The Life of Paul – Week 18

Knowing Jesus Is More Than Using His Name

11-1-26

1. Jesus' Name Is Not a Magic Word - In Ephesus, people practiced magic, sorcery, and spells. Some saw Paul using the name of Jesus and thought they could use it to get what they wanted.

- Jesus' name is not a formula to get our own way or benefit ourselves.
- We can use God's name to make our personal opinions or desires sound spiritual.
- Some use Jesus' name for attention, followers, likes, or personal gain.
- God wants a genuine relationship with us, not just religious words or outward appearances.

Matthew 7:21–23 – Jesus teaches that calling Him Lord is not enough; we must have a genuine relationship with Him and follow His will.

2. Saying His Name Is Not the Same as Surrendering to Him - The seven sons of Sceva tried to cast out an evil spirit using the name of Jesus without truly following Him.

- Saying His name doesn't mean we are surrendered to His will.
- Quoting His Word doesn't mean we are obeying His Word.
- Wearing His name doesn't mean we are reflecting His character.
- We often want Jesus to bless our plans, but are we willing to let Him lead our lives?
- We may want His peace, protection, and blessings without surrendering our pride or changing our ways.

Acts 19:14–15 – The evil spirit recognized Jesus and Paul but exposed the seven men's lack of spiritual authority.

3. Jesus Is the Power – We Must Follow Him - The seven men knew there was power in Jesus' name, but they wanted the power without the surrender.

- Jesus is the source of all power and authority.
- Paul was serving Jesus and using His power.
- Knowing about Jesus and surrendering to Jesus are two different things.
- Our faith should be measured by how faithfully we follow Jesus, not just how well we talk about Him.

Acts 19:15–16 – The seven sons of Sceva discovered that Jesus' authority cannot be used for personal gain.

4. True Repentance Requires Real Change - After witnessing what happened, the people of Ephesus began taking their faith seriously.

- Many believers openly confessed their sinful practices.
- Those who practiced sorcery gathered their scrolls and burned them publicly.
- Their scrolls were worth 50,000 silver drachmas, showing the great sacrifice they were willing to make.
- They didn't keep their old practices as a backup plan. They completely turned away from them.
- True repentance means being willing to give up anything that pulls us away from God.

Acts 19:18–20 – The believers confessed their sins, destroyed their sorcery scrolls, and the Word of the Lord continued to spread and grow in power.

5. There Is No Going Back - Following Jesus means making real changes and removing things that lead us back into old patterns.

- It may mean deleting an app, account, or contact.
- It may mean walking away from unhealthy relationships or environments.
- We must bring hidden struggles into the light instead of keeping them secret.
- Confession and Christian community help break shame and invite God's healing.

1John 1:9 – When we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Personal Reflection & Application- Am I using Jesus' name to support what I want, or am I truly surrendering to His will?

Do I want His blessings more than I want His leadership? What do I need to remove from my life to follow Him faithfully? What would burning books look like in my life today?

THIS WEEKS TAKEAWAY: Jesus doesn't want us simply to use His name; He wants us to know Him, follow Him, and surrender every area of our lives to Him. True repentance means turning away from our old ways and choosing to follow Jesus with no intention of going back.

MEN'S COFFEE & BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30AM IN THE TERRACE



---------- 2026 ----------

VETERANS DAY

Breakfast

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Join us for breakfast on Tuesday, November11, 2026, from 9-10:30 a.m.at the Cumberland County Community Complex. Following breakfast, the Cumberland County Veterans Service Office will host a veteran recognition ceremony at 11:00 AM honoring our veterans and service members.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9-10:30 AM - BREAKFAST
11 AM - VETERANS PROGRAM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COMPLEX

NO RSVP required; join us! All veterans and their families are welcome!

---------- **Breakfast will be provided by** ----------

Creative COMPASSION, INC









CHRISTMAS Collections

More information can be found at the GO Table!

COLLECTION DATES

DCS Stockings
October 25th-November 29th

Operation Christmas Child
October 25th-November 15th

Special Needs Stocking
November 15th-December 6th