

BIBLE THINGS BY BIBLE NAMES (1 CORINTHIANS 6:3)

Objective: To help Christians use Bible terminology when discussing Bible things.

Introduction

1. During the Restoration Period in this country someone coined the phrase: "Let us call Bible things by Bible names."
2. A good and instructive phrase because it respects the Bible and the authority vested in the Bible.
3. Some might think that words have little meaning and that we shouldn't be concerned about names or terminology. But words are only representative of ideas and concepts, therefore they are very important.
4. We cannot be exhaustive in our discussion.
5. Our lesson will be divided into names and identifications; offices and positions and affairs of worship.

Discussion

I. Names & Identifications

A. The church

1. We could spend hours discussing the nature of the church, it's ownership etc. However, we are limited here.
2. Defined:
 - a. It was something predicted, planned and purchased by Jesus Christ personally (Matthew 16:18)
 - i. Man has no role in the church other than membership.
 - ii. All planning and preparation done by the Divine Nature.
 - iii. It was paid for and is owned by Christ (Acts 20:28)
 - b. Luke said it was what the saved were added to, by God (Acts 2:47)

DOCTRINAL

3. It is a divinely owned and organized collection or gathering of all persons saved through faith and obedience to the gospel plan of salvation.
4. It is not a human organization subject to human decisions and governance.

B. The Church of Christ (Romans 16:16)

1. One ***possible*** name
2. There is significance in the name because it should mean something and should stand for something.
 - a. First century did not struggle with denominationalism in the sense we must today.
 - b. The term “Christian” was enough to identify one as a follower of Christ.
 - c. Because the denominations have appropriated their names which do mean something to people, we are forced to use a proper Biblical name to identify ourselves. This is common sense.
 - i. Muslim?
 - ii. Catholic?
 - iii. Jehovah’s Witness?
 - iv. Pentecostals

C. Other Biblical possibilities

1. Church of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:1; 10:32; 11:16 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:3) Church of Living God (1 Timothy 3:15)
2. The church (Revelation 2:3)
3. Church of the Firstborn (Hebrews 12:23)
4. Church of the Saints (1 Corinthians 14:33)

DOCTRINAL

5. House of God (Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 4:17; 1 Timothy 3:15)
 - a. Gk. Word is *oikos* and could be translated “family.”
 - b. thus “Family of God” would be a Biblical name.

D. Disgrace of using mortal names

II. Offices & Positions

A. Elders / Pastors / Bishops / Presbyter

1. Area of common misunderstanding.
2. Titles are interchangeable
3. Defined:
 - a. Elders are men meeting specific requirements or qualifications (1 Timothy 3:8-12; Titus 1:5-9)
 - b. 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - i. feed the flock
 - ii. oversee
 - iii. examples
 - iv. preeminent role is the Spiritual guidance of the flock.
4. While a local preacher *may be* an elder, pastor or bishop he usually is not.
 - a. Peter was an elder (1 Peter 5:1)
 - b. John was probably an elder (2 John 1 and 3 John 1)
5. A special word on “pastors.”
 - a. refers to those in the Elder or Bishop role.
 - b. only in Ephesians 4:11
 - i. translates Gk. *poimenas* or Shepherd.
 - ii. idea is one who has control or direction over another.
 - iii. only Elders have that authority.

B. Deacons

C. Preachers

1. Father
2. Reverend
3. Pastor

Application

***THIS IS AN INCOMPLETE OUTLINE. FINISHED OUTLINE BY MAY 6