

Things of Jesus - cont.

- **God's word belongs to Jesus.**
The Father gave his Son, Jesus, his words (John 16:14-15; Galatians 1:12; Colossians 3:16). Since God's word did not originate with us, we do not have any right to add to it, take from it, substitute for it, or go beyond it (2 John 9-11).
- **Sunday belongs to Jesus.** The first day of the week, Sunday, is the Lord's day (1 Corinthians 11:20; 16:1-2; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10). Let us remember that Sunday belongs to Jesus and let us be present to worship him on that day.
- **Many things belong to Jesus.** There are other things that belong to Jesus like our faithful service (Colossians 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:3), the judgment day (2 Corinthians 5:10), and our fellow-brethren (Romans 14:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19-20). These, and many other things, simply do not belong to us and we do not have a right to take them over for ourselves.

Only when we give Jesus what belongs to him in all areas of our life do we truly honor him (John 5:20-23). Let's not seek our own things, but "the things of Jesus Christ". - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

I have many fellow-Christians around the world who are my brethren. I don't know all that is going on in their lives, but I'm sure they have similar problems, struggles, difficulties, and issues that I have. I may not be able to see them, hear them, or speak to them, but one thing I can do is pray for them. I will pray for all my brethren this week that God may help them.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Things of Jesus Christ

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For

I have no man likeminded, who will care truly for your state. For they all seek their own, not the things of Jesus Christ. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a child serves a father, so he served with me in furtherance of the gospel.

- Philippians 2:19-22 -

The Apostle Paul wanted to send Timothy to encourage the Christians in Philippi while he (Paul) was in a Roman prison. Here, Paul describes Timothy as someone who cared for the Philippians. Timothy was the right man for the job because he was not selfish and he, unlike others, was always seeking “the things of Jesus Christ”. What are “the things of Jesus Christ”? Let us consider in this article what belongs to Jesus and make sure he gets what belongs to him.

Will You Give Jesus What Belongs to Him?

There are things that belong to Jesus, but often people will not give him what belongs to him. Why is that? Well, some people do not give Jesus what is his because of pride. King Herod did not want to give Jesus the wor-

ship that he deserved, so he had all the male babies killed (Matthew 2:16).

Some do not give Jesus what is his because of delusion. False teachers will often claim to be a modern-day “Christ” (Messiah) and they will deceive many in the process (Matthew 24:5,24).

Some do not give Jesus what is his because of disrespect. Some do not give Jesus the reverence he deserves as the Son of God because they view him simply as a man (Malachi 1:6; Matthew 21:37-38; 22:21; Romans. 13:7).

Some do not give Jesus what is his because of selfishness and self-promotion. This is Paul’s point in Philippians 2:21. Timothy was selfless and he looked out for “the things of Jesus Christ”, but the others looked out for their own interests.

“The Things of Jesus Christ”

So, what in particular, are “the things of Jesus Christ”? What are some things that belong to him and no one else? Here are a few things...

- **First place belongs to Jesus.** Jesus is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:21-22). Jesus has a name above all names (Philippians 2:9). Jesus has the preemi-

nence over all things (Colossians 1:18). Diotrefes tried to take what did not belong to him and take the preeminence for himself (3 Jn. 9)

- **The church belongs to Jesus.** Jesus built the church and it belongs to him because he died for it (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16; Colossians 1:18). We did not die for the church, so we do not need to follow a man or name ourselves after man’s names (1 Corinthians 1:12-13).
- **The gospel belongs to Jesus.** The “good news” of the gospel belongs to Jesus because it is about him and his salvation for all mankind (Romans 1:9; 15:19). Since the gospel does not belong to us, we do not have a right to change it or preach something different (Galatians 1:6-7).
- **Religious authority belongs to Jesus.** Jesus has all authority in religious matters because God gave it to him (Matthew 23:10; 28:18; John 17:2; Revelation 19:17). We do not have this authority, so we do not need to bind our opinion and traditions on others (Matthew 15:8-9).