



How Much Do You Do “In Jesus” Name?

DISCOVERING GOD’S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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A lot of religious people talk about doing things “in Jesus’ name.” That’s great! That should be part of the vocabulary of people who are interested in serving God. Yet, it is not enough just to talk about doing things “in Jesus’ name.” Instead, we must actually understand what this means – and evaluate how much we are actually willing to do “in Jesus’ name.”

1) What it means to do something “in Jesus’ name.” There are many passages in the Bible that talk about doing things in Jesus’ name. For instance, Acts 19:5 says that some Ephesians were baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Similarly, Jesus (after claiming to have all authority in heaven and on earth) instructed His apostles to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:18-20).

To do something “in the name of” someone else is to do the thing by that person’s authority. Thus, the thing being done has the approval of that individual. Likewise, to do something “in Jesus’ name” is to have Jesus’ approval for the thing being done. It is acting according to His authority. Sadly, there are many things that are claimed to be done “in Jesus’ name” that do not actually have His approval or authority behind it! For, the only way that we can truly do anything “in Jesus’ name” is if we can find authority for it in the word of God! Still, the question remains: How much are you interested in doing “in Jesus’ name”?

2) Many things? There are a lot of religious people in the world today who are interested in doing some or many things “in the name of Jesus.” That is, they are interested in professing Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and having the hope of eternal salvation through Him. Then, they recognize that they should listen to Him in some or many areas of their lives. So, they do *some* or *many* things according to the teachings of the Bible. Yet, listen to what Jesus said about those who would even do *many* wonderful works in His name.

“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!’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

3) All things? Clearly, we can see that doing *some* or *many* things in Jesus’ name is not sufficient in following Jesus Christ and obtaining eternal salvation. Instead, Jesus clearly desires full obedience to the will of God from our lives. The only way that we can do this is to make sure that everything we do, think, and say is done “in the name of Jesus”!

In fact, this is clearly what God expects from us. Colossians 3:17 says, “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.” So, true discipleship is not an “on-again, off-again” kind of thing. Instead, it is a complete commitment to doing *all* things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (who has all authority)!

How much are you doing “in Jesus’ name”? Are you content with just doing *some* or *most* of what you do “in Jesus’ name”? Or, are you fully dedicated to Jesus Christ so that *everything* that you do, think, and say will be done “in Jesus’ name”? It will matter on the Day of Judgment!

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