The Authority of Jesus’ Name

Christian greetings to each one in the precious name of Jesus, the One who said “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” The One who said that “no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). I believe that, in an essence, shows a little bit the authority of Jesus, the authority of His name.

I invite your attention for an opening Scripture to Mark chapter 16, I would like to read some of the closing words of Jesus, after His death, after His resurrection and just before He left His followers to return to His heavenly Father. We have here in Mark’s Gospel as a condensed version of the events that took place after His resurrection and we have here in Chapter 16:14 the believers were gathered together in the upper room I believe it was, and Jesus appears to them:

Mark 16:14–20 “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

We notice in verse 17 Jesus commanded them to go, He gave them a mission, they were to be His representatives on earth, they were to be witnesses of His resurrection, they were to spread the gospel message to all the world and He says there that He gave them a power to go along with that, something that was not native to them for the work that was before them. Jesus said: “Go.” And He said “I will empower you for the work.” “But ye shall receive power” (Acts 1:8). And how did He do that? Well it was through the aid of His Holy Spirit.
Jesus said in verse 17 He said “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils.” In My name speaks about the authority of Jesus name — through Jesus name. Now they would not have the power to fulfil their mission in their own power but it was only through Jesus’ name. It is through the authority of Jesus name.

I would just like to note a few instances in the book of Acts it records how the Apostles used the name of Jesus with the authority and the response of what happened when His name was used with authority.

In Acts 3:6, first of all, this is the account where Peter and John went out to the Temple, in the hour of prayer and the lame man who was laid at the gate asking for alms and he called to Peter and John for alms but Peter said: “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give thee,” verse 6, and then He said: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

*What was it about the words He spoke that carried some authority? “In the name of Jesus Christ rise up.”*

And we notice what happened: “he took him by the right hand” What happened then? “And he (the lame man) leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God” (Acts 3:8). Well, the authority of Jesus name here was able to heal this man through the authority, the power of Jesus and we have because of what has happened the multitude gathering around, they were curious what was this new thing, what had happened? And it gave Peter and John, an opportunity to witness to them and they used the opportunity to point out that this man through Jesus, the One that they had despised the One that they had rejected was the means by which this man was made whole.

Notice what it says in verse 16: *Acts 3:16 “And His name” (Jesus that is) “through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”*

Notice the power that was associated with the authority of Jesus name. Now also in Acts 16:17-18 we have another passage, this is where Paul and Silas I believe it was when they were on their missionary journey and they were at Lystra and Derbe and we have them dwelling there at the house of Lydia and a certain damsel, she is not named, she was possessed with the demon, it says possessed with a spirit of divination and she was a sooth-
sayer and she was following Paul and Silas all around and crying, perhaps you might say the truth, but yet Paul was grieved at that. She said, verse 17, “these men are the servants of the most high God which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this she did many days.” Well that was the truth these were the servants of the most high God and they were showing them the way of salvation but Paul was grieved why? What was she representing? She was not representing Jesus Christ, she was representing something totally opposite and he was grieved and he turned and said: “I command thee,” (notice) “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to come out of her.”

Well what enabled it? It was the power of Jesus Christ through the authority of Jesus name and it says he came out the same hour. The authority of Jesus’ name.

The disciples used it to cast out demons and it was part of God’s plan, He says: “They shall use these signs in my name, they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues and they shall take up serpents through the authority and power of Jesus name.”

Earlier in Jesus’ ministry Jesus had sent out be seventy to go where He would come yet in the future to preach the Gospel, to prepare the way and they went out and when they came back they reported it to Jesus they rejoiced saying: Lord even the devils are subject unto us through thy name, through the authority of Jesus name that the devils were subject to them and they cast them out it says (Luke 10:17).

