

A DISCUSSION ON WHAT'S IN A NAME

A few weeks ago, I was asked by one of our World Bible School students, WHAT is so important about the NAME of a church? When we discuss the NAME of the Church that Jesus Christ built, we are then discussing a Bible Subject. So all of our discussion will be based solely on what The Bible says. If it is not, it will be a total waste of time, BECAUSE on Judgment Day, man's thoughts will have no part in God's judgment. Let's read it in John 12:48.

John 12:48, *"He that rejected me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."*

One of the most important subjects that we can study in this day and time is, by what NAME should the Church that Jesus Christ purchased with His Own Blood be called? The Verse that we will use as our text is Matthew 16:18.

Matthew 16:18, *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon This rock I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

If we would all just use our own Common Sense, this would be the Only Verse that we would need to answer our question, but as we know there are over 3,000 different churches in the world today, and all of them are being called by different names. Please listen carefully, if we were all Truth seekers, it would be Impossible for this to happen, would it not?

Question - How many Degrees in Education, do we have to have, before MY CHURCH, can be changed into many names?

Doesn't This Really Explain What Can Happen When We Fail To Be Truth Seekers?

This discussion should be so Plain and Simple, that the one's with the least amount of Education, can easily understand what name The Church that Jesus Christ built should be called. We can read this in Isaiah 35:8.

Isaiah 35:8, *"And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."*

There is a Verse in Romans 3:4 that will serve as our Number One guideline in

this discussion.

Romans 3:4, The Apostle Paul says, “*God forbid: yea, let God be True, but every man a liar.*” (Question - Why does Paul say this? Answer is found in the rest of this Verse.) “*THAT THOU MIGHTEST BE JUSTIFIED IN THY SAYINGS, AND MIGHTEST OVERCOME WHEN THOU ART JUDGED.*”

It is of the Utmost Importance, for each one of us to memorize this Verse and then let it be our guideline, in all of our studies, and if we don't, there is Only one other course left to follow, and that is, man's (think so's), and this leads to Spiritual Death. We have already read that in John 12:48 and Romans 3:4.

FACT - There is a religious movement going on in the World today that teaches, “Lets Remove Everything from The Church that OFFENDS Other People”, so all churches can be unified and worship God together. And it does not stop here. Lets notice the next step. “Let's Remove Christ's Name From Our Buildings”, because it is OFFENSIVE to the denominational churches.

Question - Who's decision is this, God's or man's?

Answer - It is man's.

Question - How do we know this?

Answer - Because it cannot be found in The Bible.

Let's not forget our Question that our discussion is on, and that is, What is so Important about the Name of a church. Our search will not be in books that man has written. Our search will begin and end in The Bible. God's Wisdom will give us all the right answers that we will need without using Any of man's wisdom to instill doubt in God's answers. Men have successfully done this in about every Bible Truth that we can bring up. No wonder The Apostle Paul said in Romans 3:4, “*Let God be True, but every man a liar*”. That is exactly what we will do, in this discussion.

There is so much Truth on this subject, in The Bible, it is difficult to find a place to begin. For example the name Christ, is written over 500 times in the New Testament. That alone should show every open minded person, just how important, the Name of Christ must be. Lets read what Jesus says in John 4:23-24. Verse 23, “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*”

Verse 24, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

In our discussion on this subject, we must notice the importance that God places on Truth. We read in John 14:6 where Jesus says.

John 14:6, *“I Am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: No man cometh unto The Father, but by Me.”*

Question - Did we hear what Jesus says about how important a Name is?

Lets listen carefully. Jesus Christ is The Way. Jesus Christ is The Truth. Jesus Christ is The Life. No man, cometh unto The Father, but through the name, Jesus Christ.

Question - According to this Verse that we have just read, WHAT does it do, to remove Jesus Christ’s name from our church building?

Answer - It doesn’t take any Degrees in Education to answer this question does it? It removes The Way, it removes The Truth, and it removes The Life.

Question - WHAT does that leave?

Answer - IT LEAVES A MAN MADE CHURCH, with No Way, No Truth, and No Life. That means IT IS DEAD, would it not? This is what the wisdom of man leads to.

