

## Trust the LORD's Majestic Name!

...praise...power...dominion...

In the name of Jesus, our coming King, dearly redeemed subjects of Christ's kingdom:

People who do not believe in God constantly criticize Him for everything. But two things keep popping up in their comments. They look around the world and say, "If God is really all-powerful, then he must not be all-loving to let so much suffering go on." They look at Jesus humbly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt and take the other side: "What a tragic figure! Maybe he really cared, but he obviously didn't even have the power to save himself. Don't you Christians remember what happened this week you 'Holy week?' By your own accounts the one you call Christ could silence his enemies, but he could not stop his own death by crucifixion." In deed and word they sneer at the Name of Jesus.

Unfortunately, even Christians who do believe in God and His Son Jesus as Lord and Savior easily slide into such thinking like wheel ruts on an old pickup. We all have gray days when it seems like nothing goes right. The kids are mean at school. The teachers seem upset about everything. You come home and find mom and dad arguing. Grandpa and Grandma don't even seem to be getting along. All too easily we forget God's love lights up the skies as surely as the sun is always shining above the clouds.

What a great surprise it was when I first flew from Oregon to high school in South Dakota. Rising above the Portland clouds, the sun in bright and beautiful as far as the eye can see. Flying over the Arctic Circle to China, same thing. The bright sunshine looks so warm over the limitless ice and tundra below. Do you see our biggest problem with **the LORD's Majestic Name**? We don't see very well!

We have to put on the Holy Spirit's special glasses in this Book of Books we call the Bible. Then we can cheer with David in Psalm 8: "***O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!***" God's Name is bright and beautiful, but you can only see it above the clouds of sin and superstition here below. "***You have set your glory above the heavens.***" Just forty days from next Sunday we'll see that again. Jesus' Ascension into heaven takes God's *glory* in His Savior-Son back to God's right hand, filling heaven and earth with God's love and power. Don't let depressing days rob you of this comfort. **Trust the LORD's Majestic Name!** He found a way to silence His critics, "***the foe and the avenger.***"

You've probably heard how secular humanists love to accuse Christians of brainwashing their children. Meanwhile they're passing laws in New York City, California, and would in Minnesota Public Schools if not for vigilant parents and some courageous teachers we can all admire. From kindergarten on in the "City that Never Sleeps," the "Big Apple" they call, "New York, New York," gross immorality is required education. Apparently, brainwashing kids is okay as long as they get to do it and no one else!

While they're busy mocking everything good, accusing God and His people of wrong, a little girl is honoring Jesus. Amanda Herman sits at her sewing machine hour after hour. No one told the eight-year-old she had to do this. There are no laws, no compulsory education from which there is no "opt out." Amanda heard her Grandpa talking about a church in Ukraine that needed help with its church building. So Amanda decided to turn her doll clothes operation into a money making machine for Christians she never met before, and may not see until she's home in glory with God. She set her goal at \$2,000.87 – so no one could say it was an accident. Last year she sewed 19 wallets, 35 rice bags, 65 bags and 2 cell phone bags, sending her projects to at least eight states. It took only from April-December, 2011, for Amanda to meet her goal. Why all this work? In her own words: "I think kids should do this because

everyone needs to know about Jesus.”<sup>1</sup> ***“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”***

They’ll find something to complain about like polar bears that God already has thriving or turning God’s green earth green. The Creator promised to preserve His world in spite of man’s attempts to destroy it with sin and greed and windmills blocking the view. In fact, haven’t you heard what Amanda knows? God already saved the world. ***“God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life!”*** (John 3:16 TPA)

Here’s the real question for everyone who has eyes to see what God has done: ***“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him...?”*** Even children can tell you that you can’t blow up a house and have the pieces come back down as a palace. If a car drives over a cliff, it can’t bounce back as a new bike or a beautiful pony to ride. Serious scientists do not believe the “Big Bang Theory.” They’ll tell you if you ask them; they just don’t like the alternative. Honestly, neither would I if I didn’t understand why Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday. If I didn’t know God’s plan that sent Him to the cross for me. If I didn’t see with the eyes of faith the glory of Easter on the other end of this Holy Week. But when I see God’s Son as my Savior, the wonders of His creative skill amaze me all the more. I don’t wonder any more how He could do such awesome things and make such a big, beautiful world. I wonder why God cares so much for you and me, tiny specks in the universe. By grace God makes us ***“...blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life....”*** (Philippians 2:15f NIV84)

If all we had was Psalm 8 with these first three verses, we would be blessed beyond the stars and saved from the brainwashing of this ***“crooked and depraved generation.”*** But we also have the Holy Spirit’s commentary on this Psalm in Hebrews 2:5-9. We’ll talk more about this in our Easter Sunday sermon, but God the Holy Spirit makes it clear that this Psalm is really about Jesus. ***“What is the Son of Man that you care for Him? You made Him a little lower than the angels?”*** (Hebrews 2:6f LXX, TPA)

The American media thinks whatever angels might be out there are greater than human beings. But God tells us that He created the angels to serve believers in Jesus. With a question that obviously demands a “Yes!”-answer, the Lord asks about the angels, ***“Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”*** (Hebrews 1:14 NIV84) When Jesus came as the Son of Man to serve as our Savior, He humbled Himself below the angels whom God says are below us. This week we get another lesson in how low God would go to save us.

Follow Jesus through Holy Week to the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday. He washes His disciples’ feet and shows His love for us in the Holy Supper He instituted there. He comes closer than any loved one ever could when He says, ***“Take and eat. This is my body. Take and drink. This is my blood.”*** Follow Him to the judgment hall of Jewish high priests and Gentile Roman rulers like Pontius Pilate and King Herod. See the spitting and the bruising and the bloody wounds He endured for you. So great is His love for all, including for the scoffers and unbelievers we would all be without the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith. Let sadness wash over you because of your sin that cost the life of God’s own Son. Let God work in you His holy joy that comes from believing all is done. Wait in eager anticipation for the rending of the tomb, the triumphant exaltation of Easter morning. Get ready to rejoice, and not alone, but with everyone God gives you to bring along in answer to your prayers and mine.

What joy we have in Jesus, our suffering Savior, bearing our sins and griefs on the cross! How gladly we sing, ***The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”*** (Matthew 21:9 NIV84) ***“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!...From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise....”*** (Psalm 8:1f NIV84) Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> “Let your light shine,” *Forward in Christ*, April 2012, pp.20f. Contact: [Amandasews8@yahoo.com](mailto:Amandasews8@yahoo.com) .

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