In more recent years I was told that when the Fellowship church started the church in Nigeria that they found that there were many witches and much witchcraft being practiced in that setting and as they moved among the people there in the beginning days with that work they said that the witches would cast spells over certain people that these people were powerless to break the grip that they had on them until someone would pray with them in the name of Jesus. They said only then, only through the name of Jesus could they find deliverance from the power of darkness at the binding them. Now we have a strong enemy but praise God we have a stronger friend in Jesus Christ, it is through the authority of Jesus Christ the authority of His name that men find deliverance from the powers of darkness.
What is it about Jesus’ name that carries authority?
Well when the angel spoke to Joseph prophesying of Jesus coming he was telling Joseph to take Mary his wife and verse 21 he was announcing the birth of Jesus “and she shall bring forth a son: and thou shalt call his name JESUS” (Matthew 1:21). The name Jesus is Saviour. Notice it says, and it gives the definition the meaning of His name: “for he shall save his people from their sins.” The name Jesus means Saviour and that the mission was to save people from their sin. That was the mission of Jesus. And I think we understand as we notice who He was what His name means and what His mission was it helps us to understand the authority that He had, He was sent from God to redeem man, to provide redemption to provide relief from the powers of darkness.

To understand the authority of Jesus and the authority of His name we need to understand who He was and what He accomplished. Why was He here? Now we understand who Jesus was by studying His life, by studying His teaching, by studying His person and His work. And that is a very large subject. Now the New Testament especially we have the first four Gospels contain much of Jesus’ life, His teachings, His person and His work. We cannot cover all that this evening that I would just like you to take your minds and follow with me just a few highlights of Jesus that illustrate His life, is teaching and His person and His work. And by doing that I believe it helps us to understand the authority of His name, the authority that Jesus had.

We cannot be exhaustive, you may think of areas that I will not mention but I would just like to give us a little bird’s eye view a little glimpse of some of the highlights of Jesus.

I) First of all His life.

The Bible gives us a few details of His early life, His birth and the surrounding details. He was born in Bethlehem and it gives the surrounding details why Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem. You know they were not natives of the Bethlehem that it was prophesied that Jesus would be born of Bethlehem so the Bible gives the details surrounding His early birth. The Bible prophesies that He would be born of a virgin and it is very clear to show us how that Jesus was a fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecy. We have Jesus’ first visit to the temple at age twelve and it is interesting to
note that when His parents and those that went to Jerusalem to worship returned home that Jesus was left behind and they did not realize that and a search they found that the end of the day that He was not there, and they went back searching for Him and where did they find Him? Well they found Him in the temple doing what? You are all acquainted, visiting with the teachers and doctors of law. His interest at an early age was about His Father’s business. That is the way it was. His interests were in His Father’s business, an early highlight of Jesus life. From an early age He was interested in fulfilling the Father’s will.

But the main focus of Jesus that the Scripture, the Gospels hold for us is in His adult life, His public ministry.

I believe it is interesting that just a glimpse is given of His childhood but the greatest magnitude of that is in His adult life, His public ministry. Jesus’ public ministry began with Jesus seeking baptism from John the Baptist and His Ministry was confirmed by the voice from heaven, when Jesus was baptized of John in the Jordan, Jesus came for baptism and John said “I have need to be baptized of thee” (Matthew 3:14). But Jesus said “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). John baptized Him and as He came up out of the water it says: “lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him” (Matthew 3:16), and notice “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

His public ministry was confirmed by the voice from heaven, God declaring Him to be His beloved Son.

And that is not the only time that His ministry was confirmed from heaven. Later on in Jesus’ life near the end of His life there on the Mount of transfiguration, we have Jesus there on the mountain with Moses and the Elijah and three disciples, Peter, James and John, with Him there and they said “It is good for us to be here . . . let us make three tabernacles” (Matthew 17:4; Mark 9:5; Luke 9:33). They did not know what else to say it says — “not knowing what he said.” And the voice from heaven came and said: “This is my beloved son.” Is that is where it stopped? No, there was an additional message, there was an additional message. It said, “Hear ye
him.” “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5).

So we have Jesus in His earthly life, God’s blessing, God’s smile of approval, God establishing it from heaven.

But Jesus’ earthly life was accompanied by works of mercy and power.

He healed the sick as He moved among men. He cast out demons. He brought the dead to life. He demonstrated His power to his disciples over the forces of nature there on the Sea of Galilee. You know they were crossing the sea and Jesus was tired and He fell asleep in the ship and the storm came up and they were afraid and they said: “Master carest thou not that we perish? (39) And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. . . (41) What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:38-39, 41). Another time He walked on top of the water in the midst of the storm demonstrating His power over the forces of nature. (See Matthew 14:25).

Jesus’ life was also a life of compassion.

