

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Greetings precious people, last week we looked at “what is wrong with the name Jesus”. This week we will look at what is in the name of Jesus.

Jesus said in John 14:13-14, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” Many have erroneously believed that they can pray anything their little heart desires and at the end of that prayer tack on to it “in Jesus name” and God is obligated to give them whatever they ask as if “in Jesus name” holds some magical power.

It must be understood what the significance of “in Jesus name” holds. In our everyday life a person’s name can speak volumes about that person. Think of a person that is close to you or well known to you. When that person’s name is mentioned, a number of thoughts come to your mind. If the person is honest and trustworthy and of good reputation then you hold that person in high regard and various admirable character traits come to your mind.

On the other hand, when a person’s name is mentioned that is dishonest, a liar, and a thief thoughts of apprehension and caution come to your mind. A person is known by his or her name. Not too many years ago a much larger number of our society than today used to have a “good name”, they were men and women of their word and you could trust what they said. There was no need for contracts and lawyers to be involved in agreements, people were good for their word because they cared about how their name was thought of by others.

In a similar way, the “name of Jesus” identifies Him with His character; what He believes; stands for. So when Jesus said if you pray for anything in My Name, He was in essence saying that when we pray anything that goes in line with His character; what He stands for; in other words in accordance to His will, we will have that which we ask for.

The apostle John admonishes us with these very words in his first epistle. In 1 John 5:13-15, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

The Bible, the Word of God is the best commentary on the Bible. If you want to understand the Bible you MUST study it by comparing scripture with scripture allowing the Word of God to explain itself.

There is also great power in the name of Jesus. The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 2:9-11, “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.”

Jesus said concerning the power of His name in Mark 16:15-18, “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will

speaking with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Dear one, do you know the name of Jesus; His Person; character?

Drew Macintyre is pastor of Calvary "Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or ccalpine@juno.com