

Hebrews 4:15
 For we have not
 an high priest
 which cannot be
 touched with the
 feeling of our in-
 firmities; but was
 in all points
 tempted like as
we are, yet with-
out sin.



What's In A Name?

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"His name is John". (Luke 1:63) We've heard the saying, what's in a name. For the most part, in our day and time, it means we have tried to name our children what we think is pretty or we name them after a family member. But in the days of the Hebrew



nation, the name of their children bore a great meaning. When a devout Jew named their child, they prayed for direction from God for the proper name. And in some cases, God by direct revelation, told them what to name the child.

This started early in the Garden of Eden, when Adam named his wife Eve, *"the Mother of all living."* This continued throughout Old Testament history. Abram was changed by God to Abraham, *(the Father of many nations)*. Jacob was changed to Israel, *"for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed"*. Time and time again God instructed his people what to name their children, foreshadowing what their life purpose was to be.

As we come to the story regarding John the Baptist, Zacharias was given direct revelation what to name his son-to-be. *Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.* Realizing that this instruction to name their son came from the messenger Gabriel who was delivering the message from God, we should understand that this was not to be just any name. Although John is a very common name in our day, this was not a common name at all to the Hebrew nation. Elizabeth was questioned by her people as to why this name was chosen. *And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of*

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his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. Let us always remember, when God does something, it is always for a specific purpose.

To understand why God named John, you must know what the name John meant. The name John, in the Hebrew tongue, is interpreted, *The Lord is gracious*. Now this may sound like just a lovely thought, deeper searching will show God's purpose for John. We know that John was the last of the prophets of God under the law. During this time, man's standing with God was determined by how well he followed the law of God. But man, even in his most sincere efforts, *came short of the glory of God*. Try as they might, they could not keep the law. Truthfully, the law could not justify man. It only exposed what we really were. To understand the reason for the name of John. We only need to look to his calling.

The scriptures teach us that John was to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ. Since we have already seen that man, by the law, could not be justified, and by our foul works we couldn't come to God, how could we, as corrupt man, be reconciled to God. As Job declared, *there is no daysman, or mediator, between God and man*. Let us now look again at the interpretation of the name John. *The Lord is gracious*. If by the law we couldn't come to God, what other way is left? The only other path must be by the grace of God. God would have to, by his unmerited favor to sinful man and by his ever enduring mercy, send his Son to take hold of mankind by a vessel likened unto sinful flesh, all the while, never letting go of his Father. Only someone who is 100 percent God and 100 percent man can do this. The naming of John, *the Lord is gracious*, was the symbol that God was sending the lifeline to sinful man, His only begotten Son. For this man John was the link joining the law of death and the gift of grace and life. For following John was the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The name Jesus meaning, *for he shall save his people from their sins*. In that day, even as today, the conviction of sin always must precede salvation by grace. We now can always look back and thank God for the day when God named a child John. For that was the day that God declared to the world that *the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth*. *Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift*.



*From Brother Terry Dobbs, Pastor, Old Fashion
United Baptist Church*

THE HELP MATE

By Linda Black



ALMOST. It would be safe to assume that 99.9% is an excellent amount. I'm sure we would all take this percentage and consider it "as good as it gets". Even though 99.9 % is as close to a 100% as you can get, there are great differences produced between the two. In an article entitled "If 99.9% is good enough then...", a list of possibilities is given that are actually shocking. I have chosen just a few of them to indicate what would happen if we merely settled for 99.9% or "*almost*".

1. Two million documents would be *lost* by the IRS this year.
2. 22,000 checks will be deducted from the *wrong bank accounts* in the next 60 minutes.
3. 1,314 phone calls will be *misplaced* by telecommunication services every minute.
4. 12 babies will be given to the *wrong parent* each day.
5. 2 plane landings daily at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago will be *unsafe*.
6. 291 pacemaker operations will be performed *incorrectly* this year.
7. 880,000 credit cards in circulation will turn out to have *incorrect* cardholder information on their magnetic strips.
8. 55 *malfunctioning* automatic teller machines will be installed in the next 12 months.
9. 20,000 *incorrect* drug prescriptions will be written in the next 12 months.
- 107 *incorrect* medical procedures will be performed by the end of the day today.