This Verse should really help us to better understand what Jesus said in Luke 10:21.

Luke 10:21, *“I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in Thy sight.”*

In our present time, we can easily see, where worldly wisdom is leading us, and that is Away from the name, Christ. We just read where Jesus says that No man can come to The Father EXCEPT through Me.

Question - WHAT does that do, to our prayer life, if there is Nothing in a name?

Answer - Lets read Ephesians 5:20 and see if there is Anything in a name.

Ephesians 5:20, *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God*

and The Father (Now Listen Closely), in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Question - WHAT does that do to our prayer life, if we believe this saying that is being used by a lot of religious men of our day, and that is, WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Answer - We just read where Jesus says, that No man can come to God in prayer EXCEPT through the Name of Christ. Wouldn't that mean our prayers to God, would get no higher than the ceilings of our buildings, IF we remove His Name?

There is One thing about God's Word, it is very easy, for the open minded believer to understand. According to the Words of Jesus, His Words are only hard to understand to those, who refuse to hear His Words, John 8:43.

John 8:43, *“Why do ye not understand My speech? even because ye cannot hear My Word.”*

When we are guilty of saying what is so important about the Name of a church, Lets think about some other Verses on the Name of Jesus Christ.

1. Matthew 16:16, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
2. Matthew 23:10, *“For one is your master, even Christ.”*
3. John 1:17, *“Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ.”*
4. Acts 10:36, *“Peace comes by Jesus Christ.”*
5. Acts 15:11, *“Through Grace, we are saved by Jesus Christ.”*
6. Romans 3:24, *“Redemption is in Jesus Christ.”*
- 7, Romans 5:6, *“Jesus Christ died for us.”*

Question - Those who are removing Christ from their buildings, and those who are asking, what is so important about the Name a church wears must not be reading their Bibles, because if they were, when we read these Verses, wouldn't they know immediately how important the Name of a church is?

Question - Why would any one want to wear any other name than the Name of the One who died for him?

In all seriousness, what do we really believe that Jesus Christ thinks about this movement that is going on today, about what name the obedient believers should wear? If we are hearing voices like, what a great way to keep peace and harmony in all churches, is to just remove the name Christ from all of our church buildings. These voices are not coming from God.

It is not Jesus' voice that we are hearing. 1 Peter 5:8 says.

1 Peter 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

There is only one sure way to know whose voice we are listening to, and that is, to have our minds programmed with the Words of God. If we are not Truth seekers, satan will find a way to get into our hearts with the wisdom of men. We must always be alert to the divisive ways of the devil. Jesus tells us in John 10:4, *“That His sheep hears His voice.”*

8. Romans 6:9, *“Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.”*

9. Romans 6:23, *“Eternal Life, is through Jesus Christ.”*

Question - Are we still listening?

10. Romans 7:24-25, *“We were delivered from “The Law of Sin and Death” through Jesus Christ.”*

11. Romans 10:4, *“Christ is the end of “The Law.”*

12. Romans 14:10, *“We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

Question - How do we think those people who have removed the Name of Christ from their church buildings are going to feel? Won't that be embarrassing?

They may be like Jesus said in Luke 23:30. *“Then shall they begin TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, FALL ON US; AND TO THE HILLS, COVER US.”*

13. 1 Corinthians 1:24, *“Christ the Power and Wisdom of God.”*

14. 1 Corinthians 4:15, *“We are begotten in Christ.”*

15. Matthew 3:11, *“Jesus Christ baptizes us, with the Holy Spirit.”*

16. Romans 8:9, *“If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”*

Question - What kind of condition does this leave the person in, that has removed the Name of Christ from their church building?

Answer - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. If we will read the first Three Chapters of 1 Corinthians with an open mind, we will find out, without a shadow of doubt, that 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 are said to the ones who removed the Name of Christ from the Church, and begin calling themselves by the names of the men who had taught them about Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,*

and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Verse 17, *"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; (WHY?) for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

Lets read 1 Corinthians 3:9. *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."*

Question - Why did Paul write this strong rebuke here, when he said, *"him shall God destroy"*?

