



# *Lomax Online Bulletin*

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**Ministers:** Donnie Debord, Robert Pierce, Jeff Spears, Malcolm George

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## Announcements:

We are continuing to meet together online during this challenging time. We will continue to stream on YouTube and Facebook on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Primetimers will have class on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Contributions can be mailed to Lomax Church of Christ, PO Box 33 or made online ([Lomaxchurch.com/give](http://Lomaxchurch.com/give)).

Congratulations to Scott Mullinicks for receiving a scholarship to Freed-Hardeman University based on his participation in L2L and academic high achievement.

## Meditations from Malcolm:

*There are two scriptures that come to my mind during these trying times. Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." We all need Jesus, especially now. The second scripture is Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the lord." Won't it be wonderful when we can do this at Lomax? "We count everyone because everyone counts." "The son does always shine at Lomax."*

## Prayer Requests:

**Spencer Clark**, son of Adam & Maranda Clark, is Lewis County sixth grader who has bone cancer and will have thirty weeks of chemo treatments and two surgeries.

**Jody Bunch** is undergoing chemo treatments and is in a lot of pain.

**Tina Spears Gaither**, daughter of Janie Spears, requests prayers as she is not doing well.

**Harper Throneberry**, daughter of Barry and Rebecca Throneberry, had an appendix rupture and has had to spend multiple days in the hospital.

**Michael Gray** is in the nursing home with pneumonia and four broken ribs.

**Bessie Edwards** is home after her stay in the nursing home, and she would love to hear from anyone. Her number is 931-306-8112.

**Tornadoes in Chattanooga:** These crossed near Steve & Mitzi Edwards's home and damaged their property, but thankfully Steve & Mitzi are fine.

**Cyclones in Fiji:** Rocco and Jason's family are fine. The church in Fiji is collecting clothing and food for the people there.

## Calling On the Name of the Lord by Donnie DeBord

Preacher's Note: We continue to have some extra time on our hands. I hope you will be able to use our extended articles here for daily devotionals. Spread out the reading. Take one or two days to study the Scriptures. Then set aside another day to meditate on the applications. Finally, work on implementing one application for one day.

As you have been "sheltering in place," what have you been doing? Most of us are struggling with our routines, our goals, and our discipline. We have to be extra careful to be good time managers for God's glory.

The social isolation has forced us to find new ways of talking with people. We really do need other people—especially our church family. We need to be together. We need to hear a voice other than our own. We need to hear someone we love call us by name. There's something especially reassuring about hearing your loved ones call you by name. Remember how important it was to hear your name or your children's name at their high school graduation. We hope our graduates get to hear their name called as they walk across that special stage in their lives soon. We will all weep with them if they don't get that special experience.

Hopefully, we have spent some extra time in Bible study—listening to God and some extra time in prayer—talking to God. When you pray, what do you call God? Do you call him Father, Father God, Lord, Holy Father, our Father in heaven? What do you call God? What we call God can help us learn what we think about God, and the names of God in the Bible can teach us a lot about who God is. In the ancient world, the name of a person describes the character of the person. We do this with nicknames. We also name our children with the hope that they will live up to their namesakes. What does God teach us about himself with the different names he has in Scripture?

### The Names of God: "I Am"

Moses asked God what he should be called. God said his name is "I AM" (Ex. 3:14). When we read that in English, we expect the rest of the sentence. Around lunch time we say, "I am hungry." Then we say, "I am full." At night we say, "I am sleepy." God said, "I AM." What does that mean? It means that he is. What is God? God is the fullness of life—he is essentially absolute in every good way. John said of Jesus, "In him was life" (Jn. 1:4). This doesn't just mean that Jesus was alive. It means that Jesus is the fullness of life. His nature is to exist in every good way with perfect infiniteness.

This is hard for us to understand. We shouldn't expect to understand the nature of our Creator. We are just creatures. One of the reasons this is hard for us to understand is that we

live in a world which depends on other things for existence. We are here because of our parents. They lived because of our grandparents. Our grandparents lived because of our great grandparents and so on. God doesn't depend on anything for his life—he just is life. Paul said it this way, “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:25). God is the fountain of all things—the very fountain of life.

### When We Call God the “I AM”—the LORD

What we learn about God as the “I AM” is not just some speculative journey into high academic theology. Our God is the “I Am” and that is directly related to our piety—our life of worship in his presence.

1. First, when we remember God is the “I AM,” we remember that he is. God really does exist. We serve a living God not a dead philosopher teacher. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us of the importance of God as the “I AM”—“Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” In other words, “he that would come to God must believe that he is the I AM.

2. We also should be reminded that God, the I AM, is life and the source of life. We have been struggling with the coronavirus because we fear death and low quality of life. The only source of life and quality living is God. Everything else depends upon him for existence. If we depend on these dependent things, we are like those drinking from a stream downstream from the cattle. Go to the source.

3. As we struggle with the constant changes around us, we realize how much we need an anchor to keep us from pacing anxiously through life. Everything in creation is in a constant state of change. Physics, in the second law of thermodynamics, teaches us that everything in creation is in a constant state of decay. Why would we pursue decaying things to sustain us? Go to God—the eternal unchanging I AM.