

FORBIDDING THE NAME OF JESUS

After Jesus was resurrected, He met with His apostles and told them that *“all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* (Matt. 28.18). Jesus has the right to tell everyone in heaven and everyone on earth what to do and what not to do. The only one who is not under the authority of Christ is God (1 Cor. 15.27).

In Acts 4, that authority was challenged. Peter and John had been preaching Jesus in Jerusalem (Acts 2.22ff). On Solomon’s porch, they healed a man who was lame (Acts 3.1-10). When the crowd gathered to see the miracle, they used it as an opportunity to preach Jesus (Acts 3.11ff). The religious authorities arrested them *“being greatly disturbed that they taught the people in Jesus the resurrection from the dead”* (Acts 4.1-3). It was at this point that the rulers asked Peter and John, *“By what power or by what name have you done this?”* (Acts 4.7). With boldness and inspiration of the Holy Spirit they answered, *“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”* (Acts 4.10).

The Sanhedrin found themselves in a dilemma. They could see that these men had been with Jesus (Acts 4.13). They could not deny that a miracle had been performed (Acts 4.14). So what did they do? They *“commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus”* (Acts 4.18). Refusing to be intimidated, they responded, *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.”* They were acting on the authority of Jesus that was given to Him by God. Though the religious authorities commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, they were operating under a higher authority.

Our society is no different than any other society and culture in the past. The authority of Jesus is still being challenged. Through social pressures, woke mindset, and even civil authorities, the name of Jesus is still be forbidden. Yet like Peter, operate under a higher authority. Wee obey God rather than man. And like Peter, the world needs to see Jesus in our lives (Acts 4.13). And they need to see the works of Jesus in our lives (Acts 4.14).
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NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST 2424 McCARRAN ST. NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031 (702) 642-3141	OCTOBER 1, 2023 WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM
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NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittlc@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Church of Christ Las Vegas

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

October 1, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE

To the honest and sincere student, it is evident that the Bible is the inspired word of God and in every measurable way, perfect and accurate (2 Tim. 3.16; Ps. 19.7). However, there are many who hold to supposed “truths” outside the Bible which contradict the inspired text. If God is truly the Author of the Bible, then anything contrary to the Bible cannot be accepted as truth.

Many in the scientific community hold to the “fact” of evolution and the Big Bang Theory. However, to claim that the universe is billions of years old and that the origin is explained by an unproven and unexplainable explosion stands contrary to the word of God. The Bible shows the origin of the universe was brought into existence by a Supernatural Being in six days.

God is the author of the body of knowledge known as science and is also the author of the Bible. Therefore the facts of science and the Bible must always be in agreement...and they are! But when the theories of those in the field of science contradict the Bible, we must reject the theories of men in favor the inspired word of God.

We must be *“avoid...what is falsely called knowledge”* (science), and be rooted in the word of God *“which endures forever”* (1 Tim. 6.20; 1 Pet. 1.25)
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GOD'S CODE OF ETHICS
DEUTERONOMY 4:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. How do you decide what is right and wrong? Two approaches.
 - a) Results based: Does the action result in good?
 - b) Rules based: Is the action in keeping with the rules?
2. What is God's code of ethics? (Ex. 20.1; Deut. 4,13,14)

I. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- A. Reverence for God.
 1. Command #1: Recognize that there is only one God. (Ex. 20.2,3; Isa. 45.21). This is where is all begins!
 2. Command #2: Refuse to create and serve any other gods. (Ex. 20.4-6). This is all about commitment!
 3. Command #3: Revere the name of God. His name is never to be used flippantly. (Ex. 20.7; 3.15)
 4. Command #4: Remember God and the work that He did. (Ex. 20.8-11). Not just rest but keeping God in mind!
- B. Respect for man.
 1. Command #5: Respect your parents. (Ex. 20.12)
 2. Command #6: Respect life. (Ex. 20.13; Acts 17.25,26)
 3. Command #7: Respect marriage. (Ex. 20.14; Heb. 13.4)
 4. Command #8: Respect property. (Ex. 20.15)
 5. Command #9: Respect reputation. (Ex. 20.16)
 6. Command #10: Respect possessions. (Ex. 20.17)

III. THE TWO COMMANDMENTS

- A. **MATTHEW 22.37:** "*You shall love the LORD your God*"
 1. To the scribes and Pharisees who did not serve God with their heart: "*with all your heart*" (Matt. 15.8)
 2. To the Herodians who devoted themselves to their lives to political leaders: "*with all your soul*" (Gen. 2.7)
 3. To the Sadducees who believed in feel-good religion: "*with all your mind*" (Acts 17.2,3)
- B. **MATTHEW 22.39:** "*And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*"
 1. Not a lesser commandment, but equal to the first.
 2. How do I know that I love God? By the way I treat my fellow man. (1 John 4.20,21)

CONCLUSION: God's code of ethic is love based. (Rom. 13.8-10)

HAVE YOU OVERCOME THE WORLD?

We are entrenched in a spiritual battle. It is not a battle for territory, riches, or power. It is a fight for the hearts of humanity. We are given weapons to fight which "*are not carnal but mighty in God pulling down strongholds and casting down arguments*" (2 Cor. 10.3-5). We are given armor to protect ourselves (Eph. 6.11-18). We cannot afford to lose because the stakes cannot be higher. To lose is to be permanently separated from God. To win is to be permanently at home with God. How can we be assured of victory?

Before we answer that question, it is important to understand the enemy (2 Cor. 2.11). Who are we fighting against? Peter refers to "*your adversary the devil*" who "*walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*" The devil is the ruler of the world (John 12.31; 14.30). The world is described as "*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*" (1 John 2.16). So we are fighting a war against our enemy, the devil. And the devil is using the allure of the world to defeat us by bringing sin into our lives. Every time we give into temptation, it is a victory for the devil. But we can overcome the world.

The word "overcome" translates the Greek word "nike" meaning victory. From 1 John 5, we are given the strategy to overcome the world which consists of two components. First, to overcome the world, I need Jesus. 1 John 5.1 tells me that "*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*" Keep reading and verse 4 says, "*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world*" (1 John 5.4). The one who believes in Jesus is the one who overcomes the world. Only Jesus could overcome the world (John 16.33; Heb. 2.14). We do not have the ability to defeat the devil and the world on our own. We need Jesus (Acts 4.12; John 14.6).

Second, to overcome the world, I need faith. 1 John 5.4 continues to say, "*And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.*" Don't miss the tense of the verb. Victory is not something I will gain in the future. If I have believed and keep on believing in Jesus, I have already overcome. Remember that faith as defined in the Bible is to accept and obey the word of God. Right now, I have already overcome the world because I obeyed the gospel in the past.

Having overcome the world through Jesus and an obedient faith in Jesus, I no longer need to be afraid of the coming day of Judgment (Heb. 2.15). I have already won. When I leave this world, I can claim my crown of victory (2 Tim. 4.8; 1 Cor. 15.54-58). CLP