"Hallowed Be Thy Name" By Tom Hanson Sunday, June 16th, 2013

We're so blessed. It just amazes me how blessed we are, just as a people, just as a congregation. It amazes me. It really does. We get this praise and we get this worship. The musicians come up and they share this music, this exultation. It's a gift. I'm so grateful for what we've received. It's such a great attitude. We could just go home, now, already. Sometimes you just get the dessert first. God is just so good to us.

The theme of the month is, "The Word of God." This is Father's Day and I would just like to mention, just something from my own life, my father passed away in 2004, and you don't know when this will be your last Father's day with your father, so take time out and do something maybe just a little out of your way, something that you don't ordinarily do. Don't forget to remember—they're getting older, weaker—sometimes they feel neglected, they feel unappreciated, and unloved. As tough as they might be, or you think they are, loneliness and depression can set in. It wouldn't hurt to throw a little "Hello" out there and give them some encouragement. Some of them are in good health, and some of them are struggling with their health; we can always remember them in prayer, certainly.

The Bible tells us that:

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...

The Word of God is our source. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God..." (Romans 1:16). Think about that: The Gospel of Christ is the power of God, unto salvation—unto salvation. Something as important as eternal salvation—the Gospel of Christ is that power of God that will give unto us salvation, if we apply our lives to it. When I heard that the Word of God was the theme of the month, I thought, "How tremendous is that?" Let's just talk about the Word of God, how great it is. The Bible says that it is a lamp unto our feet (Psalms 119:105). Even when, sometimes we see things darkly, the Word of God shines a bright light on it and we can see. "Blessed are the pure in heart..." (Matthew 5:8), "Blessed are the meek..." (Matthew 5:5), "Blessed are the peacemakers..." (Matthew 5:9), "Blessed are the merciful..." (Matthew 5:7). All those things are written in the Word of God; it was written down and God anointed it. The Bible says that it is quick and powerful (Hebrews 4:12); quick meaning to be alive. If we put the Spirit of God in our lives, then those words come to life, and they work in us-not just to know God so much more, but to know ourselves so much more. And what we are really to do with our lives, and how to live our lives. To comfort us; to give us self-esteem, to give us confidence, to give us peace, to give us security—the Word of God.

This is Father's Day and I was asked to give the message on Father's Day, and I thought immediately of honoring Him. So I thought, okay, we'll do this. I'm not going to argue; I didn't want to argue; I thought, this is the most appropriate thing to do. There's a commercial where there's some little kids sitting in a circle with a man who's got a suit on. He says, "Okay, what's better, faster or slower?" The kids are like, "Faster, faster!" "Why?" Faster's better!" There's always one that will jump in there and say, "Faster's better! You get to be number 1; you get to be first; number 1 is fast." "Thank you. It's simple: faster is better." That's the end of the

commercial: "It's simple: faster is better." There are other commercials, too, and the kids are always enthusiastic, "Yes, we know this! We know! Ask the question!" The point of that is that the Word of God, you might say, has a punch line at the end, and that is: It's simple, when you think of it like this: Is it better to do good or evil? to do good. The word of God is just going to emphasize that. Is it better to please God or not? better to please God. Is the Word of God important or not? it's important. We see that the Word of God is good for us. The Word of God is important. The Word of God is good; it's simple. It's very, very simple. God wants us to start off on a foundation. A foundation is built on very simple ingredients: some cement and some water—and it's going to hold up the biggest buildings on this earth. Our foundation—the Rock—keeps us righteous. It will hold up to any storm. There is nothing that is going to come our way that will be able to stop us on our journey. Let's accept ourselves—we don't want to get in the way of what God wants to do. Stay encouraged: God has a purpose for each and every one of us. I think about the man that said, "We're outnumbered." And the man of God prayed that God would open up his eyes, and then he could see that the hills were filled with chariots of fire and angels (2 Kings 6:9-17). I think about that a lot in my mind. When we think about the Word of God, we are thinking about a great thing.

