

THE SOWER
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Have you visited our web site lately? (www.Arthurcoc.com)

“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

A VOICE FROM THE PAST--

"I heard a fine example today, namely that His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each and every one to fear God, to put away the wickedness that has set in and become so general, and to practice the Christian virtues. From all appearances, this gentleman does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God's Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness. Therefore, the Lord God has also singularly, yea, marvelously, preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils, ambuscades, fatigues, etc., and has hitherto graciously held him in His hand as a chosen vessel." (Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, *Notebook of a Colonial Clergyman*, p. 195)

CANCER IS SO LIMITED

When Dan Richardson lost his battle with cancer, the following piece was distributed at his memorial service.

Cancer is limited.

It cannot cripple love.

It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot eat away peace.
It cannot destroy confidence.
It cannot kill friendship.
It cannot shut out memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot reduce eternal life.
It cannot quench the Spirit.
It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.

You cannot deny that you have the disease, but you can deny despair from taking control. Wherever you are, whatever your circumstances, call for God's daily delivery of salvation, strength and grace.

(Continued next column)

Each morning, slam the door on despair. If you don't, it will slip in and rob you. And you'll soon find a peace missing.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”—John 14:27.

--House to House/Heart to Heart

A BIT OF HUMOR—

The minister's little six-year-old girl had been so naughty during the week that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't go to the Sunday

School picnic on Saturday. Then, when the day came, her mother felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind. When she told the little girl she could go to the picnic, the child's reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness.

"What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go to the picnic," her mother said.

"It's too late!" the little girl said. "I've already prayed for rain!"

QUOTABLE QUOTES—

"Sometimes the Lord calms the storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His children."

"'Vegetarian' is an old Indian word for 'bad hunter'."

"A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour."

MEETING AGAIN! Last Sunday we resumed meeting at Arthur. We only had our regular "worship service," however, not the class. Doris was not able to attend, and due to her problem sometimes in rising from a chair, I felt the need to return to help her when needed. Hopefully she will be able to be with us soon, and we'll plan on both the regular service and class. Please keep her in your prayers. **Also on our prayer list:** Ruby Bradd (Clinton, cancer treatments); Wayne Polk (Shelbyville minister, health problems); victims of the Covid-19 virus and the nationwide looting and burning of businesses.