

WHAT IS WRONG WITH JESUS?

Greetings precious people, this week we will look at a subject that asks: what is wrong with the name Jesus. As tolerance has become the “all important banner” it is obvious that tolerance has another side to it. One can talk about a “generic god” with out any problem but don’t dare mention the name of Jesus Christ. Over the years I have spoken to many people about God and most of the time they tolerate the conversation but the moment the name of Jesus is mentioned they become intolerant and quickly want to change the subject.

When prayer is allowed at a public forum or government meeting, any reference to the name or person of Jesus Christ is strictly forbidden. One can use the name of Allah; Mohamed; Buddha; etc. because we do not want to “offend” anyone (except Christians). It is interesting that the same people that are restricting the use of the name of Jesus do not give any thought to using the name of Jesus to curse or to express anger or shock. This by the way is what the Word of God the Bible refers to as blasphemy. (Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain).

So one must ask, what is so offensive about the name of Jesus Christ that such rules and regulations have been established? The answer is really quite simple yet ever so profound. It is because of all that the name of Jesus infers.

The claims that Jesus made are very narrow and even to some intolerant. Claims such as: Matthew 7:13-23, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ... Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "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!"

John 14:6, “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Acts 4:10-12, “Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Philippians 2:8-11, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

That Jesus would claim that there is forgiveness of sins in no other than Him; no opportunity to go to Heaven but through Him; that there is only one truth and He is it; that He is the giver of life: that He is the judge of all and much more! This is what offends people.

People like to think that “many ways” lead to Heaven; that they can do some “good works” to atone for their sin; that what is true and right to them is good enough; people are offended by the “narrowness” of God’s way; etc. The Bible makes clear that there is a way that seems right unto man but that way leads to death. God gives man the right and power to choose, to choose Him or reject Him. Unfortunately for many, the choice is to reject Him. To reject Jesus Christ is to seal ones own fate for eternity which leads to Hell.

I do hope that you do not choose to be ashamed of the name of Jesus instead boldly proclaim His Name.

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