Today we're going to talk about the Word of God in a specific way, and that is the name of our Father Which Art in Heaven. The title of the message is, "Hallowed Be They Name." I wanted to get to that pretty quickly and really touch on it today, because we've got a great God, and we've got a great name. He's proud of His name. I want to start today with just talking about names for just a little bit. Names are the single most identifying feature—everything and everyone has a name. When I was putting this message together, I remember a message, Brother Jesse, that you gave not that long ago. You were talking about a boy that had been growing up: a boy named, "It." He had been neglected, and he had been pushed aside, and he didn't even have that single identifying feature of a name. He didn't even have that. He didn't use that as an excuse—that was the main idea of the story. He didn't use that as an excuse to give up and quit. He truly turned it around to a point of strength. He wrote a book about it, an autobiography, how he overcame the trials and tribulations of his own life. Everyone else, though, has a name. Names are important, and they are especially important when they are our name. We all respond when our name is called. When we get someone that we care for, we call them by their name. We respect people by including their name in a conversation. It's good to see the navy men here today. You're called by your last name in the military, and that's a different type of calling of a name; it's a more professional name. It's when you get the work done because they're calling your name. That's not your full, complete name, but that's what you're called by in the military. We respect someone by calling their name, and we show respect by including their name in a conversation. We start a relationship by calling someone by their name. Sometimes you go back and say, "What's your name?" because you forgot their name. It's not really a relationship yet, until you know their name. Sometimes I've known people for a while, and I haven't known their name yet. You know what? I really have to do something about that. How can I say I have a friendship, if I don't know their name? So that's where it starts: We form a relationship, we make friends, and call them by their first name. Now you're making a friend. Normally that's an entry-level friendship; you say, "Hello, what's your name?" and get to know each other. And titles: Sometimes, in the military, you call each other by last names, or by their rank. It's a more formal way of communicating, and sometimes it's necessary, but when we get into a more personal relationship—a friendship or a family relationship—we use first names. Sometimes we use affectionate titles: I wouldn't call my dad by his first name or my mom by her first name;

that's a given. God's not the same way as that. He's asked us to call Him by His first name. He wants us to call Him by His only name. I really want to look at that. I'm going to start and break it up a little bit. Is it better to know God's name or not? better. And it's important. I'm going to show today—I hope the Word of God will teach us; I'm just going to get out of the way and let the Word of God speak—how God uses names for His purpose. God has a purpose for every name that He's given people in His Word. It wasn't for no reason. He didn't just give anybody a name; He gave some people a name for a specific reason. Today, we will examine the history and on-going, utmost importance of God, our Father's Great Name.

God uses names for His purpose—Establishing Importance and Honor

Abraham—meaning—Father of many nations. God gave Abraham a name. Why? because He selected him out of this world. He said, "I'm going to choose you to be the father of many nations. I'm going to choose you, and you're going to be the father of My people—My family." (You know, the word, "family" only appears one time in the New Testament, in Ephesians 3:15, talking about Jesus, it says, "Of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named." The word, "family" is only used that one time in the New Testament.) Here's a man who's walking along, Abram, and God taps him on the shoulder and says, "I want to talk to you, Mister Abram."

Genesis 17:1-5 ...thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

We see that God selected this man, Abram, to be the leader of a whole group of people— God's family—and He did it by giving him a new name. He changed his name. Now, everyone here has been given a name, most of us, basically, by our parents. That's the way it works. God doesn't intervene in that. He named Adam, that means human being, very simple. He always kept a seed, a remnant, a few people that He saw as being righteous. He saw Abel's sacrifice as being righteous. People began calling on the name of the Lord in the days of Seth; Seth's children began calling on the name of the Lord. Then God sees a man called Enoch, and sees his righteousness, and He takes him up into Heaven. This whole time, there's a wildfire of sin going on; it's consuming the whole world. The whole sin thing is getting out of control. By the time we get to chapter 6 (there's almost twelve hundred chapters in this Bible) God's already repenting that He even made man (Genesis 6:6). The great Master Artist, the Master Craftsman, if you will, and His masterpiece—the human race—has turned into this? "This product that I expected to show My glory has turned into something that I don't even want to look at." But H does see one or two people that He does see what He wants in them. He finds Noah; Noah finds grace in the eyes of God (Genesis 6:8). We know that story. After a while, we can see a pattern here: God is keeping His people for His glory. It's just a few people that He takes out of a huge world of sin, and He's taking a man here, a family there, and, occasionally, the head of a household, and the head of a household. And now God's coming to Abraham, and He's going to change his name, and He's going to change his wife's name, as well.

