

WHAT KIND OF NAME ARE YOU MAKING WITH GOD?

Note to the speaker:

Instill appreciation for the value of a good name. Point out that acquiring and retaining such a name takes diligent effort and involves the entire way of life. Emphasize that only names that God approves will be in his book of life

ARE YOU CONCERNED WITH MAKING A NAME FOR YOURSELF? (6 min.)

There may only be a few things you give more attention to than your name and reputation

To maintain self-respect, most people want to be thought well of

Maybe you became indignant when someone reproached your name (Compare Ge 34:25-30)

Bible acknowledges value of good name (Pr 22:1)

How far will you go to make a name?

Some devote whole life to making a name for themselves in politics, business, theater, sports, science

Some will do almost anything to make name for themselves

Those at Babel were willing to disobey God (Ge 11:3, 4)

Have not most of their names long since been forgotten?

This will soon happen to those today who are trying to make a name for themselves

Consider: What kind of name are you making for yourself? How does your name reflect on your family and on the Christian congregation? Will it affect your ability to have privileges in the congregation? Most important, what kind of name are you making with Jehovah? He has a book of life with names in it. Is yours there?

WHAT KIND OF NAME ARE YOU MAKING? (5 min.)

As a baby, you were given a name

Naturally this was of interest to your parents and relatives but of little importance to most others

Was basically a label, for no one knew much about you, whether you would have a fine personality and special talents or would serve God

While someone else gave you a personal name, you give it meaning

Your personal name grows in meaning throughout your life, identifying what kind of person you are (*w81 2/15 20-30*)

Some make a bad name

Judas—traitorous

Nimrod—rebellious

Cain—wrathful and jealous

Are any of us making a name like that?

Others make a good name

The righteous one has a good name with God (Ec 7:1)

God came to know Moses favorably (Ex 33:12, 17)

Could that be said of you now?

YOUR GOOD NAME REFLECTS ON OTHERS (16 min.)

By making a good name, you will also reflect well on your family, on God and his Word, and on the congregation (*w87 2/15 20*)

Christian youths can contribute to good name of entire family by showing principled conduct

Such conduct reflects on reputation of your father, whose name you bear (1Sa 17:55; *it-2 855*)

Good name you have at school may open ways for witnessing to others (Mt 5:16)

Can be a recommendation of you for privileges such as auxiliary or regular pioneer, ministerial servant

Timothy may have been in late teens or early 20's when chosen by Paul (Ac 16:1-3; *it-2 1105*)

Christian women can also reflect well on the Bible (Pr 31:10-31; Tit 2:3-5)

When tempted to gossip about others, consider what name, or reputation, you may be establishing

Having full share in field service while maintaining clean home and caring for children is noticed and appreciated by others (May relate experience of someone taking an interest in the truth for this reason; *w90 2/15 27; yb93 62*)

Good name, or reputation, is necessary for brothers who are to be recommended as elders or ministerial servants (1Ti 3:2, 7, 10; *w90 9/1 24; om 33*)

When your name is mentioned, do others think of you as being lazy, associated with questionable business practices or vile speech, or given to violent temper?

Or, do they think of you as one who lives by Christian standards in morals, in business dealings, in family matters, in neighborliness?

Men, women, and children with this type of reputation are also making a good name with God

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A GOOD NAME WITH GOD (10 min.)

Far more important to make a good name with God than with schoolmates, fellow workers, in community, or in world in general

Jesus' life demonstrates the importance and benefit of having a good name with God

He concentrated on glorifying and proving faithful to his Father, not putting his own name, personal pleasures, or a secular career first (Lu 22:42; Joh 17:4)

Though God allowed Jesus to be tested to the point of death, He remembered and rewarded him

Resurrected him and gave him a name above all other human names, even above angels (Php 2:9-11; Heb 1:3, 4)

To gain a good name with God, we must recognize what Jesus' name stands for (*it-2* 467; *w83* 1/15 31)

Are we doing this? It is necessary if we are to make a good name with God

When in presence of those who seem to be godless and critical, do we hide the fact that we are witnesses of Jehovah and of Jesus? (Mr 8:38)

Despite vile speech and loose conduct around us, do we conduct ourselves in a way that shows loyalty to Jesus?

By holding fast to his name, we are making a good name with God, as did Christians in ancient Pergamum and Philadelphia (Re 2:13; 3:8; *re* 42, 60)

IS YOUR NAME IN "THE SCROLL OF LIFE"? (8 min.)

Eternal life is fine reward God bestows on one who makes a good name with him

Means more than temporary glory of a good name with men

From time of Abel, founding of world of mankind, Jehovah has been writing names in "the scroll of life" (Re 17:8; *it-2* 468)

Worthy ones have names written because during lifetime they exercise faith, pursue righteousness, do God's will—making a good name with God

By putting God's will foremost, we can get our names inscribed in that book even now. Are we working at that?

But, remember, one could have name removed from scroll of life

Names are not indelibly inscribed (Ex 32:32, 33; *re* 58)

Having made good name with God, we should continue faithful so that good name is retained

Finally, individuals so written down will be able to keep their names there permanently (*w87* 9/1 29)

All of us can make advancement in having and keeping a good name with God

Involves whole way of life, personal traits and habits as well as our direct service to God

Whether young or old, strive to have your name inscribed in and retained in God's "scroll of life"

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)