Question - Who is Paul saying this to?

Answer - Those who have defiled the temple of God.

The answer to this question has been overlooked a way too long. This is the most important question in The New Testament for Christians to answer. It is so important that the Holy Spirit of God has the Apostle Paul, to use the first Four Chapters in 1 Corinthians, answering this question.

Now lets continue our discussion by beginning at 1 Corinthians 1:1. It is of the utmost importance as we begin reading, to remove everything that we have heard men teach on these first Four Chapters, and listen solely to what the Apostle Paul teaches. We must notice that Paul mentions the Name of Christ, 10 times in the first 10 Verses.

Question - Why do we suppose Paul did this?

Answer - Because, he wanted to show them how important, the Name of Christ is compared to men's names.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:1, *"Paul was called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ"*
2. Verse 2, *"You Corinthians were sanctified in Christ."*
3. Verse 3, *"Grace and peace came from God and Jesus Christ."*
4. Verse 4, *Again Paul chooses to say, "the grace of God, which was given to you by Jesus Christ."*

5. Verse 5, *"We are enriched by Him."*
6. Verse 6, *"The testimony of Christ was confirmed in you."*
7. Verse 7, *"You Corinthians are waiting for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ."*
8. Verse 8, *"That you may be blameless in the day of Jesus Christ."*
9. Verse 9, *"You Corinthians are called to fellowship by Jesus"*

Christ.”

10. Verse 10, Paul says, *“I beg you in the Name of Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you.*

Paul has brought all of these great things to the attention of the Church, to help them see the error of their ways, by calling themselves by any name, EXCEPT Christ. Paul has given them their answer in these first 10 Verses, that Christ is the Only One, and not man, who has done all of these important things for them. We do not read anymore about this problem.

Lets not forget what 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says.

1 Timothy 3:16, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, (NOW LETS NOTICE) and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Verse 17, *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

Question - How long will these instructions from the Holy Spirit be in effect?

Answer - Matthew 24:35, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away but My Words shall not pass away.”*

Question - So what does these Verses mean to us?

Answer - It means that these instructions given here by Paul will last till the End of the World. In every Generation, it will always remain the same.

The reason the Holy Spirit mentions the Name of Christ, 10 times in the first 10 Verses is no accident. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what He is doing. He wants these Christians at Corinth to know just how important Christ is to the Church, and then when he points out to them the error of their ways, it will be much easier for them to understand what He is saying to them.

Question - What is, this error, that the Holy Spirit wants to point out to these Corinthians?

Answer - 1 Corinthians 1:11. *“For it hath been declared unto me of you my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.”*

In the next 4 Verses, we will read about the first time that we find denominational practices mentioned in The New Testament.

1 Corinthians 1:12, *“Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.”*

Lets remember what the Holy Spirit said in Verse 10.

1 Corinthians 1:10, *“That you all speak the same thing, (WHY) that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and the same judgment.”*

Now lets read 1 Corinthians 1;13. *“Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”*

We need to see the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this Verse. He is going to ask them some questions, and their own answers to these questions, will point out the error of their ways. Lets listen closely to these questions.

Question #1. Is Christ divided?

I think we all know that The New Testament, was first written in the Greek Language. So what does the word DIVIDED mean in the Greek?

In the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, this word DIVIDED means:

1. To part,
2. To apportion,
3. To disunite,
4. To differ,
5. Difference between given parts.

In the New World’s Dictionary this word DIVIDED means:

1. Separated into parts,
2. Disagreeing,
3. Differing in opinions.

So we can easily see, that Both gives the Same meaning.

Answer - Their answer would be, **NO**, to the first question.

Question #2. Was Paul crucified for you?

Answer - Their answer would be, **NO**, to the second question.

Question #3. Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Answer - Their answer would be, **NO**, to the third question.

Isn't it amazing how the Holy Spirit can settle a serious problem like this, and not cause any one to get angry, and we never read in the Scriptures where the Church at Corinth had any more problems concerning the Name that the Church should wear.

Question - Why can't we as Believers use these same 3 questions to solve our problem that we are having with "WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THE NAME THAT THE CHURCH IS CALLED BY."