Genesis 17:15 ...thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

So, now she's got a name change, too. Now Abraham and Sarah are given what? the promise of a child, and this is a miracle story. This is a foreshadowing of the miracle birth of

Jesus, well, actually, of John. I want to get into that story. It applies to us. How does it apply to us today? It applies because it shows that God has been in the name business and He takes it seriously. We're going to get to modern day in a hurry, and we're going to see how important it is. He's taking people, not by chance, not by luck, not by coincidence; He's examining their lives and He's choosing them. He's picking a people, a godly people, for Himself, for His glory. He's going to make a covenant with them, He's going to protect them, He's going to heal them, He's going to help them, He's going to encourage them, He's going to give them eternal life. He's going to keep them, for His glory. He's going to do some miraculous things along the way, as He continues to do, and we're proof of that.

We're going to see how God gives this miracle family a child..

Genesis 17:19 ...thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac...

Now we're going to see where Isaac has a child. Isaac's child is where we end up today, now. We're going to come way ahead with this. He has a child whose name is Jacob who wrestles with an angel of God and gets his name changed, right on the spot. He gets a change of name, and it's also going to be a whole change of life.

Genesis 32:27-28 ... Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel...

This is important, because we see where God has taken a family, a small group of people, and singled them out for His glory. That's where—Israel had twelve sons. Israel passes on, his children pass on, but God anoints Israel and his children. They become a nation, separated from all the other nations on the earth. It all goes back to Abraham. That's why Abraham was such a powerful man, and such a powerful role model, and He was their father. God chose him and Sarah, and Isaac, and Israel. That name has been separated by God for the glory of God and we have been planted into that family by the great power of Jesus. Jesus gives us that opportunity. This family, this great family—they were the fewest of the few. It says in Deuteronomy, "I did not call you because you were the most, but you were the fewest of the few" (Deuteronomy 7:7). You know what? that's a special thing. It's a great thing to be called by God. We might have hundreds in church at a time (I don't know the number), but it's only a crowd of one. And one. And one. It's one, one, one, one. It's not a bunch, we don't come connected together, we come individually because God called us to come to worship Him. That's why God called them, because He could see what He wanted in these people. They gave Him what God was looking for: Praise, Worship, Life. I would like to point out that their name change announced a new role, a new status in their life. They were no longer Abram and Sarai, but Abraham and Sarah father and mother of many nations. Isaac, the miracle child that they couldn't have had except that God gave them the strength and the encouragement to go through what was impossible at that age, and God gave them a baby. And his baby was Jacob, who became the father of all Israel. I just love that story; it's a great story. It shows what God can do. The way to highlight and underscore a name. He changed it. He didn't do it for anybody else. Adam gave Eve her name. God didn't give Noah his name, as great a man as Noah was. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—that was it. If there were any others, it wasn't for the family of God; it was for a different reason. He doesn't just throw out names; He takes them very seriously, and He continues to do that in the New Testament.

God Declares His Name—To Lead His Chosen People

To Abraham:

Genesis 17:1 ...the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God...

In Exodus 6, He's coming to Moses, and He's going to start to do something that He wants to get to: It's His name. He meets a man in the wilderness, by the name of Moses—we know his story, we know this great story—this is the way it went about, and Moses is going to hear something that no one has heard before. Let's hear it; we're going to see how God declares His name.

