

DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

There is a song in most hymn books by the above title. It comes from a statement written by the apostle Paul to the brethren in Colosse. Paul wrote, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17).

Just what does it mean to do all "in the name of the Lord". Some have the idea that this means to give the Lord credit for all that you do by just saying, "in Jesus name" when doing it. However, the idea of doing something in the name of the Lord is that it is done according to the authority of the Lord. Just before ascending into heaven, Jesus told His apostle, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). He has absolute authority and thus all that we do in word or in deed, must be according to what is authorized in the gospel of Christ.

There are two general areas mentioned that will include many specific applications.

First, we must speak in harmony with that which is authorized in the word of God. God's word tells us that "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (I Pet. 4:11). It tells us to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Of course there other instructions concerning our speaking the truth of the gospel. But there are other instructions concerning the way we speak. A lying tongue is forbidden in both the Old Testament and the New (Prov. 6:17; Rev. 21:8). Slander, gossip and other caustic and divisive uses are forbidden as well. In short, always speak as God's word directs us to speak.

Secondly, all our deeds must be in harmony with that which is authorized in the word of God. Again, there are many specific areas in which this will apply to each of us. It applies in the realm of the work of the church. Evangelism, benevolence and edification are taught as being our responsibility. Worship must be in accordance with the word of God as well. We must worship God "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Our family relations and responsibilities must likewise be in harmony with that which the Lord has authorized in His word. The Lord has instructed us in our relationship with our fellowman, in honesty, in kindness and without respect of persons. And, the Lord has legislated that we live in subjection to our civil government. Do all in the name of the Lord!

Robert

WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?

Jesus encountered a man which had an infirmity for thirty eight years lying beside the pool called Bethesda. "Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:6). Jesus told this man to, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked..." (John 5:8-9). The man in this case was physically impaired and in need of physical healing. The restoration of his physical health is referred to as being made whole. Though there are many in need of physical healing today, there are many more that are spiritually impaired and in need of being "spiritually" made whole.

According to God's word, sin separates man from God (Isa. 59:1-2). The relationship one has had with God, like that of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, is severed by our sins. Being made whole from this spiritual malady comes in the form of reconciliation. To the Colossians, Paul wrote, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" (Col. 1:21). This reconciliation comes through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. The Hebrew writer stated, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17).

The place to go in order to learn all about the reconciliation and the means of this reconciliation is revealed to us by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. He wrote, "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18-19). Notice Paul spoke of the "ministry of reconciliation" (verse 18). The ministry that was given to him as well as the other apostles was to preach the gospel to all the world. He also spoke of "the word of reconciliation" being committed to himself and the other apostles (verse 19).

Reconciliation comes as a result of believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and then obeying His commands. Those commands are the word of reconciliation found in the gospel of Christ.

Robert