Question - do we really know what our problem is?

It seems to me, that we put, too much importance on the amount of Degrees in Education that certain men have. I have heard several people say that a certain person that they know, has a Doctor's Degree in the Bible and what he believes and teaches is good enough for them. Isn't that a terrible conclusion to come to?

Do we really understand what we are saying, when we make a remark like that? It means, that we do not believe Romans 3:4.

Romans 3:4, "*Let God be True, but every man a liar.*"

Lets never forget, God's mind is like a tape recorder. He never forgets or overlooks our sins unless, we truly repent of them and ask God to forgive us.

Lets read 1 Corinthians 1:23. "*But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness.*"

Verse 24, "*But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*"

Question - Who are the CALLED of God?

Answer - Those who hear and obey the Word of God.

Question - Who are those who answers not the call of God?

Answer - Those who think that their THINK SO'S, are just as

important as the Words of God, and refuse to obey it.

1 Corinthians 1:29, *“That No flesh should glory in His presence.”*

This is another way that the Holy Spirit has of pointing out to the Corinthians, that when they are wearing men’s names, they are guilty of giving all the glory to men which should rightfully belong to Christ. Can’t we all see, the value in Verse 29?

1 Corinthians 1:31 says, “ According as it is written, HE THAT
GLORIETH, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD.”

That would be hard to do when we have removed His Name, from the Church.

In 1 Corinthians 2:2, Paul says, *“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”*

Question - How important was the Name of Christ to Paul?

Answer - He said that was the Only Person of importance to him.

Can’t we see that in Every Verse so far, all that Paul wants the Corinthian Church to understand is, that he did not DO or SAY anything, that would cause them to think they should be led to remove the Name of Christ from the Church and start DIVIDING the Church up into groups and calling some parts after men’s names.

The Holy Spirit says through Paul in *“Let there be no divisions among you.”* (1 Corinthians 1:10)

We have already read in 1 Corinthians 1:29, where Paul says, when we do that, we are giving all the glory to men, when we should be giving all the glory to Christ.

Question - Have we become so blind to the truth, that we have become just like the Church in Corinth?

The Holy Spirit condemned them for their actions. What would cause us to think that we can do the same thing, and God will overlook our actions? This is the Height of Deception.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Paul continues on with the same subject, he says.

1 Corinthians 2:4, *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the*

Spirit and of power.”

Verse 5, *“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

Wouldn't it be wonderful, if all the preachers and teachers had this same mind that Paul had. **FACT** - If all preachers and teachers were as **BOLD** as Paul was, there would not be all of these denominations in the world today. There would only be One Church, and it would be called by the Name of the One whose Name we were baptized in, the One who was crucified for us, and that Name was Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 3:3, Paul continues on with the same subject as he started in 1 Corinthians Chapter 1.

1 Corinthians 3:3, *“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”*

If anyone is wondering whether Paul is still on the same subject or not, then lets read the next 6 Verses.

1 Corinthians 3:4, *“For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal?”*

Verse 5, *“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave them to every man.”*

Verse 6, *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*

Verse 7, *“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”*

Verse 8, *“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”*

Verse 9, *“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”*

We have read all of these Verses, because of their importance to the subject that we are studying. Paul does not leave out any words, that is needed in explaining to the Church of Christ at Corinth, about the divisions that had arose in the Church there. And that this should not have happened, because these 3 men were all co-workers with God. Some of them planted, some of them watered, but they were all One in Christ.

If we will notice in these Verses, that Paul is still talking about the Name in which

the obedient baptized Believers should use, when talking about the Church that they belonged to.

1 Corinthians 3:11, *“For other foundation can NO man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

What a powerful Verse to show that there is only One foundation for the Church, and it was laid by Jesus Christ. So don't call yourself by some man's name, because he did not lay the foundation for the Church. It seems that the Corinthian Church had NO problem in understanding this Verse.

Question - Why do most religious people today, have a problem in understanding this?

Answer - There is only One answer to this question, and that, it is the Tradition of Men. Lets read it in Colossians 2:8.