Exodus 6:2-3 ... name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

You can see that God said by the name of God Almighty. We tend to think of that as a title, but due to the subtleties and nuances and changes of culture, that was a name. God said that was His name, God Almighty. Now He was giving Moses His name, Jehovah. This is the name that they called on in the Old Testament. He was even called, "Ja" at one time, a very blunt form of Jehovah, meaning, power; mighty God. This is something to learn. There is a place to learn in a message on a Sunday morning. We get the encouragement. God wants us to have all of that, and He wants us to have an education of substance, too, when we're learning His Word. Let's move on: He declares His name to Moses. He used His name for purpose and honor; He did that for Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Jacob...

God Promises His Name—A Messiah Bering His Name

Now He's going to promise His name:

Isaiah 9:6 ...His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God...

"...His name..." That's important: Why would God throw that word in there? because it's important, because His name is going to play an essential part in how our relationship with our Heavenly Father goes.

It's important to see that God doesn't just use loose words. He said Jacob had power, as a prince had power. Jesus was going to come. It was a promise. When this promise was put forth, now Israel's attention is looking forward to a son that's going to be born. Now they're looking forward to the Messiah that's going to come, and He did come. But, before we actually get to this birth of Jesus:

Zechariah 14:9 ...in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

"...there shall be one Lord, and His name one." Hey, look, there's going to be son, and there will be one name. The name will be called all of these things. We have fathers, citizens, mothers, officers, workers... There are all kinds of titles that your name is called. God had many names as well. We know that; we understand that. It's going to be one name that He's going to be giving out.

God Defends His Name—The Name of the Great King

We're going to tie this all together, but before we get to the birth of Jesus, we're going to look at how defends His name in Malachi, and we can see where He's coming from.

Malachi 1:6 ...saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise My name...

Wherein have we despised Thy great name? It goes on to explain by offering sacrifices that are unworthy of My great name. By taking My name, you are expected to live up to a certain standard. That's what God is saying, there, but He's also saying, "If then I be a Father, where is my honor?" This being Father's Day, it is appropriate that we talk about where is His honor today?

We have seen that God uses names for purpose and for honor when selecting people for His glory, and that He preserves a family, a seed, a remnant that He can call His own. That's what we are today. He declares His name to Moses and Abraham, Jacob and Isaac. He promises His name to the children of Israel to Isaiah and Zechariah. He defends His name in Malachi. Now, He's going to reveal His name, and it comes through the birth and life of Jesus Christ. So, we're going to see how this great thing happens. I was going to call this message, "John and Jesus" because John was born in a miracle way, just like Isaac was. An older couple, past childbearing years, (Abraham and Sarah were well beyond child-bearing years, and God performed a miracle in their lives, and they were able to have a child) Elizabeth and Zacharias were the same way. They were past this time in their life. God came to them, and gave them a child. Gabriel, the same one that spoke to Mary, Federal Express, you might say, told them that they were going to have a baby. Zacharias didn't believe it. He didn't talk again; God shut his mouth up for nine months. He was the high priest; he couldn't talk. He couldn't say anything, because of his unbelief. Nine month passed, unbelief or not, and John was born. They took out this baby, john, and, in this local area, John was famous. This was like Abraham and Sarah, again. The Children of Israel were like, "This is what we need: a miracle! God has not forgotten us. Al of this Roman oppression, and all of this obscurity that we've fallen into, and people don't respect who we are (we're God's people), God gave us a miracle. A miracle baby." John was important. John was famous in his own right. He grew up to the great baptizer. The baptism that we still use today: Repentance unto salvation (only now we do it in Jesus' name, and we get the gift of the Holy Ghost at the end). Baptism—under water for the glory of God. Jesus got baptized by John. They asked John if he was the Christ; he said, "No, I'm not the Christ-I'm not even worthy to take off His shoes." Jesus said, "Of those born of women, there is none greater than John." (Luke 7:28) He said he was a burning and a shining light, and, for a while people rejoiced in his light (John 5:35). He prepared the way of the Lord (Mark 1:3). When he was born, and Zacharias could finally talk, he prophesied for about a whole page; that was a lot of praising. People gathered around at this birth of John. They said, "What's his name going to be?" They said, "Zacharias." You know it's a great tradition (let's make it a tradition if it's not)... They thought it was going to be Zacharias. It would have been a great honor; it would have been natural, but, it wasn't the answer. Zacharias shook his head (because he couldn't talk), and he went to a writing table, and he wrote down, "John." It's important to understand that what's written down is important. You might have some ideas, you might have some thoughts, you might have some imaginations about what things should be called, and they had their

