

# March 2019 Newsletter



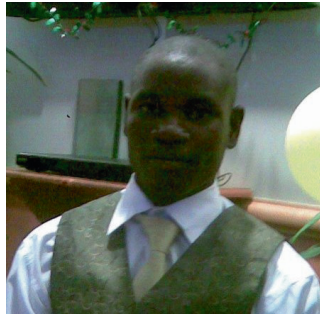
Sundays At 6:30 AM on



## THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

By Frank Chulu  
Lilongwe, Malawi

Contrary to popular belief in our world, names are important when it comes to pleasing God. Even though religious people worldwide choose to wear names that are not promoted or even suggested by God, the people of God should look to God's word when deciding how to name the church.



The Lord tells His people in **Deuteronomy 12:2-5**, "*You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things. But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.*"

The Lord makes it clear that His people should not imitate the religious practices of man-made religions. Men today must decide whether they will follow Jesus Christ and His teachings or follow the ideas generated by man. Religious practices that blend Divine and human ideas will satisfy men but not God. The Lord made it clear that He wanted "His name" to be used for "His dwelling place."

In the New Testament, when Jesus was transfigured, we

see the difference between God's response and the human response of the Apostle Peter. The Bible says in **Matthew 17:4-5**, "*Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'* While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, '*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*'"

The Apostle Peter's response reminds us of men today: "*Would you like to make three tabernacles (churches): one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah?*" The Heavenly Father took the focus away from the comparatively inferior Moses and Elijah and highlighted the importance of Jesus: "*This is My beloved Son....Hear Him!*" No doubt, the Father desires that we hear Jesus and place the emphasis on His name instead of on men's names.

Jesus told His disciples, "*on this rock I will build My church*" (**Matthew 16:18**). The church belongs to Christ and should wear the name of Christ. Disciples of Christ should seek "the place where the Lord...chooses" and a place that puts "*His name for His dwelling place.*" Consider also that the church is the body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18**) and the bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7; 21:2**). Besides these facts, it is clear that no name compares to the name of Christ (**Acts 4:12; 11:26**). We also find the Apostle Paul writing in **Romans 16:16**, "*The churches of Christ greet you.*"

**3/3 Sermon #1185**  
The Greatest Command

**3/10 Sermon #1182**  
Q & A: The Trinity

**3/17 Sermon #1189**  
Despise not Little Ones

**3/24 Sermon #1187**  
God Preached the Gospel

**3/31 Sermon #1188**  
Invitation to Transfiguration

In light of these truths, why would people who profess to follow Christ honor a mere man by naming the church after him or by using a name they choose instead of using the name of Christ?

## MONEY MATTERS (PART TWO)

By Matt Tison  
Waterloo, IA

Writer's Note: The last issue of this publication had an article focused on being a good steward with our blessings. For some, perhaps the "why" is not the challenge but the "how." How does one become a good steward with money, regardless of the amount? **(Romans 13:8, Proverbs 22:7, Psalm 37:21, Luke 14:28, 1 Timothy 5:8, Proverbs 22:26).**



In answering this question, we shall consider five steps that can lead a person out of debt.

### Step One: Pray

Begin this journey by praying about it. Pray with your spouse. Pray with your family. Pray that God grants you the wisdom to make wise fiscal decisions as well as the means to make more income so you can pay off your debt **(Mark 11:24)**.

### Step Two: Consider Your Spouse as Your Teammate

Sometimes newly married couples make finances their last consideration as they "become one." Finances, however, are an extremely important piece in a successful marriage. When married couples keep separate finances, it opens the door to opportunities to be dishonest, selfish, and unwise. Those who keep separate finances from their spouse know this situation to be true. Each spouse must see the other as a teammate for a marriage to be successful, meaning he, or she, gets an equal voice in money matters, budgeting, and finances. The extra zeros on the end of a paycheck do not give one the right to be a financial bully to the other. You married your spouse because he or she was different and completed you in a way no one else could. Value those differences and work as a team.

### Step Three: Stop Going into Debt

When we decide to start paying off our debt, we throw all of our available time and resources at the debt, but some fail to create a system to ensure they don't go back into debt. For example, say I own a 1998 Toyota with 176,000 miles on it. I make the decision to get out of debt, so I take the \$1,500 in my savings account and pay toward the \$5,000 I owe on a credit card. Then a week later, my alternator goes out on my Toyota. How am I going to pay for the repair? More than likely, I will use that credit card I just paid on. What's the solution? When you decide to start fighting the debt-war, start an emergency fund of \$1,000 and use it for an emergency instead of defaulting to your credit lines.

### Step Four: Arrange a Debt Snowball

This information, of course, comes from Dave Ramsey, and it is so practical. He says to get out of debt, arrange your debts from smallest to largest, regardless of interest rate. Make minimum payments on everything but the smallest debt. Use all remaining money in your budget for that debt. Once it is paid off, you have more money to apply to the next one. These small victories make this plan successful. **Galatians 6:9** will keep you encouraged on this journey. *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

### Step Five: Have a Murphy Repellent

Once you've saved your \$1,000 emergency fund and paid off all debt via the debt snowball, it's time to make sure you never go into debt again. Murphy law is If it can go wrong, it will go wrong? Make sure you have a can of Murphy Repellent, which is three to six months of expenses saved up. Calculate monthly expenses: food, shelter, electricity, insurance, etc. Then, multiply that amount times three to six and save that amount. If you have an emergency, you are prepared for it.

These five steps are designed to help you walk in the right direction; however, there are other aspects of achieving financial stability—saving for retirement, paying off your mortgage, saving for your children's college fund—to name a few. Whatever you decide to do in your financial life, keep God at the center. Pray for wisdom, and strive to set a good example for the next generation. May God bless you.