Colossians 2:8, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the Tradition of Men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

This word TRADITION in the Greek Word Study means, teachings of men.

There is no way that we can even begin to show what the damage to the Church has been, because of the teaching of men. For Example, I became a Christian when I was 18 years of age. I had been taught by preachers and teachers that 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, where it talks about defiling the temple of God. I was taught, the way that we do that, is through smoking, over eating, and a number of things, that hurts our bodies. That Doctrine is still being taught today by many of our preachers and teachers.

Question - Is that teaching true?

Answer - NO, It is absolutely NOT True.

I would like to challenge any one to read the first 4 Chapters of 1 Corinthians which deals with this subject. Please read very carefully, and see if you can find just ONE WORD that even hints that Paul is talking about ANYTHING that goes into the MOUTH.

I cannot find a SINGLE Verse that teaches this Doctrine. But I can read in Mark 7:15-19, where Jesus says.

Mark 7:15, *“There is NOTHING from WITHOUT a man, that entering into him can defile him: BUT the things which come out of him, those*

are they that defile the man.”

Verse 16, *“If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.”*

Question - Why would Jesus say this, because He knows every one has ears?

Answer - Jesus knows that every one does not have ears to hear Truth. This is what Jesus says in John 8:43.

John 8:43, *“Why do you not understand My Speech? even Because ye cannot hear My Word.”*

Question - Is it a True Statement, when we hear someone say, that smoking and over eating, defiles the temple of God?

Lets not forget what Paul says in Romans 3:4, *“Let God be True, but every man a liar.”*

If we use this Verse as our guideline for determining what is Truth, and what is not truth, then our answer to this question would have to be, IT IS A FALSE TEACHING.

Now lets read these two Verses again that we have been discussing.

1 Corinthinans 3:16, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

Verse 17, *“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”*

We have already read from the Words of Jesus, that anything that goes into the mouth of man, cannot defile him. This Verse cannot be misinterpreted, and still remain the truth.

Question - We are the temple of God, what makes this temple holy?

Answer - Because, Paul has just said that the Holy Spirit dwells in our temple, and the Holy Spirit is holy, so this would make our temple holy, would it not?

Question - What does Paul say will happen to us, if we give some man the glory, instead of giving Christ the glory for our holy temple?

Answer - He said that will defile our temple of God, and if we continue doing that, God will destroy those who do this.

Someone is saying, can we be absolutely sure that Paul is still addressing the situation that he was addressing in the first 13 Verses of Chapter 3. All we have to do is to read 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 to show that to be true.

1 Corinthians 3:21, *“Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your’s.”*

Verse 22, *“Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are your’s.”*

Verse 23, *“And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God.”*

Question - Are our ears hearing the words of God or, are we letting the Word of God go through one ear and out the other, and not letting the Word into our hearts, as Jesus said that many were doing.

Paul says in this Verse that we have just read, that we are Christ’s, that means, we do not belong to men, so what name, should we wear on our temple? The One that we belong to, and Paul says that is Christ. Doesn’t the Holy Spirit make things very simple and very plain?

We should be learning the importance of, “WHAT’S IN A NAME.”
It is my prayer, that those who read all of these Scriptures that the Holy Spirit has revealed unto us, that we will never let the devil, belittle the Name of Christ in our minds.

1 Corinthians 5:7, *“For Christ is our Passover lamb.”*

Question - Seriously now, what condition does it leave us in, when we remove the Name of Christ from our church buildings?

Answer - We have just removed the only “Perfect Sacrifice”, that takes away our sins. We read in Hebrews 10:26-29.

Hebrews 10:26, *“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”*

Verse 27, *“but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”*

Verse 28, *“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.”*

Verse 29, *“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God (which is Christ), and hath counted the blood of the Covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”*

Question - What is the difference in trodding underfoot the Son of God, and the removing of the Name of Christ from our church buildings?

Answer - When we do this, we have removed the Name of the One who tasted Spiritual Death, for everyone of us. Read it in Hebrews 2:9.

Hebrews 2:9, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; (Please listen to the rest of this Verse) that He (Christ) by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Question - What was the death that Christ tasted for every man?

