



Christian Questions

TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Dear Dave,

Thank you for once again writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked what the white stone refers to in Revelation 2:17.

“I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.” (Revelation 2:17)

In ancient times the Greeks and Romans had a custom of noting and perpetuating friendship by means of a white stone. This stone was divided and each person inscribed his name on the flat surface, after which the parts of the stone were exchanged. Producing either half was sufficient to insure friendly aid. Thus the divided stone became a mark of identification.

Apparently, the text refers to this ancient custom. The white stone signifies a precious token of the Lord’s love, and the new name written in the stone suggests that Jesus will give a personal name to each overcomer. Each will have a personal favor and friendship with the Lord.

It may be said that the overcomers receive the mark of identification (the symbolic white stone) now in the present life. This mark is the sealing of the holy spirit by which the Lord identifies the overcomers. The new name signifies a new relationship to God. This relationship—like stone—is lasting and imperishable and it is white. Here “white” signifies an innocent, pure, holy relationship. The full seal of the holy spirit will be given in the resurrection when the new body is received. In a sense, therefore, the stone is loaned to the Lord’s people now; if they are faithful, it will ultimately be given them.

In your next question you referred to the Old Testament where God says to put no other gods before him. However, as Christians, we pray to God in Jesus’ name. You wondered when we do so if we were not putting a false god before Christ.

There are several scriptures (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24; 16:26) where Jesus directly tells his disciples to pray to the Father in his name. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13) What





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does it mean to pray in Jesus' name and why is it so important? Not only does praying in Jesus' name recognize his authority as the Son of God, but it also means that the petitioner must realize his own actual unworthiness to approach the Father and, therefore, present himself in the name and merit of Jesus, his Redeemer.

When we pray through Jesus' name, are we also praying to God? There is no access to God for the Christian except through Jesus. "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Because sin has separated us from God, we need Jesus, our advocate (someone who speaks on our behalf), so that our requests can be made known to God. As is noted in 1 John 2:1, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Only He is capable of making our prayers acceptable to God. Therefore, we definitely pray to God through Jesus. Can we also pray to Jesus alone? Yes, we can pray to Him because we know that since his resurrection he is now Divine, sitting at the right hand of God. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11) Divinity, or immortality, was the gift God gave Jesus for his incredible sacrifice of death on the cross. In summary, as Christians, we can only pray to God through the merit of his son Jesus, but since his return to God in heaven, we can also pray directly to Jesus, our advocate, because he now is divine like God.

We hope we have answered your questions. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio

