

- ***Read Colossians 3:12-17*** As the Apostle Paul writes this letter to the brethren in Colossae stressing to them the divine nature of Christ and what that means to them in their faith, he begins to put the rubber to the road. He begins to put all of this into practical application as we just read from **Colossians 3:12-17** and even beyond these verses we see what it means to live a life that is according to Christ. It means that we come to possess the godly attributes that are listed in **v.12-15**. It means that we joyfully and gratefully sing praises to the Lord and to one another. (**v.16**) It means that in everything that we do, we do it with thanksgiving in our hearts to God, and we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**v.17**)
- Nearly all of those things are pretty straightforward and easy to understand. But what about doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus? What does it mean to do all things in the name of Jesus? Some would say that as long as we are motivated by love then something is in the name of Jesus. Others would say that as long as something is a good thing then it is in the name of Jesus. Still others would say that as long as we associate the action with Jesus then it is all well and good. These things sound acceptable, but sure we see the flaw in them, right? those things that people call good or in the name of love are often left up to their subjective reasoning. What might be good and in the name of love in our eyes might not line up with what Jesus expects. So still...what does it mean to do something in the name of Jesus?
- Let me suggest to you that doing things in the name of Jesus means that we do a) things that Jesus has made it possible for us to do and b) things that Jesus has given us the authority to. Not all things that we can do in this world are a result of what Jesus has done for us. Not all things that we can do in this world are things that please Jesus. Let me offer up to you this morning 4 things that we can do in the name of Jesus. 4 things that Jesus empowers us to do through His life on this earth. 4 things that we can do that please Him.

I. We are forgiven of our sins.

- A. It is through the actions of Jesus that we have the ability to have our sins forgiven. Through His sacrifice and sufferings He gives us the ability to be forgiven. (**Isa 53**)
- B. The Shedding of the blood of Christ is what gives us the forgiveness of sins. (**I John 1:7**)
- C. But, it must also be mentioned that the forgiveness of sins is only available to those who are willing to walk in the light and be in fellowship with Jesus. This means that we must abide by the gospel of Jesus. We must be baptized in His name along with the Father and the Spirit. (**Matt. 28:19**) Again, what does it mean to be baptized in the name of something? It must be done in the way prescribed.
- D. Baptism must be accompanied with faith, repentance, and commitment to Jesus as the Son of God. (**Acts 2:38-42**)
- E. We have the tremendous blessing of forgiveness supplied to us by Jesus, but it can only be attained through the way that He has prescribed.

II. We overcome the temptations of this world.

- A. Through the life that He lived on this earth, we have a perfect example of how we ought to overcome the temptations of Satan as he goes about on this earth seeking some poor soul to devour. (**I Pet. 5:8**)
- B. When we consider how Jesus approached temptations, we can see exactly how we ought to approach them, as well. With every temptation that was presented to Jesus by Satan in **Matthew 4:1-11**, we see Jesus responding with "it is written." The Son of God Himself did not lean fully on Himself, but He leaned upon what was written within Scripture. He leaned upon His heavenly Father for strength to overcome the temptations.
- C. Jesus supplies us with the encouragement that we can overcome, but we must also recognize that overcoming temptation will only be accomplished by following the pattern laid down before us by Jesus. The pattern is to follow the way of escape that is laid before us by God. (**I Cor. 10:13**)
- D. Jesus expects for us to overcome temptations and we can do it because of His example of leaning upon our Heavenly Father and His wisdom that is found within His Word. (**Phil. 4:13**)

III. We commune with our Father through prayer.

- A. While men have always had the ability to pray to God, Christians are able to do so through and in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (**Matt. 6:9-13**), and through His death, the covenant established through it, and His resurrection we are made children of God who can take the teachings of Jesus and use them when we pray.

- B. The fact that Jesus gave His disciples the model prayer ought to stress to us the fact that He desires that we pray in a particular way. He desires that we express our respect and reverence for who God is. He desires that we be spiritually focused with our prayer. He desires that all things be done by the will of His father. **(Luke 22:42)**
- C. So therefore, when we pray as Jesus prayed then we are praying in the name of Jesus. He has given us the ability to approach our Father as His children, and then He expects that we pray in the correct manner. The result is fantastic on all ends. Our dependence on and trust in God is shown, He is glorified, and we are helped to be what we ought to be in this life. **(I John 5:14,15)**

IV. We gain the victory over death.

- A. The final victory that those in Christ will experience is that victory that will happen in the last day. And again, this final victory is made possible because of what Jesus did while on this earth. He was not held down by death, but He foretold that He would overcome it and establish His Kingdom. **(Matt. 16:18)**
- B. Because of His victory over death we have the ability to be raised in the same way. The Apostle Paul makes the argument for our resurrection because of the resurrection of Jesus in **I Corinthians 15**.
- C. He first argues that Jesus was raised and uses the eye witnesses as evidence for such. **(I Cor. 15:3-8)** He then makes the logical argument concerning Jesus's resurrection and our resurrection. If Jesus is not raised then we have no chance of being raised. **(I Cor. 15:12-19)** Then he dismisses that and establishes that Jesus has been raised and we will be as well. **(I Cor. 15:20-26)**
- D. Paul finishes off the chapter by describing that day of resurrection and victory for the faithful in Christ. **(I Cor. 15:50-57)** This is all made possible by Jesus, but we must again be reminded that this will only happen if we do things in this life in the way that Jesus prescribes. We must be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord. **(I Cor. 15:58)**
- E. Jesus gives us the opportunity to be raised because He was raised, but we will only be raised to that glorious life eternal if we do things according to the will of Jesus.

I wonder how often we take for granted the many things that we can do in the name of Jesus without considering the fact that we are only able to do them because Jesus made those things possible. May it never be said that we take Jesus and his actions for granted. He has made these blessings available to us, and He deserves appreciation and respect. But may we also always be sure to do these things in the way Jesus has prescribed. May God help us to appreciate these blessings and use them as we ought to. May Jesus be praised for we are all truly blessed through everything that He has done for us.