

## HE SHALL BE CALLED 2

Pastor Steve 12/17/17

Many of you know that my wife works as a teacher's assistant at a local Christian school.

When one of the little boys in her class repeatedly insisted upon being called "Benjamin" rather than "Ben," she told him that she would do her best to honor his wishes, but couldn't guarantee him that everyone else would.

The story reminded me that if I was called by my full name, either the person addressing me didn't know me very well - or I was in trouble. It may be why I prefer to be called "Steve" rather than "Steven" yet today.

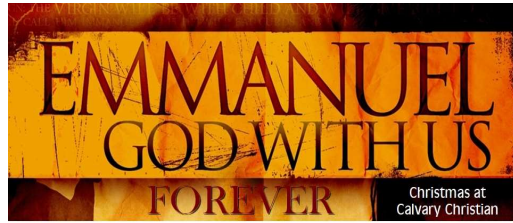
Of course, though we might choose a name for a child with great care, Nina was right. We cannot determine what they will be called by others.

Yet, just as God the Father predicted 100's of years before His son was born that He would be called "Emmanuel," He listed a host of other "names" as well. Consider the prophecy concerning Jesus found in **Isaiah 9:6**...

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Did Jesus' peers really call Him by such? Perhaps not. There's no record in the Gospels that anyone - not even His disciples - specifically acknowledged Him by those names while He walked the earth.

Yet, the more His followers walked with Him, the more they recognized that He was the One Isaiah had prophesied about. And, of course, they got more than "a little help" along the way.



For instance, give attention to these passages:

In **Matthew 16:13-17**, we read that the Heavenly Father revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, "*the Son of the Living God.*"

After Jesus performed miracles and taught amazing truths, the disciples confessed to Him in **John 6:68-69**: "*You have the very words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*"

In **John 14:9**, we see that shortly before His arrest, Jesus told Philip "*Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father.*"

Then, after asserting that though He was leaving, He would send "*another Counselor,*" Jesus said in **John 14:27**, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*"

You wouldn't have thought it'd take a rocket scientist to figure out the Jesus was the child Isaiah predicted would come. But truth is, without divine help, the wisest of men by the world's standards didn't get it.

Here are some more relevant concerns:

- "**Do we get it?**" Do we recognize Jesus for who He is?
- "**What do we call Jesus?**" Do we honor Him as the "**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,**" and "**Prince of Peace?**"
- "**Do our lives reflect our profession of faith?**" Do we look to Jesus for counsel? Do we trust in His mighty power? Do we rest in the peace that comes only from a relationship with our Father in heaven?

It occurs to me that we fulfill the prophecy of **Isaiah 9:6** whenever we call Jesus: "**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**"