

Philippians: Gospel Partnership

The Name Above All Names Two

Intro

CS Lewis

- beloved and popular authors of the 20th century
- great obstacles in coming to believe in the God of the Bible
- read the Psalms, the constant demand from God to praise him seemed (to him) to picture God as craving "for our worship like a vain woman who wants compliments."

Erik Reece

- Mr. Reece, an American writer-in-residence at the University of Kentucky
- interviewed and in that interview he quotes Jesus in Matthew 10:37–39: Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- Reece says, "Who is the egomaniac speaking these words? Who is this person speaking 2000 years ago, a complete historical stranger, saying that we should love him, more so than we should love our own fathers and sons?' It just seemed like an incredibly egomaniacal kind of claim to make."
- It does seem like Jesus thinks that he is a pretty big deal.

God wants, demands, praise. Jesus demands our ultimate devotion. What is going on here?

Our Vision:

- Making Known the greatness of God - This is God's purpose too.
- God actually is very concerned about the fame of his name and the praise and worship and devotion that humans give to it

^{see} We God's concern for his great name in Phil 2:9-11 as God highly exalts God—the Father exalting the Son is God exalting God—and God the Father gives God the Son the name that is above every name. *IMPORTANCE → misunderstand God*

We will look at what it means for God to bestow on Jesus the name above all names. We will consider God's great concern for the fame of his name. And we will consider how we can respond to what we learn from Philippians 2:9-11

Philippians 2:9-11 ESV Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:20-25 ESV

SUBTITLE → The Lord, The Only Savior

[20] "Assemble yourselves and come;
draw near together,
you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge
who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

[21] Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?
And there is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none besides me.

[22] "Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.

[23] By myself I have sworn;
from my mouth has gone out in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

[24] "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
to him shall come and be ashamed
all who were incensed against him.
[25] In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
shall be justified and shall glory."

PRAYER

Paul's Allusion to Isaiah 45

Similarities:

1. [10] **every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 2. [11] and **every tongue confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 3. [11] to the **glory of God the Father**.
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1. [23] **'To me every knee shall bow**,
 2. **every tongue shall swear** allegiance.'
 3. [24] "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. [25] **In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.**"

This wasn't a mistake: Paul was a Pharisee

Josephus, an ancient historian, notes that Pharisees in the time of Paul were known for their strict accuracy in interpreting the law.

Paul was a Pharisee of Pharisees (we learn later in Philippians)...the cream of the crop. He would not have made this connection accidentally or ignorantly; it was intentional ⇒ Paul wanted us to make

Why did Paul connect the passage in Isaiah to Christ?

the connection
between this
passage and Is 45

Jesus is Yahweh

What does this OT allusion tell us about Christ?

What name did he receive?

Jesus is YAHWEH

Jesus means Yahweh saves, but Paul is indicating Jesus is Yahweh

What does Yahweh mean?

↳ I save

Piper: The Hebrew name Yahweh is connected to the Hebrew verb "I am." So Yahweh is most fundamentally the One-Who-Is. "I am who I am" is the most foundational meaning of Yahweh. ... this is foundational. No beginning. No ending. No dependence. He simply is, always was, and always will be.

Frame: I am what I am. I am who I am. I will be what I will be. I am because I am. I will be because I will be. I cause to be what I cause to be. I am present is what I am. I am the one who is.

What is the significance of God being "I AM?" What is the significance of Jesus being "I AM?"

Piper:

Speaking about JESUS!

1. That God is means he never had a beginning. This staggers the mind. Every child asks, "Who made God?" And every wise parent says, "Nobody made God. God simply is. And always was. No beginning."
2. That God is means God will never end. If he did not come into being; he cannot go out of being, because he is being. He is what is. There is no place to go outside of being. There is only he. Before he creates, that's all that is: God.

