Baptism in the Name of Jesus

Intro: Colossians 3:17 commands us to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. In Acts 2:38 Peter commands unsaved men to, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in **the name of Jesus** **Christ** for the remission of sins.” To do something **in the name of Jesus** involves doing it for the reason and purpose that He has assigned. If we do not do what He has asked, for the reason He has asked, He doesn’t accept it. How do we know this is true?

1. Consider other things we are to do “in Jesus name.”
   1. **Charitable deeds**.
      1. In Mark 9:41 Jesus said that anyone who gave His disciples a “cup of water to drink ***in my name***, because you belong to Christ . . . he will by no means lose his reward”
      2. But if someone does that same charitable deed “before men, to be seen by them” he will receive “no reward” from the Father in heaven (Matthew 6:1).
      3. Note that *the reason* the charitable deed is done is what determines if it is acceptable to God as having been done in Jesus’ name.
   2. **Withdrawing.**
      1. When a church withdraws fellowship from a sinful member “***in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ***” they do it “that his spirit may be saved in the day of judgment” (1 Corinthians 5:4-5; cf. 2 Thessalonians. 3:6).
      2. But suppose that a church withdraws from someone because it is following the lead of a bully (like Diotrophes) who wants to control everything (3 John 9-10); that church has not practiced withdrawal “in the name of Jesus,” no matter what it may claim.
   3. **Prayer.**
      1. To pray “***in the name of Jesus”*** (Ephesians 5:20) involves more than saying, “in Jesus name, Amen” at the end of a prayer.
      2. To pray in the name of Jesus is “not merely to add to one’s prayers a meaningless formula, but it is to ask something from God as Christ’s representatives on earth, in his mission and stead, in his spirit and with His aim” (ISBE, vol. 3, p. 483).
      3. If we must SAY the name of Jesus in order to do something in His name, we would have to say His name every time we do anything (cf. Colossians 3:17).
      4. If I pray selfishly or not according to the will of God, I am not praying in Jesus name, even if I believe in Jesus and say “in Jesus’ name, Amen” at the end of my prayer
         * 1. James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
           2. 1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us.
           3. 1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.
   4. **Just because people claim to have done something in the name of Jesus, doesn’t mean they have!**
      1. If they haven’t done it for the reason and in the way that Christ wants, they haven’t done it in His name, no matter what they may claim.
      2. **Matthew 7:22-23** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 -- And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'
      3. **In Acts 19:11-17,** the sons of Sceva said Jesus’ name, but did not have His authority.
2. Baptism in the name of Jesus
   1. Baptism in the name of Jesus requires that the one baptized “believes” on Jesus Christ (**Acts 8:37**), but it also requires that the one baptized do so “for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**), to “wash away your sins” (**Acts 22:16**), and to “put on Christ” (**Galatians 3:27**). No one who has failed to be baptized for these reasons has been baptized in the name of Jesus.
   2. In **Acts 19:1-7**, the Scriptures teach that baptism for the wrong purpose does not save.
      1. 12 men who had been baptized “into John’s baptism” were told by the apostle Paul that “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus” (19:4).
         1. The context of **Acts 19** would indicate that these twelve men were of the same persuasion as Apollos, a man who had been “instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John”**(Acts 18:25)**.
         2. According to the text, the only thing Apollos did not teach accurately was baptism. He knew “the way of the Lord.”
         3. Please notice that the phrase “the way” is used seven other times in Acts, and in every other instance it has obvious reference to those who claimed their “faith in God” through Jesus Christ **(cf. Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:26; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22).**
      2. Upon hearing this, these twelve men “were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (19:5).
      3. Obviously, a baptism which is not “in the name of Christ for the remission of sins” will not save.

Conclusion: If you have not been baptized in the name of Jesus, why are you waiting? (Acts 22:16)