He was a “friend of . . . sinners” (Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34) and the outcasts of society and when the multitude gathered to hear Him there in the desert place, at the end of the day. He did not send them home empty. He gave them physical sustenance: He fed them. The mothers that brought their children to Him to bless them He did not turn away. He took them up in His arms and blessed them. He took time for the children. His life was a life of compassion.

His life was a life of truth.

As He moved among men, He was a man of truth. He was representing the truth of His Father and His truth, His life, He is teaching they encounter, I ran across the grain of the scribes and Pharisees because His life convicted them, the words that He spoke convicted them. What did He do? He rebuked the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees. We notice His life is a life of truth and truth and error cannot co-inhabit with each other. His life was a life of truth. His life is a practical demonstration of His teachings. He taught the truth. He lived the truth. To His disciples He declared
in John 13:15: “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” His life here was an example for us to follow.

His life was selfless and sinless.

In spite of the fact that He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He was selfless and sinless. The Bible talks about when He was weary and “he saw the multitudes he forego the desire for rest because he saw the multitudes and sheep without a Shepherd” (Mark 6:34).

Well, Jesus in His life cultivated an unbroken fellowship with the Father in full obedience to the divine will of the Father, the will of God even to the death on the cross. It is an example for us to follow today.

I would like to now see a few highlights in His teaching.

Jesus, while He was here on earth what did He teach? Up to this point the Jewish people had the law of Moses and in the synagogue each Sabbath day the law of Moses was read and so when did Jesus begin His teaching? There in His early ministry He was brought in to the synagogue “they gave him the book of the law,” (Luke 4:17-19) the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1-2) I believe it was that He read therein. So what was His teaching? Jesus in His teaching reiterated the Old Testament law summarizing it into the two great commandments. The Old Testament law was written for man’s benefit so that man might know how to serve God in that generation in that timeframe that Jesus we know, I will touch is that a little bit later.

I would just like to read here how Jesus quoted the Old Testament Law, summarized it, Matthew 22:36–40 this is a familiar account when He was questioned by the lawyer saying “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Notice Jesus was reiterating the Old Testament Law, summarizing it as love for God with our heart, our soul, and our mind and what is left out? Well, that encompasses all of man does it not? And the second was to “love thy neighbour as thyself.”
Well, Jesus in His teaching expanded and went beyond the contents of the Old Testament law to God’s plan from the beginning. He “was in the beginning with God” \((\text{John 1:2})\) and He knew God’s standard of truth from the very beginning.

In Matthew 19:3 when He was asked by the leaders of that day, the Pharisees: “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?” And Jesus said: Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, \(^5\)And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? \(^6\)Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. \(^7\)They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? \(^8\)He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. \((\text{Matthew 19:4–8})\).

He took them back to the original intents that God had from the very beginning, one man and one woman for life. But Jesus’ teaching touches the very inner needs of man, the thoughts and motives of the heart, the Old Testament law touched the outward work of man and that Jesus in His teaching touches the very inner needs the thoughts and motives of the heart. The higher standard of Jesus was not in the deeds but in the thoughts that preceded the deeds.

In Matthew 5 there in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said: “It hath been said” etc. \((\text{Read Matthew 5:21-44})\) referring to the Old Testament Law. And then He brought in the higher law: “but I say unto you” And He touched the inner needs. Jesus high standard of teaching called for love, love for the enemies, calls for returning good for evil, for going the second mile and for doing good to all men.

What was Jesus teaching? In summary \(\text{John 14:10}\), Jesus speaking: “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”

What was His teaching? Well His teaching was a revelation of God. That is what His teaching was. He was here among men revealing God to man. The revelation of God lay at the heart of Jesus teaching.
Now a few highlights of His person.

Who was Jesus? Well, we notice, we best capture His person by noting the titles that were applied to Him in the Bible and that is very brought, I will not try and attempt to touch on that I will just pick out very few that help us to understand who He was.

Jesus is often referred to, in the Bible sometimes we find His name is Jesus, other times it is Christ and oftentimes we find Jesus Christ together, and Christ means “the anointed one” or “the Messiah,” the one appointed of God to make an atonement for the sin of man. He was the anointed one. The Bible depicts Him as the Son of David indicating that He was a member of the royal family of David of which the long promised Redeemer would come, He was of the royal lineage, the royal family of David.