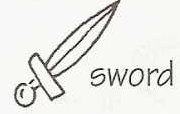
And the list goes on. Doesn't this put a whole new perspective on the word "*almost*"? I'm sure you're wondering what in the world this has to do with church. When I read this article it caused me to wonder how many people are *almost* going to heaven. These are the church goers who attend every service, pay all their tithes, volunteer for jobs, visit the sick and see to the needs of the pastor. Yet they lack one thing, salvation. For every 100 good things performed there is still one major aspect missing. The problem is it happens to be the most important facet of all. When Paul came before King Agrippa to plead his case he spoke of his experience with the Lord on the road to Damascus. Paul spoke with such enthusiasm and feeling that Festus the Governor thought he was beside himself and called him mad. As Paul questioned Agrippa about his beliefs in the prophets and confirming the truth about this matter the King answered, "*Almost* thou persuadest me to be a Christian". Even though Festus listened and trembled over the scriptures and Agrippa became "*almost persuaded*", no record was ever written confirming their acceptance of the Lord. What a dangerous place to be, so close and yet so far. In terms of salvation, "*almost*" doesn't count. It's 100% or nothing at all. 99.9% just won't complete the job.

Almost = Hell for eternity.

Name _____

Corrected by a Donkey

Read **Numbers 22:31** to find out who opened Balaam's eyes so that he could see the angel.





Homecoming Services

New Salem United Baptist Church
2311 Washington Street
New Castle, IN

would like to invite you to join us for
our

Annual Homecoming and Dinner
Sunday, August 30, 2009
Singing Service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Abounding Grace Singers

will be featured
plus other Local Singers

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Pastor Brett Rains

For additional information call
Brother Chester Rains at (765) 529-1752

Announcements

The Southern United Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana will be having their annual Homecoming on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009 at 10:00 am.

The Lifeboat Quartet of Muncie, In. will be the guest singers and Pastor Larry Waters of the Westside United Baptist Church of Muncie will be preaching in the morning service.

Pastor Chris Sewell and the church invite everyone to come.



Church Directory

Memorial United Baptist Church

2911 S Philip Dr.

Muncie, IN 47302

Pastor Andy Phipps

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm

Riverview United Baptist Church

6601 E Black Mill Rd

Albany, IN 47320

Pastor Tony Bilbrey

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Tuesday Evening 7:00 pm

First Southern United Baptist Church

1009 E. 20th St.

Muncie, IN 47302

Pastor Chris Sewell

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening 7:00

Community Missionary Baptist Church

1005 E. 6th St.

Alexandria, IN 46001

Pastor Raymond Garret

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Lower Hickory Grove United Baptist Church

Highway 741 (Blue Heron Mine Rd)

Revelo, KY 42638

Pastor Mark Sewell

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Second Baptist Church

P.O. Box 1188

Whitley City, KY 42653

Pastor Michael Casada

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Faith United Baptist Church

Brick Church Rd.

Hagerstown, IN 47346

Pastor Eldon Denney

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

New Salem United Baptist Church

2311 E. Washington St.

New Castle, IN 47362

Pastor Brett Rains

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening 6:30

Church Directory

Old Fashion United Baptist Church
9211 W. Arch Street
Yorktown IN 47396
Pastor Terry Dobbs
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Thursday Evening 6:30 pm

Westside United Baptist Church
3021 W. Cornbread Road
Muncie IN 47302
Pastor Larry Waters
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Thursday Evening 6:30 pm

Gloryland United Baptist Church
2001 E. 8th St.
Muncie, IN 47302
Pastor Alvis Sewell
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Eastside Missionary Baptist Church
100 Holland Ave
Muncie, IN 47303
Pastor Eric Lambert
Sunday Morning 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Caney Branch United Baptist Church
1457 Travis Groce Road
Albany, KY 42602
Pastor Donald McGill
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