3. That God is means God is absolute reality. There is no reality before him. There is no reality outside of him unless he wills it and makes it. He is not one of many realities before he creates.
4. That God is means that God is utterly independent. He depends on nothing to bring him into being or support him or counsel him or make him what he is.
5. That God is means rather that everything that is not God depends totally on God. All that is not God is secondary, and dependent. The entire universe is utterly secondary. Not primary. It came into being by God and stays in being moment by moment on God's decision to keep it in being.
6. That God is means all the universe is by comparison to God as nothing. Contingent, dependent reality is to absolute, independent reality as a shadow to substance.
7. That God is means that God is constant. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He cannot be improved. He is not becoming anything. He is who he is. Absolute perfection cannot be improved.
8. That God is means that he is the absolute standard of truth and goodness and beauty. There is no law-book to which he looks to know what is right. No almanac to establish facts. No guild to determine what is excellent or beautiful. He himself is the standard of what is right, what is true, what is beautiful.
9. That God is means God does whatever he pleases and it is always right and always beautiful and always in accord with truth. There are no constraints on him from outside him that could hinder him in doing anything he pleases. So he is utterly free from any constraints that don't originate from the counsel of his own will.

10. That God is means that he is the most important and most valuable reality and the most important and most valuable person in the universe. He is more worthy of interest and attention and admiration and enjoyment than all other realities, including the entire universe.

Matthew Harmon: Whereas in Isaiah 45:23 Yahweh says that every knee will bow to Him, here in Philippians 2:10 Paul asserts that every knee will bow before the exalted Jesus Christ. The theological point is as profound as it is simple-Jesus Christ is Yahweh!

Do we stand in awe of Jesus? Do we pronounce praises in recognition of our Saviour who is YAHWEH? Do we fear in respectful reverence the one who has the name above all names? Let us consider that Jesus is YAHWEH as we relate to him in our prayers, our praise, our worship, and our meditation.

→ Paul communicates this point

Only Jesus saves

[21] Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? **And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.** [22] **"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.**

Acts 4:12 ESV [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **GOSPEL**

In the OT we learn that Yahweh alone saves. In the NT we learn that Yahweh alone saves. As it turns out YAHWEH saves through the life, death, and resurrection of YAHWEH! Jesus alone saves.

ONLY JESUS SAVES... ONLY IN HIS NAME IS THEIR SALVATION

When was the last time you said the name "Jesus" to a non-Christian friend, family member, or co-worker?

The name of Jesus, the name above all names, Jesus Christ the Lord, is the only name by which men can be saved from their sin...are you telling other about the highly exalted One?

Name droppers. In the case of Jesus, we all ought to be name-droppers

→ Celebrate "Easter" - celebrating the death + resurrection of Jesus Christ

God's concern for His Own Name

God is concerned for the fame of his great name

- God's name = his glorious, excellent character
- God's name also = his reputation, fame, and renown
- Nike is a great name in footwear = Nike has a great reputation
- God is devoted and committed to his name, to seeing himself recognized and valued as supreme in the universe
- We may not like this, but Scripture is clear

God makes his own great name a big deal in Scripture

- God creates us for his glory: **Isaiah 43:6-7 ESV**
- God saves us for his glory: **Ephesians 1:3-6 ESV**
- See insert

Why does God do this? It seems wrong.

- We generally don't like people who think highly of themselves – Donald Trump
- Seeking one's own fame is not loving – **1 Corinthians 13:5 NASB** [Love] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own
- This is true for us, but not for God

God treasuring himself above all things leads to him loving us supremely.

- God is unique: he is the most glorious being, total self-sufficient, entirely holy
- It is because of his infinite perfection that he must be for himself – **Isaiah 48:11 NASB** "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.
- For God to love us, to give us what is best, to give us that which is most satisfying, to give us that which causes us the most joy, HE MUST GIVE US HIMSELF
- Thus, for the sake of truth ^{+ accuracy} and for our sake, GOD MUST VALUE HIMSELF ABOVE ALL THINGS
- If he didn't value himself above all things, he would be in error because he truly is most valuable
- If he didn't see himself as most value he couldn't love us ultimately because he wouldn't give us himself
- But, he is most valuable, and in seeing himself this way he confirms the truth of his own worth and loves us by giving us that which is most worthy; himself. How did God conclusively and preeminently give himself to us? In the person and work of Jesus!

① Recognize Jesus is Yahweh and is the only salvation → REVERANCE + SHARE THE NAME

②
 ↳ RECOGNIZE that God is very concerned about his own name and that is a very good thing for us.

REALIZE that God's concern for the greatness of his own name could also be a good thing for all of our friends and family and colleagues who don't know him...but we need to speak to them about Jesus!