

## **His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (6) Beloved Son**

As we continue our journey through the sacred Scriptures, tracing the names and divine titles of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are made increasingly aware of the innumerable and incomparable attributes of Him, who is altogether lovely.

Very many of these names and titles remind us of what He is in essential nature and character. Others may express what He is to the hearts of His own redeemed people. Then there are those names, while precious to every believer, which express what Christ is to His Father in heaven.

Such is the case with the name, *"Beloved Son"*. On at least two occasions, the Father declared concerning the Son, *"this is my well beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*. These were at His baptism, as He began His public ministry and at His transfiguration, when He was glorified in the presence of Peter, James and John. Matthew (3:17, 17:5), Mark (1:11, 9:7) and Luke (3:22, 9:35), record both of these tremendous events.

At the commencement of His public ministry here on earth, the Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. When He came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Him, and His heavenly Father declared, *"thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Matt. 3:17; Mk. 1:11; Luke 3:22).

With this announcement, the Father gives His divine approval of the Son in whom He found all His pleasure and delight and of the ministry set before Him. On the mount of transfiguration, the Father used the same acknowledgment of the Son of His love and added the words, *"hear him"* (Matt. 17:5; Mk. 9:7; Luke (9:35).

The Father's statement concerning the Son on the mount of transfiguration, elevates the Son above Moses and Elijah, who represent the law and the prophets. The collective voices of the law and the prophets all spoke of the coming of the glorious Son of God, as the final and authoritative word to this world. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote, *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds"* (Heb. 1:1-2).

The Father's declaration, *"this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*, expresses the divine pleasure and delight Christ brought to the heart of His heavenly Father continually. The Lord Jesus said concerning the Father, *"I do always those things that please Him"*.

It also expresses the tremendous love the Father has for the Son and the bond of communion and fellowship that ever and always existed between them. John the Baptist commented on the love of the Father for the Son. He said, *"the Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into his hand"* (Jn. 3:35).

As we trace the pathway of the Son of God, while He was here below, we find Him in constant communion with His heavenly Father. John described Him as dwelling eternally in the bosom of the Father (Jn. 1:18). John chapter 7 ends with the words, *"every man went unto his own house"* (vs. 53). John chapter 8 begins with the words, *"Jesus went unto the mount of Olives"* (vs. 1).

This was ever the practice of the Son of God. Even though He was equal with God, He ever lived as the dependent Son. Luke records concerning Him, *"And in the day time he was*

*teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives” (Luke 21:37).*

As the beloved Son, He came with a divine purpose. John tells us, *“the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 4:14).* This was another occasion of the Father’s love for the Son. The Lord Jesus said, *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again” (Jn. 10:17).*

There came a moment when He crossed the brook Cedron for the last time and entered into the Garden of Gethsemane in the Mount of Olives, where He often resorted to pray. (Jn. 18:1-2). As He contemplated the cross and all that lay before Him, in loving devotion to His heavenly Father, He prayed, *“not my will, but thine be done” (Luke 22:42).*

The Father expressed His delight in the Son, and the victory He won at Calvary over sin and death and hell, through the work of redemption that He accomplished by the shedding of His own precious blood. Paul tells in the book of Ephesians, *“he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:20-21).*

Human mind can never understand or enter into the bond of love that exists eternally between the Father and His beloved Son. The Lord Jesus said, *“All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him” (Luke 10:22).*

It is quite interesting to note that as the Son prayed to the Father, just prior to going to the cross, to fulfill the will of the Father, He comforted Himself in knowledge of the Father’s love. He said, *“thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world” (Jn. 17:24).*

What is most amazing is, that in that high priestly prayer, we learn the blessed truth, expressed from the lips of the *“Beloved Son”*, that we are also loved by the Father. He prayed, *“thou hast sent me and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (Jn. 17:23).*

*On the Father’s bosom leaning,  
Blest abode of calm retreat;  
There we trace the sacred meaning,  
Of communion, pure and sweet.*

*From His life a fragrant savour,  
From His lips compassion flows;  
All the Father’s divine favour,  
On His blessed Son bestows*

*Ever in His love abiding,  
Naught can sever them apart,  
Daily pleasure, He providing,  
To delight the Father’s heart*

*Ever bringing daily pleasure,  
Holy Scriptures to fulfill;  
Such devotion, none can measure,  
His delight, the Father’s will.*

*To the Father, earnest praying,  
Agonizing, blood-like sweat;  
From His mission, never straying,  
On the slopes of Olivet.*

*Into death by love's emotion,  
The Beloved thus was led;  
In an act of deep devotion,  
Suffered in the sinner's stead.*

*From the grave He now is risen,  
Proof of Father's endless love;  
Burst the chains of death's dark prison,  
Claims the royal throne above.*

*Never shall He know removal,  
Seated on the throne on high;  
Sealed with Father's own approval,  
As eternal years roll by.*

**Bernie Payne**