He is described as the Son of Man and emphasizing His humanity. He is described the Son of God describing His divinity. What do we see? Son of man and Son of God how can that be? Well, He was the perfect God man, both human and divine. Now that is hard for us to grasp that fact and in our finite minds we just cannot comprehend the fullness of that. The Bible presents Jesus as human and it presents Him as God and thus He is the perfect mediator between God and man because He partakes fully of the nature of both, He was born of a woman. He had the limitations of humanity. The Bible tells us that He “was in all points tempted like as we are” (Hebrews 4:15). but He understood mankind, the nature of man and yes Jesus did not have the sinful nature that man has because He was God and He was representing God to humanity. He also represented humanity to God. He was the Son of Man and the Son of God. And when Jesus is presented as Son of God in the New Testament aspects of His person are emphasized: We have His eternal relationship to God as His Father and His perfect revelation of the Father to the human race. Again we see the crisscross, He was here of representing man representing God to man and He was representing men to God.

Jesus said in John 14:8-9 “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” “Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. (9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? . . . and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? He was able to say “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” because he was God.
Now a few highlights of His work.

This work was a threefold office. His work was to be a Prophet, to be a Priest, to be King.

1) As Prophet, He was the perfect spokesman of God to the world fully revealing God’s character and will. How is that possible? Well He was with God was He not? So He understood, He knew God, He was in constant communion with God.

2) As Priest, He offered to God by His death a sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world will. He was the Priest but He was also the sacrifice. The priest had offered to sacrifice always used the gift that someone else brought to offer as the sin offering but Jesus as Priest of that the gift of God and that was himself, so He was both Priest and He was also the sacrifice. God was satisfied with His sacrifice, that is what it is with His atonement. The book of Hebrews is very interesting, comparing how the priesthood of Christ is better than Moses and Melchizedek and the Old Testament sacrifices.

Hebrews 9:11–14 “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

How did He offer Himself to God? Did any man take His life? No, “he laid down His life” (1 John 3:16; see also John 10:15-17; 15:13) He laid down His life for your benefit and for mine. Praise God.

3) 1 Peter 3:22, and notice that this reveals the third aspect of His work: that of King. Jesus’ earthly work was finished and verse 22 says: “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.” Offering up the thought there how angels and authorities were made subject unto Him, He is there pictured as King. Yes Jesus earthly work was finished that He ascended to the Father to continue on with His appointed work.
Jesus testified while He was here on earth in time that He did nothing of Himself, (John 5:30; 8:28). His authority was given by God. He did not take it. He did not usurp it, it was a gift given by God. In John 5 I would like to read several verses, verses 19–31, this is the Jews accusing Him of working on the Sabbath day, Jesus said My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). “I also work” “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” as it says in verse 18, John 5:19–31 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honour eth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. 30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. 31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.”

Did you notice what it said here? Verse 27 is talking about how God has given Him authority to execute judgment. Where did His authority come from? It came from God.

Also in John 8:28-29 “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up
the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”

Where it did His authority come from? Why it came from God because He was with the Father and He was the Son of God.

II) Now in the second part of the message I would like to notice what the Bible says about the name of Jesus. We are looking at the authority of Jesus name. What does the Bible say name of Jesus that reveals the authority of His name?

Turn with me to the Gospel of John. The gospel writer here in John writes here in the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God, verse 12 that “as many as received him them gave he power to become the sons of God even to then that believe on His name.” Backing up to verse 9 the light is in focus, the Word is in the world.

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Verse nine, John 1:9–13 “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Born of God!

What does the Bible say about the name of Jesus here the authority of Jesus name? Why it says “as many as received him he gave power to become the sons of God” — those that believe on His name. Believing on the name of Jesus is essential to our salvation, to believe is to have faith in, to accept as true, to place our trust in. And believing on Jesus believing on His name we do that we accept the provision for our salvation from the curse of sin. “As many as received him,” as many as believed His message to them “gave he power to become,” and believing on His name is having a firm conviction that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was God incarnate come to earth to make an atonement for the sin of man.