imaginations going, too. They had their expectations. They weren't evil; they just were expecting something else. He wrote down, "John," not "Zacharias." That's important. Then they rejoiced, they accepted the name, they respected it, and John went on and lived his life. He grew up in that celebrity type of thing because in that area, this was the miracle child. If you wonder, how did he get the people to surround him, well, remember, he had this miracle birth. He grew up with God's intervention in his life.

But, along the way, we know that Jesus was born. That was a great celebration. We know the story, how that the Heavenly host came down and blessed the shepherds, and the wisest of the wise men came to meet Him (they had a long journey) and they came to Jesus. We understand that. Jesus' life was pretty much kept under wraps. He didn't really appear—we have the story of when He was twelve years old—but God is preparing this man, the Son of God, to come on the scene, and He comes on the scene. John saw Him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) John saw this man coming. John leapt in the womb when he was in the womb (Luke 1:41). The spirit of the prophets is subject to The Prophet. John knew who he was in the company of. It didn't take long for people to understand: John is good; Jesus is God. Jesus is Lord. It didn't take long for them to be throwing the palm branches down (John 12:13). Jesus, through the healings, through the miracles, through the deaf getting their hearing back, the blind getting their sight back, Jesus healing who he healed, the encouragement, the company He kept with people that nobody would keep company with... just encouragement, victory, salvation, power, might, authority, honor, glory... and He was speaking like nobody spoke. He had them on the edge of their seats. It didn't take long; they knew. Water to wine—there's a wedding coming, and there's going to be some wine poured out. There's a lot that Jesus did. There's a lot that Jesus did. John said that if everything He did were to be written down, the earth couldn't contain the books (John 21:25). John said he supposed—the only thing he was supposing was that, you know, all this geography... I don't know much about geography. I don't know much about algebra. I don't know much about calculus. But I know God is in this world. He did a lot more than I could ever write down, than you could ever write down, than all of us together could ever write down. Jesus did something that's probably the least published, least promoted: He carried His Father's name into the world. Of all the things that Jesus did, probably the one that's least appreciated is that he brought his Father's name into this world. It wasn't because He didn't; He did. Through years of disregard, maybe being fixated on this life that Jesus led; maybe it was just that kind of infatuation that people had with this man that walked the earth, and all the things that He did maybe just from that it ended up being disregarded that He carried His Father's name into the world. Even Jesus, in the early part of His ministry, said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." He wasn't going to give anybody else the glory (Isaiah 42:8). Instead, He made Himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7). Jesus was here to glorify His Father, so let's see how He does it. When He comes in His name... We might have missed it in our reading—we didn't, but let's just reinforce it.

God Reveals His Name

John 5:39-43 ...I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not...

I didn't want to just put in one line there; I wanted a little bit of context, but the one line is where I really wanted to go: "I am come in My Father's name..." That's very clear. It might

not be the usual way of meeting somebody—I mean, I've met enough men in my life who said, "My name is Carlos..." "My name is John..." "My name is so-an-so..." "...and it's my father's name, as well." It's not the norm, perhaps, but it isn't unheard of. In some places it is a tradition that the son is named after the father. But that's how God did it. His Son carried His name into the world, and Jesus was very clear about it. Maybe too clear. The Bible says that the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, and then gentle (James 3:17). I don't see what's so hard to understand about, "I am come in My Father's name..." Isaiah said it...

John 17 is really the mother lode, if you want to see where Jesus is talking about His Father's name, our Father's name.

