

# “IN JESUS’ NAME”

It is disturbing to so frequently hear of chaplains and others being cautioned against praying “in Jesus’ name,” supposedly so as not to offend those of religious persuasions that do not believe in Jesus. Living in a country that was founded upon the teachings and principles of Jesus Christ as recorded in our Bibles, it is difficult to understand how, in such a short time, we have become such a pluralistic, multicultural nation that the very mention of the name of Jesus becomes anathema. While there is more involved in praying or doing anything in Jesus’ name than simply repeating the words, “in Jesus name,” yet it is a public acknowledgement, as well as a reminder to ourselves of the importance of the name of Jesus as we would approach the throne of God. Some would excuse omitting reference to Jesus by saying something like, “I pray to God directly.” Some may, indeed, attempt to do whatever they want, but the question is, “According to the Bible, what works?”

The Bible says, “*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*” (Colossians 3:17). Jesus Himself said, “*No man comes to the Father but by me*” (John 14:6). Some may find that to be narrow-minded and even offensive, but truth is often both. The fact is that true Christian faith regards Jesus as our one-and-only mediator between sinful man and sinless God. In writing to the young evangelist, Timothy, the apostle Paul made it plain that “*There is **one mediator** between God and man, the man Christ Jesus*” (1 Timothy 2:5). No priest, preacher nor pope stands between you and God. Not even angels or “saints” who have departed from this life are worthy as our intercessors. Paul made it plain: there is one mediator between man and God through whom, as Christians, we must approach Him.

It should be noted, however, that the employment of the name of Jesus was not to be seen simply as a phrase tacked on to the end of a prayer. Paul’s admonition was for the name of Jesus to be honored in both “word” and “deed” (Col. 3:17). The basic thought is that not only must we approach the heavenly Father’s presence through the virtue and authority of Christ alone, but that we also be cognizant of His virtue and authority in our personal lives and in the conduct of His spiritual body, the church. Increasingly, however, we see His authority set aside as man insists on the right for self-government, apart from God. As erring Israel of old, of whom it was said, “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6), political correctness has surpassed scriptural correctness even in the pulpits of America. One example among many is the acceptance of same-sex marriage by many preachers and denominations. Conforming to the world’s standards, they would be hard-put to find authority for such in Jesus Christ and His word.

--Ron