

A Great Day in the Kingdom – 3/21/25

What's in a name? The key question here is truly, "What does your name mean?" Years ago, my Father had been moved to Arlington Heights UMC, in Fort Worth. There was a nightmare of a receiving line for our family. A wonderful Lady, by the name of Ann Baldwin (Preacher's Kid) walked up to me and said, "I will give you five bucks if you say to one of these people, "Your Mother is dead, under the piano." After I stopped laughing, she explained that no one would pay any attention to what the pastor's family said in the receiving line.

I, shockingly, did not take her up on her offer, but it was a great way to break the tension for me.

Soon after, my Dad preached a sermon on names and their meanings. I find names to be a curious milieu, in our culture. All of the children in the Robbins family have Biblical names, with exception of one. Yes, my name of Joel was not from the Bible. My parents were on their third child, with my Brothers only 13 months apart. Dad had taken the Texas State Bar Exam at UT Austin. When they received the results by mail, after a positive outcome, they began to look at the names. One of them was Joel. My Mother said, "Joel sounds like a good name." I therefore am named after a Jewish attorney. Not much a story. My name was not chosen by any intriguing story. It was simply chosen by a couple who was on their third baby and out of ideas.

When we Baptize, we only mention the first name. The reason for this encompasses Preventive Grace. God knows our name and our Heavenly Father is intrigued with our future story, wanting a relationship with us, before and after our Baptism. Have you ever considered the responsibility you have to God, with relation to your name? You have a name and God knows it and Loves You, no matter what!

Psalm 91:4, Because He holds fast to me in Love, I will deliver Him; I will protect Him, because He knows my name.

The Scripture tells us that God will not simply carry us, through our trials, but fortifies us within them.

Your name has a place with God, no matter what the origin or narrative. God not only knows it, He calls you by name. What's in a name? Everything!

Have a Blessed Week, Church!!!

Love You All!!!

Pastor Joel