

Morning Sermon May 19, 2019
"Praying in Jesus' Name" John 16:23-24

I. *Praying in Jesus' Name means praying with the Authority of Christ's Merit –*

1. *Authority based on Who Jesus is –*

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you. John 16:23

A. *God's beloved Son –*

⁵... behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" Matthew 17:5

B. *He is the One we need to believe in!*

³⁵ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:35-36

C. *He is our God-Man Mediator -*

⁵ For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,* 1 Timothy 2:5

2. *Authority based on What Jesus did –*

²⁴ **Until now** you have asked nothing in My Name. Ask, and you will receive,... John 16:24

A. *The Words "until now" have to be understood in the Jesus-is-about-to-die-and-His-disciples-are-sad-about-that-fact context, in this context:*

- *The Disciples are so sad they are not comprehending any advantage of the cross –*
- *Jesus, is adding praying-in-His-Name / Receiving Grace to the list of things they had cause to rejoice in, including many mansions, Jesus preparing a place, the Holy Spirit's coming*

B. *Jesus' death on the cross was prerequisite to all these things -*
⁵ For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,* ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all...

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5

Before Jesus died on the cross no one could come boldly before God, but now -

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

II. *Praying in Jesus' Name means praying for things consistent with Christ's Mission – What is Christ's Mission?*

1. *To glorify God, to make Him known –*

A. *This is what Jesus taught us should be part of all prayer, one of the first priorities true prayer is the hallowing, honoring, glorifying of God's Name*

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your Name. Matthew 6:9**

B. *This is what Jesus Himself did and prayed –*

¹⁷ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, John 17:1

⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4

C. *Glorifying God was not only Christ's mission, but it is reason and purpose behind both our creation and our redemption –*

- *All created things were made for His glory –*

¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11

¹⁰ LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your Name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1

- *We were also redeemed to glorify Him, to live for His Name -*
¹⁷ **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.**
Colossians 3:17

2. *Another part of Jesus mission is to save lost men and women –*

A. *Jesus was Named for His mission to save us from our sins –*

²¹ **And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”** Matthew 1:21

B. *No other NAME has saving power –*

¹⁰ **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.**

¹¹ **This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’**¹² **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” Acts 4:10-12

3. *To build the church / God’s Kingdom, praying in Christ’s Name means your prayers (and even your life) would be consistent with such things, as you are on His side ...*

¹⁰ **Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.**
Matthew 6:10

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Matthew 6:33

III. *Praying in Jesus’ Name means praying in a way consistent with Christ’s Mind –*

⁵ **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,** ⁶ **who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,** ⁷ **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** ⁸ **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.** ⁹ **Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,** ¹⁰ **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,** ¹¹ **and *that* every tongue should**

confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:5-11

1. *Christ’s humble, ready-to-take the cross mindset was seen in His own prayers before taking the cross –*

³² **Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”** ³³ **And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.**

³⁴ **Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even to death*. Stay here and watch.”** ³⁵ **He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.** ³⁶ **And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”**

Mark 14:32-37

2. *Christ’s extreme obedience to God results in the end, in the exaltation of His Name! Notice the two parts:*

A. *Extreme obedience -*

⁸ **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.**

B. *Eternal Name exaltation -*

⁹ **Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,** ¹⁰ **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,** ¹¹ **and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** Philippians 2:5-11

C. *Obedience to God, a desire to keep God’s Law is absolutely required for answer to prayer / praying in Christ’s name –*

⁹ **One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.** Proverbs 28:9

If Jesus’ Name is a name above every other name, because of His extreme obedience, you cannot really say you are praying according to Jesus’ exalted Name when you are disobeying and / or ignoring God’s Word!

The Rebel is exalted in a sinful, ungodly world, yet in Heaven, in the after-life, obedience will be exalted and rewarded!

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