Jesus said in John 14:6: “No man cometh unto the Father but by me.” There is one way. There is one name, through Jesus Christ that we have
access to the Father and it is through the name of Jesus that we receive power. That word “power” carries the thought of the right or privilege to become sons of God. Us poor mortal humanity who were doomed to die because of the curse of sin now have the right to become the sons of God. Acts 4:12 another verse I would like to notice, notice what it says about the name of Jesus Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Through the name of Jesus is the avenue through which we find salvation in the forgiveness of sins. It says there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. The authority of Jesus name to forgive sins. Jesus is the only one who bridges the great gap between a holy God and sinful man and that gap is bridged by His life, His work on the cross the atonement that was made for man. That is why we brought in the aspect of Jesus person. His life, it helps us to understand His authority, He had to stand between a holy God and sinful man.

Romans 10:13 tells us: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. He is the only way through which we find salvation forgiveness of sins.”

First Corinthians 6 is the next passage I would like to note, verses nine through 11. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

The authority of Jesus name. Verse 11 says: “ye are washed.” “But ye are washed” carries the thought of cleansing. What do we do when we are out working? We come in we are washed. Well for what reason? Well for cleansing. But it is through the name of Jesus that we find cleansing initially just as we wash with water physically we need to wash ourselves in the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 tells us that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. It is the blood that makes the atonement, it is the blood that washes that takes care of the sin question. When we come to the end of ourselves and call upon
God for mercy through Jesus name we find pardon, we find forgiveness of sins.

Verse 11 (1 Corinthians 6) goes on: “but ye are sanctified.” Sanctified carries a thought of being set apart. But sanctified to what, what are we set apart for? How are we done it? Why through Jesus name, therefore we are set apart for Jesus. From what? From evil things and evil ways. You are washed from the filth of this world now you are sanctified. Now sanctification is both instantaneous yes and progressive. When we confessed name of Jesus and apply the blood to our life we are both sanctified, we are set apart, God claims us for His own and He claims us initially instantaneously. Sanctification is progressive as we grow and move through life that we understand more of God’s will for us and we surrender ourselves and we have a relationship that grows. So sanctification is something that is done instantaneously but as we move through life sanctification continues to be a part of our experience as we realize areas in our lives that needs correcting and we correct them and move forward.

Verse 11 also says that ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. Justification is the cleaning of the slate. Our life was marred by sin but through the name of Jesus our life can be made clean, can be in God’s sight those who applied the blood of Jesus to their sin are just as if we had never seen. The slate is wiped clean! How is that possible? With the authority of Jesus name, through the authority of Jesus name we are washed, we are sanctified and we are justified.

Moving on now to Philippians 2. What were we washed from? What where we sanctified from? What were we justified from? There in 1 Corinthians 6 it gives a whole catalogue of sin and it says: Of such were some of you. Now that it is those things that are native to the human heart, such as some of you that ye are washed, ye are sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus.

Now turn to Philippians 2. I would like to read the verses 5 through 11.

Philippians 2:5–11 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross: 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given
him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

What does the Bible tell us about the name of Jesus? Verse 10 tells us “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.” It speaks of surrender. Brethren and sisters to voluntarily surrender in time and hosts God’s blessing and favour, today we have a choice of what will we do, but if we fail to surrender in time there will be a time coming when we will surrender at a later date that then we will experience His wrath and judgment. The Bible is very clear that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” (Philippians 2:10). See also Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:11). Who is excluded? None, none. Every knee shall bow.

Surrender speaks of giving ourselves to the control of another and it is our only reasonable response to the great provision that was provided to free us from the clutches of sin. The great provision of Jesus Christ providing a redemption for us, it is only a reasonable service to surrender ourselves to Him, it is the only way to receive God’s richest blessings of joy and peace, it is to surrender while the door is open to do it voluntarily.

We will be controlled by someone if we are not controlled by the Spirit of God. When we surrender ourselves to the Lord Jesus we allow Him to rule and direct in our life, and He sends the Holy Spirit to live and dwell within us. But if we are not controlled by the Spirit of God dwelling in us we will be controlled by the enemy of our souls. There is two masters, there is two ways in life there is no middle ground, we will be on one road or the other, we will be controlled by the spirit of God or we will be controlled by the enemy of our souls –self.

Brethren and sisters at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow! So let us do it today on a voluntarily basis and have His blessing and favour. Verse 11 (Philippians 2) also gives us another aspect about the authority of Jesus name it says: “every tongue [shall] confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.”

