

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“In the Name of the Lord”

By Derek Long

Colossians 3:17 teaches us, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (NKJV). What does it mean to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”? Is this some sort of special phrase we attach to the things we do to make them pleasing to God or does it refer to something else?

The Bible shows people who did things and attached Jesus' name to it but were not approved by God. Acts 19 tells about some Jewish exorcists who attempt to cast out evil spirits by using the name of Jesus (Acts 19:13-14). Such a practice did not work though because these individuals did not truly possess authority from Christ to cast out evil spirits (Acts 19:15-17). Jesus' name was magnified by what happened to these Jewish exorcists because it showed one cannot just apply His name to what one wishes to do and think He automatically approves of it. Another example of people who appealed to the name of the Lord but were disapproved by the Lord are those whom Jesus describes in Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not

prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (NKJV). One cannot attach the name of Jesus to some action they are engaged in and think such guarantees God’s approval when Jesus has not actually authorized the action they are engaged in.

Does the phrase “in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38, NKJV), “in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48, NKJV), or “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5, NKJV) constitute a formula which must be said before baptizing a person? If these phrases form a formula which must be said before baptizing an individual, one would have to know what particular wording must be used. Do we use the wording of Acts 2:38, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5 or Matthew 28:19? The fact the exact same wording is not used in all of these places should help us understand there is not a specific statement which must be said prior to baptizing one into Christ. Is it appropriate to describe what we are doing so the person being baptized and those who may be present understand what is taking place? Yes! Would it be appropriate to use a phrase like, “I am baptizing you in the name of Jesus Christ”? Yes! Baptizing someone “in the name of the Lord Jesus” though would really involve baptizing someone based upon the teaching and authorization of Jesus Christ as well as into a relationship with Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:27). Who authorizes the practice of baptizing in water the penitent believer for the remission of their sins? Jesus does! Therefore, baptizing the penitent believer in water for the remission of sins is something one does “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name? Jesus told the disciples on the night He was going to be betrayed they would start asking the Father in His name (John 14:13-14; 16:23-24, 26-27). Ephesians 5:20 speaks of Christians, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NKJV). Praying in Jesus’ name should remind us of the fact the way we have access to the Father is through the Son (Ephesians 2:18). Jesus is our Mediator and High Priest (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16). Jesus makes it possible for us to approach the Father’s throne in prayer and have our requests heard. Again, one might notice praying in Jesus’ name involves praying with the realization Jesus has authorized and made it possible for us to address the Father. It is because of the person of Jesus Christ (who He is, what He had done, the authority He has, etc.) which makes it possible for us to address the Father in prayer.

The Bible mentions other things we do “in the name of the Lord.” Preaching is said to be done “in the name of the Lord” (Acts 9:27-29). Preaching that is done “in the name of the Lord” is preaching which is authorized by Christ. Church discipline is carried out “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6). When a congregation follows God’s pattern for how to deal with a Christian who persists in sin, they are acting with the authority of Christ behind their action. In fact, a failure to deal with a brother who refuses to repent is a failure to submit to the authority of Christ. Doing all things “in the name of the Lord Jesus” means everything we do must be authorized by Him for He possesses all authority (Matthew 28:18) and He is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24).