

A Good Name
Proverbs 22:1

1348A

Topic: reputation, name

Aim: To show that a good name (reputation) is a precious, valuable thing.

1. Yesterday, I was asking one of the little ones about her full name. I asked her "What does Momma call you when she is mad at you?" The little one replied by giving me her full name. Middle name and all.

2. Proverbs 22:1.

I. What is in a name?

A. Some say nothing, but you and I know better.

1. A newspaper ad read: Lost--one dog. Brown hair with several bald spots. Right leg broken due to auto accident. Left hip hurt. Right eye missing. Left ear bitten off in a dog fight. Answers to the name "Lucky."

2. If there is not great power in a name, at least there can be great meaning.

a. Who wants a name that brings laughter or scorn? Like the name Doris or Beverly for a boy?

b. Who wants a name like Judas, or Benedict Arnold? ..

c. Yet how many name their children after noble men and women of the past? David, Mary, Abigail, Ruth, Joseph.

3. There is power in a good name.

a. What does the mention of your name conjure up in the minds of people who know you?

b. At the end of World War I, Herbert Hoover, later to become President of the United States, led the allied relief efforts in Europe. He kept hundreds of thousands from starving, and a new word entered the Finnish language. In Finland, to hoover means to be kind, to help.

B. People attach your reputation to your name.

1. Look at Proverbs 22:1 again.

2. One writer observed that: A good name: adds value to a man, supposes a man to be wise and honest, redounds to the glory of God, gives opportunity to do good, and opens the door to recommend his religion to others.

II. Let us look at the Word of God, again Proverbs 22: 1.

A. Remember the nature and purpose of the book of Proverbs.

1. It was written to give the Israelites the advantage of the wisdom of Solomon, and of the ages.

2. Remember also the nature of that wisdom. It was practical and useful. That by which one could live a good, blessed, successful life.

3. If one has to choose between a good name and wealth, choose the good name.

4. And we know that such cannot be gained by deception.

B. Compare The following verses:

1. Proverbs 10:7.

2. Ecclesiastes 7:1.

3. Psalms 112, the Psalmist's description of the good man

III. Let us bring the lesson to a close by making the following four observations.

A. Again the value of a good name, Proverbs 22: 1, Ecclesiastes 7: 1.

B. The need to guard our good name.

1. "A good name, like good will, is got by many actions and lost by one." Lord Francis Jeffrey (1773-1850)

2. "A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was." Joseph Hall (1574-1656)

3. Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked and never well mended

C. The need to guard the name reputation of others.

1. How easily and quickly one can damage or destroy the good name of another.

2. In working with young people I have warned for years that we need to be above reproach and guard our actions, for all it would take to destroy our efforts for good is one false accusation.

D. The need to guard the name and reputation of the Lord's church.

1. Is my spiritual family perfect? Do they have their frustrating idiosyncrasies?

2. There are many parallels to our physical families.

3. But the words of David come to mind: Psalms 39:1.

1. What does your name. reputation say about you?

Several centuries before Christ, Alexander the Great came out of Macedonia and Greece to conquer the Mediterranean world. He didn't know it, but God was using him to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah--for it was as a result of Alexander's conquests that Greek was established as the common language of the Grecian and later even Roman Empire. On one of his campaigns, Alexander received a message that one of his soldiers had been continually, and seriously, misbehaving and thereby shedding a bad light on the character of all the Greek troops. And what made it even worse was that this soldier's name was also Alexander. When the commander learned this, he sent word that he wanted to talk to the errant soldier in person. When the young man arrived at the tent of Alexander the Great, the commander asked him, "What is your name?" The reply came back, "Alexander, sir." The commander looked him straight in the eye and said forcefully, "Soldier, either change your behavior or change your name."

2. The greatest name you can wear is that of Christ.