That speaks to accountability. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. What have we done with Jesus? Someday we will give an account. Have you applied the blood to your
life today? Today we can apply the blood and find His blessing, find power to go forth in service for Him. Are you living in victory? Someday we will need to give an account. Our actions show whether He is Lord of our lives today and many people profess and acknowledged that Jesus Christ is Lord but they do not believe that profession and that is not enough our life needs to back it up. Our actions show whether He is Lord of our heart or whether He is Lord of our lips, and you know that lip profession is not enough.

Verse 9 (Philippians 2) says the name of Jesus is a name “which is above every name.” That speaks of the exalted position of Christ and along with this exalted position comes the authority. His name carries authority because of His completed mission on earth, the plan of God was fulfilled by Him, verse 8 says: “and being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross.”

His authority, the authority of Jesus name is because of His mission that was fulfilled; He is the Son of God what He has provided for mankind.

Now moving on to another passage that describes the name of Jesus we have three passages that have a very similar thought and I would just like to read several verses in John 14 first of all, notice what the Bible says about Jesus’ name here:

John 14:13-14 “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.”

John 16:23 “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”

Do we see the authority of Jesus name? Ask through my name, it is through the name of Jesus that we approached the Father that we come to the Father. Why do we pray in Jesus name, why do we? Well here is our answer “ye shall ask the Father” — He is our “advocate with the Father” (1 John 2:1). An advocate is the one who believes the cause of another such as in a court of law someone representing another. Jesus is our advocate. He
is there representing us to God. He is our intercessor. He is the one that pleads for us.

Hebrews 7:25: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

He is the access. He is our mediator. In 1 Timothy 2:5-6 He is the mediator, the one that understands because He was in the flesh and tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin. Verse 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, to be testified in due time.” He is the one who bridges the gap.

Again Jesus said in John 14:6: “No man cometh unto the Father but by me.” The authority of Jesus. He is the door. He is the only way to find true life, everlasting life.

Again Jesus is also described in another way in John 14:26, notice what the name of Jesus does for us, John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

The Holy Spirit comes from the Father in the name of Jesus to dwell within each believer and the presence of the Holy Spirit is the seal of approval and acceptance with God. When man repents of the sin and calls to God for cleansing God cleanses, pardons, forgives then He sends His Spirit to indwell, it is His seal of His approval and acceptance.

In Ephesians 1:13-14: “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

The earnest of our inheritance carries the thought of down payment, it is a down payment that we are God’s: His seal of acceptance and approval. And Jesus in His earthly work is finished, providing salvation, He ascended back to the Father, He is on the Father’s right-hand but yet His work continues on, and our salvation is not yet completed as long as we are still in this life, we are still subject to sin and failure and He is at the Father’s right hand there to make intercession for us (Romans 8:34), and Jesus presence is
with us today in the form of the Holy Spirit. His work in the life of the believers is to guide us into all truth, to teach our sin, to bring to our remembrance the truth, to be a constant companion in this dark and sinful world, the presence of God dwelling within us. And it is through the name of Jesus that God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.

One more yet in John 20:30-31, this is a summary of what was written:

John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life” (How?) “through his name.”

Life through His name, the authority of Jesus name to provide life. I do not believe this is talking about physical life but rather spiritual life, in the eternal life, God created man to live forever but man dies why? Well because of the curse of sin. The decree for sin is death. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). That is the decree of God that God in mercy provided a way to redeem man from that curse of sin and that was through the sacrifice of His own Son, the perfect sacrifice of sinless innocent blood met the requirement of our holy God to atone for the sin of man. Life through His name. Claiming and applying the blood of Jesus Christ to our sins, living in obedience to the Word is the only way to inherit eternal life.

Why did He die? That we might live. He died that we might live.

Praise God for that great sacrifice!

How important is the name of Jesus to you? How important is it?

We sing the song sometimes and maybe we do not always think about it when we sing it: “Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy . . . and for all how that goes, but is He our all? And if Jesus means that much that too should need to be evident to others, should not it radiate forth from our life and cause us to reach out to others that they also might experience the deliverance from the great curse of sin.

The authority of Jesus name was established by God because His finished work provided for our redemption. Praise God for that great redemption in providing for sin of mankind so that we can have life, that we can have hope in eternal life beyond this life.

From a message given at Millerstown Mennonite Church 2007.