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A GOOD NAME

In Proverbs 22:1 it says, ***“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches; and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”*** Again, in Ecclesiastes 7:1 it says, ***“A good name is better than precious ointment...”***

If I were to mention some names you would have an immediate reaction. For instance, Judas. I immediately think of him as a betrayer. What about Nicodemus? I see a man coming to Jesus at night when no one could see him.

The same holds true for those that aren't bible characters, like Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and others that destroyed so many lives. They all started out with the same opportunity but somewhere along the line they turned towards darkness. They were full of pride, thinking they were bigger than God, and it brought their downfall.

How about Einstein or Madame Currie? They brought amazing truths to life and will long be remembered for them. There are many good and many bad names. So, what is the standard to judge a good or bad name? That is simple. It is judged by the ruler which is the Word of God. You look at the fruit in their lives and that determines the answer.

Isaiah 5:21 says, ***“Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.”*** These people set their own standards contrary to what the scripture says. This is called humanism. It has been around since creation. Many think more highly of oneself than they ought.

A good name comes from doing what is right, regardless of the consequences. A bad name comes from doing what one “thinks is right”, not thinking that there will be any consequences. Many times, bad character carries on from one generation to another, unless someone repents. It can stop when repentance comes, and it can change the course for entire future generations.

The man that wrote “Amazing Grace,” John Newton had been a slave trader. One day he received salvation and stopped doing this barbarous business. He was transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ and became a new man. Out of his transformation came that old wonderful song. You see, his character changed when he became a Christian.

What's in a name? It speaks of all that you have done. You have one life to live my friends, so live it with faith and develop good character so that you will always be remembered as such.