Answer - Spiritual Death.

Question - What is Spiritual Death?

Answer - Forever being separated from God. Read Isaiah 59:2.

Isaiah 59:2, *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”*

Question - Who was it that came, and delivered us from this terrible condition?

Answer - We just read it, it was *Christ*.

The ones who are saying “WHAT’S IN A NAME”, are the ones who are removing Christ’s name from their buildings, and they are beginning a movement that entirely removes the grace of God, from a lost and dying world.

Lets read John 4:42, *“We know that is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World.”*

I would not be guilty, of encouraging this movement that is being started by men. “Think about this”. These men were at one time lost, and then through their obedience to this same Christ were saved, and have now turned against the very

Name of the One who loved them, by suffering on that Cross, and shed His blood for them.

This reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew 7:6.

Matthew 7:6, *“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”*

This should help us to see what we are doing when we say, “WHAT’S IN A NAME”, and then we take the next step, and remove Christ’s name from our buildings.

Question - When are the open minded baptized Believers going to become BOLD ENOUGH, to take a stand against these bold ones, who are trying to belittle the Name of Christ?

Now, would be a good time, to turn our Bibles to Matthew 11:28-30, and read some Words from our Saviour Jesus Christ. Please, lets have an open mind as we read.

Matthew 11:28, *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

Verse 29, *“Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

Verse 30, *“For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”*

How could anyone, be so cruel, as to do this to Christ?

In Hebrews 6:4-6 we read. Verse 4, *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost.”*

Verse 5, *“And have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the World to come.”*

In Verse 6, we can read what the Hebrew writer says about those who have done these things which we are discussing. Here is what the writer says. We need to listen carefully.

Verse 6, *“If they shall fall away, to renew them*

again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him (Christ) to an open shame.”

Lets read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. Verse 3, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”*

Verse 4, *“And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

Matthew 17:1-2 says, *“Jesus Christ, is the same person who was transfigured upon a high mountain, and His face, did shine as the sun, and His raiment was as white as the light.”*

Now lets read what God said about this man called Christ in Matthew 17:5. Matthew 17:5, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.”*

Question - Was our minds open, when we read this Verse?

God made THREE very important points in this Verse.

1. This is My beloved Son.
2. I am very pleased with Him.
3. Hear ye Him.

While we are basking in the light of what Jesus Christ said in Matthew 11:28-30, and then we read what God had to say about this man Christ, and then hear the cries, from big time religious men who have written many books, and have many degrees attached to their names saying “REMOVE THE NAME OF THIS MAN CHRIST” from your church buildings. This is really just unbelievable isn't it? Because we have just read where God said, He is my Son, I am well pleased with Him, and we must hear Him.

So what are these men's response? They are saying, Lets remove this Man's Name from our church buildings.

The big Question is - Why did these men say, that this needs to be done?

Here is their Answer - Are we listening? “Because it is OFFENSIVE to most

of mankind.”

We just read where Christ, was NOT OFFENSIVE to the God of Heaven. So who do we think we are, that we have authority over God?

Question - We now have a major decision to make. Will we let “God be True, but every man a liar”, or will we let man be true and make God out a Liar?

As we all know, it takes many Degrees in Education, to come up with the WRONG ANSWER to our question.

Now, lets read what Jesus said in Matthew 11:6 on this subject.

Matthew 11:6, “Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be OFFENDED in me.”

Question - What does the word BLESSED mean?

Answer - In the Greek Word Study, it means:

1. Receiving God’s favor,
2. Fortunate,
3. It is good,
4. To be in God’s favor, and the last word is,
5. Happy.

How could man improve upon this? It would be impossible. As for me and my house, the Name of Christ, will remain on our temple of God. So this teaching, would make these preachers and teachers BLIND LEADERS, would it not?

Question - What does Jesus Christ say about that?

Answer - We can read it in Matthew 15:14, *“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”*

Christ is not through talking about those who OFFEND others, we read in Matthew 18:6 where he says, *“But whosoever shall OFFEND one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

FACT - There are many who believe in Christ who are OFFENDED in this New Movement that is spreading through the Church. We need to

read Matthew 18:11, "*For the Son of man (which is Christ) is come to save that which is lost.*"

Question - What are the lost going to think, when they pass by our church buildings, and Christ's name has been removed from it?

