His meaning, significance, or value. It means I am not to 1) defame or dishonor God's name, 2) conceal His identity, or 3) don't accept His reign in my life (not doing His will). In Exodus 19:6 and in 1 Chronicles 16:8, God had raised up His people, Israel, that ultimately **His name would be proclaimed**, through Jesus Christ. In John 17:6, 26, Jesus said, "I have made your name known to them and will make it known." In Matthew 6:9-10, the first line in the Lord's prayer is "Hallowed be thy name," meaning "to add honor" or 1) literally make His name holy, 2) increase God's reputation, and 3) provoke others to honor and love His name. With this context in mind, let us go back to the name on the cross - "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Thinking about it practically this message would have been too long to inscribe on a board and put it above the head of Jesus on the cross.

This is how it would have looked not abbreviated...

Hebrew - Yeshua HaNotzri v Melek H'HaYudoam
Greek - Iesous o Nazaraios o Basileus ton loudaion
Latin - Iesus Nazarerus Rex Iudearum

This is how it would have looked abbreviated...

Hebrew - YHWH
Greek - INBI
Latin - INRI

So note the Hebrew abbreviation - The abbreviation is the very name of God - YHWH (JHWH) - Yahweh. Simply by bearing that name on the sign was a declaration showing the world THIS IS HOW JESUS SAVES! The sign in Latin and in Greek didn't bother anyone, but the sign in Hebrew bothered the chief priests, but Pilate didn't know Hebrew so he didn't care and left it there, not knowing it was a declaration that Jesus really was King, that He really was the Son of God! There is a Jewish cultural idea present here. For the Jews, hallowing God's name was the last thing you did before you died. According to Daniel 3:28-29, they would have rather burned than dishonored the very name of God. Thus when Jesus died upon the cross that day, not only did He die for our sins, but he died Hallowing the very name of God. God's name was honored in Jesus' death and resurrection. In my life and in yours, we should want to die hallowing His name, not because we want to get to heaven, the cross already accomplished that, but because we want our family and our kids to hear us hallowing the very name of God!

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE:

- "Prayer is like breathing. Stop breathing and you will die. Stop praying and your Christian experience will soon fade away." - Eric Liddell
 - "The prayer life doesn't consist of the perpetual repetition of petitions. The prayer life consists of a life that is always upward and onward and Godward." - George Campbell Morgan
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CHURCH EVENTS FOR APRIL: Remember the official "church calendar" is located in the church office. Every announcement in the bulletin for Sunday comes from the calendar. If you lead a ministry and desire to plan an activity not yet on the calendar and need it announced for Sunday, please let us know by Friday morning so that it can be announced in the bulletin each week. Announcements given to me on Sunday mornings WILL NOT be announced until the following week.

Saturday, April 1 - "Spring Cleaning" at the church in preparation for Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 2 - Lord's Supper - pm service

Thursday, April 6 - Sunshine Seniors going to Cross Lanes Christian School for Jolly Seniors - program and lunch - 10 am

Thursday, April 6 - Ladies Bible Study at the home of Sarah Frazer - 7:00-8:30 pm

Saturday, April 8 - CURE Youth Group going to Carowinds

Saturday, April 8 - Community Canvassing for Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9 - Baptism Service - am service; C.E.F. Presentation pm service

Monday, April 10 - Advisory Council Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, April 10 - Ladies Bible Study at the Church - 7:00-8:30 pm

Tuesday, April 11 - Mom's Group, 6:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday, April 12 - No AWANA/Youth Group

Sunday, April 16 - Sunrise Service at Sunset Memorial Park

Sunday, April 16 - Easter Sunday Service - (No Sunday School)

Sunday, April 16 - Easter Cantata - evening service

Thursday, April 20 - Sunshine Seniors - The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, Lunch at Jefferson Grille

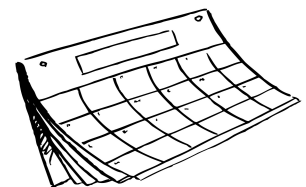
Sunday, April 23 - Quarterly Business Meeting - pm service

Sunday, April 23 - CURE Youth Group - Snack n Yak

Monday, April 24 - Deacon's Meeting - 7 pm

Tuesday, April 25 - Mom's Night Out - 6:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday, April 26 - CURE Youth Group - Sing at Hubbard House; AWANA Baseball Cap Night



LAUGHABLE: A young engineer was leaving the office at 5:45 p.m. when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. "Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary is not here. Can you make this thing work?" "Certainly," said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button. "Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, "I just need one copy." Lesson: Never, Never, ever assume that your boss knows what he's doing.