

# What Jesus Wants

By Don Hooton

So how well do we really know what Jesus wants? What does Jesus really want for those who wear His name? Could it be “Pet blessings,” “Boogie on the Blacktop” and “Lotto tickets for attendees”? Churches all around us exhaust their resources in these things. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer people know what Jesus really wanted?

First of all, Jesus' view of His work was not to bring peace in our world, as so often characterized by people. His work would surely bring peace to a believer's relationship with God (Luke 2:14, Romans 6:1) and with other Christians (Romans 14:17,19). And Christians are exhorted to “live at peace with all men as far as it depends on you” (12:18). Yet Jesus knew that His work would often result in the very opposite result. He said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). And those who follow Him will "be persecuted for righteousness' sake" when the world will "revile and persecute" them. Sometimes even the “religious” would be the very well of hatred that would fire away at the faith of Christians (see Acts 5:33,40; 19:28). “Peace in the earth” was not the ultimate aim of Christ's ministry. It was “peace on the earth” of a disciple's heart.

So what did Jesus really want to accomplish among His followers?

***Jesus wanted unity among His disciples based on truth.*** In prayer to His Father, He said, "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth. . . I pray . . . for those who will believe on Me through their (e.g. apostles') word; that they all may be one" (John 17:17-23). Three times Jesus prayed for unity for the disciples, a unity He knew would have to be based upon truth -- the word of God.

***Jesus wanted genuine worship.*** "The true worshippers will worship . . . in spirit and truth" (John 4:23), not in the cherished traditions of our fathers or our self-willed worship. For those who Pursue the latter course, He says that they worship Him "in vain . . . , teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:7-9).

***Jesus wanted the obedience of faith.*** Lots of people talk about "having faith." But Jesus has an entirely different idea about the faith of those who will be saved. He says, "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). As He sent the disciples out in the world to preach the gospel of salvation, He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). When Christ asks women and men to have faith in Him, He calls for our faith to find expression in doing His will (Acts 22:16).

Unfortunately, we find that what Jesus wanted is not being preached. Rather than urging unity on the basis of truth, many join together while ignoring blatant departures from the truth of the gospel. Rather than find worship that is Biblically centered, many worship in the manner that makes them feel best. Rather than preach the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26), many preach a easy-believism.

What we must seek and find -- if we want to please Jesus -- is *what Jesus wanted*. Anything else will not glorify Christ and will not receive blessing from Christ. Bluntly stated by John, we will not have Christ or God (2John 9). It's value is nothing to the soul but rubbish (Philippians 3:8-11). Christianity can not be genuine if Christ is not at the head and the beginning of it. Following Christ is not about doing what feels right to us but about doing what Christ wanted.