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MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Why It’s Okay to Say “Jesus”

There is a growing movement of believers seeking to return to the roots of their faith. They are seeing the value in God’s commandments contained in the Torah, such as the Sabbath, feasts, and dietary instructions. They are seeking to know the Messiah in His historical context rather than reading their later denominational conceptions of Him into the Scriptures. They are even using the original Hebrew names for Jesus and the God of Israel—That is, Yeshua and Yahweh.

These are all great things that we of course encourage believers to pursue. However, on the fringes of this growing movement are some strange ideas that are frankly unbiblical.

One of these ideas is that it’s wrong to say “Jesus.”

Those who make this claim are often the same people who say that we ought not say words like “Lord” and “God.” The arguments in support of each of these claims are quite similar, as we’ll demonstrate shortly. We recommend watching our teachings, [Why It’s Okay to Say Lord](#) and [Why It’s Okay to Say “God”](#), for our responses to those particular claims.

Just to be clear again before we dive in, we support using the Hebrew name of our Messiah—the name by which He was known when He walked the earth—that is, Yeshua. It is our preference to use that name as you can tell from our teachings. But we do not believe that *it’s wrong* to say “Jesus.” And so that is the position that we will be defending in this teaching.

To begin, what reasons do some people give in support of their claim that it’s wrong to say Jesus? The first and most common assertion is that the name Jesus is secretly connected to the god Zeus, and therefore it is pagan and wrong for believers to use that name in reference to the Messiah.

A second common assertion is that it’s wrong to transliterate biblical names in general. But as we demonstrate in our teaching, [“Can We Transliterate Biblical Names?”](#), this assertion is simply false. For instance, [Saul](#) himself transliterated his name into Greek as Paul. Furthermore, a few hundred years before the time of our Messiah, a group of Jewish scribes translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. And in their translation they transliterated all of the names. Their translation is known as the Septuagint,

Commented [J@1M1]: I have to wonder how it went from Shaul in Hebrew to Saul and Paul in Greek

which is quoted extensively in the *Brit Hadashah*, or the New Testament.

If you want more information on this, see our teaching, "[Can We Transliterate Biblical Names?](#)".

Suffice it being said, there exists piles of evidence over two thousand years old demonstrating that there is nothing wrong with transliterating a name from one language into another. In fact, it appears to be the accepted best practice by the team of Jews who translated the Old Testament into Greek before Yeshua, and also every author of the New Testament written just after Yeshua.

For now, let's go back to the first reason for why some people assert that we must not say Jesus—that is, it is somehow connected to Zeus. Is there any validity to this assertion?

First, the reasoning behind the suggestion that Jesus is connected to Zeus is simply that the second syllable in Jesus—"sus"—sounds similar to Zeus. But this logic is flawed. As we demonstrated in our teaching, [Why It's Okay to Say God](#), it's erroneous to conclude that words in different languages are connected on the basis that the pronunciations are similar. For instance, the Hebrew word *ki*—"because"—has no connection to the English word *key*. And the Russian word *tut*—"here"—is certainly not connected to the English word *toot*. We could go on and on.

After being forced to concede this point, the anti-Jesus folks might say, "But Jesus comes from the Greek name *Iesous*, which is connected to Zeus! So the etymological roots of Jesus are indeed pagan and therefore it's wrong to refer to the Messiah by that name!"

This claim is easily debunked by simply looking at the two names in Greek...

This is how you spell Zeus in Greek: Ζεύς

This is how you spell Jesus in Greek: Ἰησοῦς

As you can see, the "sus" sound at the end of *Iesous* and Zeus are different Greek letters.

In "Jesus," the letters that form the "sus" sound are σοῦς. [sigma-omicron-epsilon-sigma]

In "Zeus," the letters are Ζεύς [zeta-epsilon-epsilon-sigma]

While the last two letters in both words are the same, the first two are not. Thus, the "sus" sound in *Iesous* does not spell Zeus.

In addition, the name Yeshua is found about 27 times in the Hebrew scriptures. It's the shortened version of the name *Yehoshua*, from which we get the name Joshua. In the Septuagint, the name Yeshua is transliterated into *Iesous*, the same name we find in the Greek New Testament for "Jesus."

This, too, is proof that *Iesous* has no connection to Zeus. Why? Because the Jewish scribes who translated the Septuagint certainly would have been well aware of the pagan god Zeus and therefore would not have transliterated *Yehoshua* as *Iesous* if they thought there was any sort of connection.

In conclusion, while we certainly support saying the Messiah's original name, Yeshua, and it is our preference to do so, there is simply no basis for the claim that it is wrong to say Jesus. While it is our preference and the preference others coming back into the roots of our faith to say Yeshua or Yehoshua,

it's still ok to say Jesus.

We pray that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything. Shalom!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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