Because, the lost knows WHO it is that can save them. Brethren do we know what we all should do to let the lost know that we have not removed the Name of Christ from our buildings? We should put the name Christ in flashing lights on our buildings, so every one who passes by will know that Christ is alive and well at this place.

Praise the Lord for all BOLD, obedient, baptized, Believers who are standing up against this movement.

Matthew 13:41, "*The Son of man (Christ) shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom (the Church) all things that OFFEND, and them which do iniquity.*"

Question - Did we notice, who was going to be removed from the Church?

Answer - His name was not Christ. It was those who OFFEND other people.

Question - Why was Christ crucified on the Cross?

Answer - Because, His message was OFFENSIVE.

Please notice, God did not say, I will remove the Name of Christ from the message, and the OFFENSE will cease. But NOTE, that is exactly what some men have done today. They have removed the Name of Christ from their church buildings, and then say the OFFENSE is now ceased.

Question - Why did most of the Apostles die a violent death from the hands of men?

Answer - Because, their message about a man, who's Name was Christ, was OFFENSIVE to some. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 before he was killed.

2 Corinthians 11:24, "*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.*"

Verse 25, "*Three times was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, three times I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep.*"

Verse 26, *“In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren.”*

Verse 27, *“In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”*

Verse 28, *“Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”*

Question - These people who are asking “WHAT’S IN A NAME” are those who are removing the Name of Christ from their buildings, so they can gain the fellowship of the denominational churches. Wonder what God would have done to the Apostle Paul, if he would have chosen to do what some religious men are doing today and just remove the Name of Christ out of his message of truth?

Answer - The answer to this question would be *“Let God be True, but every man a liar.* The real problem with these people is, **THEY DO NOT HAVE THE BOLDNESS TO STAND UP FOR TRUTH.**

Question - Why were some of the early obedient baptized Believers fed to the lions for entertainment for the unbelievers, and also many were burned at the stake?

Answer - Because, the people were **OFFENDED** because they were **BOLD ENOUGH** to stand up and preach Christ, regardless of who it **OFFENDED.**

Question -

1. Where is **OUR BOLDNESS?**
2. Where is **OUR LOVE** for **THE TRUTH?**
3. What has happened to **OUR CARE** for **CHRIST’S CHURCH?**
4. What are we really **SAYING TO GOD**, when we remove Christ’s name from our church buildings?
5. What has **HAPPENED** to **OUR SHAME?**

In closing, lets read Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said.

Matthew 7:13, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for Wide is the gate, and Broad*

is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and, MANY there be which go in thereat.”

Verse 14, *“BECAUSE, Strait is the gate, and Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it.”*

Here is a think Question, that we need to give some serious thought to. Jesus says in these Two Verses that there are TWO WAYS in this life, that we must travel. **ONE WAY** is **WIDE** and **BROAD** and **MANY** will travel that road. This road **LEADS TO DESTRUCTION**. **THE OTHER WAY**, is **STRAIT** and **NARROW**, and **FEW** will travel it. **THIS WAY LEADS TO LIFE**.

Question - Which way, would we expect to see the Name of Christ, removed from the church buildings? Think about it. Most likely, it will determine where we will spend Eternity.

This is not by ANY means, an Exhaustive study on this subject. There are many, many Verses of Scriptures that could have been used in this discussion, but if this discussion gets to lengthy, we will not read it, will we? It is my prayer, that God will bless every one who reads this lesson with an **OPEN MIND**, and a **RECEPTIVE HEART**.

If you too, have been **OFFENDED** by those who are saying **“WHAT’S IN A NAME”** or by those who have **“REMOVED THE NAME OF CHRIST FROM THEIR CHURCH BUILDINGS”**, then lets be just as **BOLD** as they are, and **STAND UP FOR CHRIST**. If we don’t, then the Church that Christ built, and shed His blood for, will become just another **MAN MADE CHURCH**.

In Christian Love;

Herb Trout