John 17:5-6 ...I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest me...

He's saying 'manifested,' it means 'make known,' or 'appear.' So Jesus is saying He made God's name appear, or He made it known. It's very clear. If the Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost (2 Corinthians 4:3). It's not going to be hidden from them that seek God. God doesn't want the blind leading the blind (Luke 6:39), they'll both fall in the ditch. He wants the seeing leading the seeing. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and He's got good vision. He's going to lead us to the right place, and He's giving us good eyesight to see. He says, "I am come in My Father's name..." and He says, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Matthew 11:15) When He says, "I have manifested Thy name..." He's talking to a righteous Father. He spoke it so that people could hear it, and God made sure it was recorded so that we can read it today, and learn today.

John 17:127 \ ... I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gayest me I have kept ...

Here it's, "...I kept them in Thy name..." He had disciples that He kept. He's keeping us today, in His name. He hasn't gone anywhere. He's got us in His pasture (Psalms 95:7). He's the Good Shepherd. He's the wolf-killer. He's the wolf-chaser. He's the wolf-devourer. Don't worry. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is Lord, and He declared His Father's name. He kept them in that name. I think we're getting an idea how powerful that name is. There's a little paradigm, spread across the heavens, just how great this name of Jesus is, how eternally great and powerful this name is. He said, "I have come in My Father's name..." "I have manifested Thy name..." that's a great honor to have. "I have kept them in Thy name..." He's got a relationship bar none. He's allowing us into this relationship, but how do we get into it? by a name; by one name; by a great, hallowed name. He's giving it to us. He's allowing us to learn it. It's not going anywhere; it's written down.

We're coming up to the end of that chapter, and, really, we're getting close to where the power is.

John 17:25-26And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it...

It's very important that this name is connected to the love of God because the Bible tells us to love God with all of our heart (Matthew 22:37), and it's going to have to be there—that love can only come from God. That relationship can only come from God. He's saying, "...I have declared unto them Thy name..." God is still keeping His people for Himself through all of this. Jesus wasn't done; He was still going to go through a crucifixion. He was going to go

through that, still to come, but He was preparing His people so that they would have what they need to get through this.

Matthew 28:19 ...the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

This is what we've really got to look at today. Jesus has died, resurrected, come back to earth, and He taught His disciples. What a great celebration. There's Jesus—He was dead! Then He was with us for forty days—He's alive! Jesus is teaching. He's like, "I'm alive, and you're alive, but you've got to stay alive in me, and this is how you're going to do it. Go and teach, and baptize everyone in the name of the Father..." He's not telling any mysteries to Peter. Peter's been with Him for three years. Peter's heard everything that's written here—and more! John didn't have any other way to calculate it. He'd heard a lot. He's seen a lot. He knows the name of the Father. Peter goes and baptizes:

Acts 2:38 ... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...

That's what we see: The name of the Father. It's the same name, Jesus, the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Ghost. Jesus says that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name (John 14:26). God wasn't without honoring the name of Jesus. God was giving the Son honor. It's His Father's name; let's not forget that. It didn't start in a Bethlehem manger; it started in a heavenly, heavenly manger. This great name is forever. It's given to us. It's by the name of Jesus that we're going to be saved (Acts 4:10-12). This is the name. This is the name that heals people. It's the name of God. There's a lot of things that the Word of God tells us that we can use the name for, especially in this life.

So Jesus comes in His Father's name, He manifests His Father's name, He keep His people in His Father's name, He continues to do this in His Father's name, He declares His Father's name, He baptizes in His Father's name, and, that's where we're at today. We're going to continue to do that, by the commandment of God.

Jesus had a prayer, and we're going to close with this prayer today, on Father's Day. I pray that you have a great Father's Day. The fifth commandment says honor thy father and mother; we all need to do that. We have to put our differences aside and honor thy father and they mother. There's no expiration date on that. If they have passed on, then we need to honor them in our memories.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Matthew 6:9 ...Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...

Amen. Thank you for your time, everyone, and take care. God bless you.