**The Reason for All You Do**

Colossians 3:17

**Introduction**

Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to make the message about Christ prominent in the church through God-honoring music. What they were singing ought to show up as well in the way they were living. Not just your music, but your life ought to be Christ-centered, dynamic, and well-lived. How can the message of Christ show up in the way you are living? You must make sure that all you do is in the name of the Lord Jesus. What does that mean? Why is it important?

1. **Paul summarized this section (2:6-3:16) by calling for Christ-centered living in every area of life.** 
   1. The terms “word and deed” emphasize every area of life.
   2. “There are few exhortations in the New Testament which are as comprehensive as this one… The Christian’s whole life must be lived in obedience to the Lord Jesus.” (O’Brien)
   3. Oliver Greene gave this caution: “Paul is not suggesting that when we go to the grocery store to purchase a loaf of bread, we should say to the grocery man, ‘I am buying this bread in the name of Jesus to the glory of God.’….We should be very careful that our good is not evil spoken of, and realize the difference between full surrender, complete dedication, and self-righteousness. God deliver us from becoming ‘holier than thou.’”
2. **All is to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus.** 
   1. His name was to be precious to them.
      1. They were saved through faith in His name. (John 1:12, 3:18, 20:31; Acts 4:12,10:43: Romans 10:13; I Corinthians 6:11)
      2. They were baptized in His name. (Matthew 28:19-20)
      3. They received the Holy Spirit in His name. (John 14:26)
      4. They evangelized in His name. (Luke 24:47, Acts 5:41)
   2. God’s intent from the beginning was to take out a people for His name. (Acts 15:14).
      1. His name is to receive global recognition. (Psalm 113:3)
      2. Paul lived for His name. (Acts 9:15, Romans 1:5)
   3. God called out a people for His name in Colossae!
   4. It only makes sense that they would live for His name.
3. **They were to live under His authority and for His glory.** 
   1. To do something in someone’s name means that you operate under their authority.
      1. You represent them.
      2. You are their agent.
      3. You cannot act independently.
   2. Everything they said or did should show that Jesus is their Lord!
      1. Let’s take a brief overview of this chapter to see how the truth found in this verse applies.
      2. They could not indulge in sexual sin in His name. (v. 5-7) Sexual sin among believers brings shame to His name.
      3. They could not mistreat people in His name. (v. 8-14)
         1. They should accept all whom He accepts.
         2. They should forgive all whom He forgives.
         3. They should let the peace of God rule.
         4. Quarrels among believers bring shame to His name.
      4. They were to bring Him glory in the home. (v. 18-21)
         1. They were to glorify His name in their marriage. (v. 18-19)
         2. They were to glorify His name in the way they raised their children. (v. 20-21)
      5. They were to bring Him glory in their work. (v. 22-4:1)
      6. They were to bring Him glory before the lost. (4:5)
   3. Things were to be different since they lived for His name.
4. **Central Idea: The Colossian Christians should make sure that all they do is in the name of the Lord Jesus because they are to live under His authority and for His glory.** 
   1. This principle is true in other areas of life.
      1. When you work for a company, they tell you how to dress, require proper use of company time, and expect proper communication. You work under their authority. You are a reflection on their company.
      2. When you are under the authority of the military, they tell you how to dress, how to talk, and where to go. Since you are under their authority, you can’t live the way you used to live. You are a reflection on their name.
   2. When you were saved, you came under the authority of the Lord Jesus.
5. All that you do is a reflection on Him.
6. As one He has redeemed, you need to make sure that all you do is under His authority and for His glory.
7. “If we permit anything into our lives that cannot be associated with the name of Jesus, then we are sinning. We must do and say everything on the authority of His name and for the honor of His name.” (Wiersbe)
8. “The touchstone of Christian conduct is the Lord Jesus….act always in concert with the nature and character of our Lord….the totality of our existence must now be lived out with Him constantly in mind.” (Moo)
9. “Paul’s exhortation is…a check on behavior.” (Wright)
   1. Check your behavior:
      1. Is the music you listen to under His authority and for His glory?
      2. Can you yell at someone in His name (under His authority and for His glory)?
      3. Can you harbor ill feelings toward someone in His name?
      4. Can you be rude while representing His name?
      5. Can you lie in His name?
      6. Can you cheat on your taxes in His name?
      7. Can you watch inappropriate movies in His name?
      8. Can you dress immodestly in His name?
      9. Can you engage in sexual sin in His name?
      10. Can you lust in His name?
      11. Can you drink alcohol in His name?
      12. Can you smoke cigarettes in His name?
      13. Can you call in sick, when you aren’t sick, in His name?
      14. Can you be lazy in His name?
   2. Applying this truth will change the way you live.
10. This exhortation is “an exhortation to persevere with difficult tasks undertaken for Him, knowing that necessary strength will be provided.” (Wright)
11. When you are living under His authority and for His glory, you will have the ability to do all in His name: You can win souls in His name. You can be kind in His name. You can sing in His name. You can work a job in His name. You can keep house in His name. You can be a parent in His name.
    1. We are honored to be associated with the name of Christ.
       1. This gives you the highest motivation for living.
       2. How do you start living for His name?
12. You consider Who He is.
13. You trust Him as your Savior.
14. You remember who you were before He saved you.
15. You let His Word dwell in you richly.
16. You make sure that all you do is in His name.

**Conclusion**

What a lovely name, the name of Jesus! By God’s grace, let’s make sure that we honor and glory His name in the way we live.