

WHATSOEVER YE DO IN WORD OR DEED

COLOSSIANS 3:16-25

Text: Colossians 3:17, 23

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:23

²³ And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Introduction:

The curse of 20th-century Christianity is Sunday morning religion. Somebody wrote these words: “They’re praising God on Sunday; they’ll be all right on Monday—it’s just a little habit they’ve acquired.”

All that we do should pass these three test, and if they fail to pass these tests then we should not be doing them.

1. TEST ONE – IS IT CONSISTENT WITH THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

I can’t find anything in the Bible, for example, that says, “Thou shalt not drive through a school zone at 110

miles an hour.” It’s just not in here. I can’t find anything here in the Bible that says, “Thou shalt not smoke pot.”

I can find some principles, but I cannot find those things spelled out.

Illustration:

Now learn this about the Bible: Christianity is not a rulebook religion; the Bible is not, primarily, a list of dos and don’ts. The Bible is not a book of minute laws; the Bible is a book of great principles. Now, the younger that a child is, the more dos and don’ts you have to give that child. Remember when your children just got old enough to stay home by themselves, and you and mama went off and left them, but you wondered if you really should? Remember that being kind of a gray area? Remember when you walked out the door—what you kept on saying? “Don’t do this.” You know: “Don’t play with matches. Don’t let strangers into the house. Don’t go off. Don’t...” And you know, you kept saying, “Don’t do this, do this, and don’t do this,” because you were just not certain that they were mature enough, so you kept giving them rules. But, as they get older and older, you find out that the more mature they have become, the less rules you have to give them. And, if they are mature children, if they are good children, and if they have been observing you, then there are just certain things that they do and that they don’t do, because they know you, and they

know your character. And, whether or not it had ever come up before, they would say, “You know, Daddy, I just don’t think you’d want me to do that. That wouldn’t be consistent with your character.”

Could the Lord sign His name to whatever it is that we are doing?

2. TEST TWO – CAN IT BE DONE IN THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

Is it consistent with the character of Christ? but, secondly—Can this thing be done in the authority of Christ? Because, not only does name stand for character, name also stands for authority. When a person puts his name on something, he’s actually putting his authority behind it.

Illustration:

If some stranger were to walk into a store around here, in Salem, VA, and say, “I want to buy 50 pizzas for Temple Baptist Church,” well, the person—if he’s behind the counter—would say, “Now who are you?” “Well, I’m so and so.” “Do you have a purchase order?” “Yes. Here’s a purchase order.” It is signed by the treasurer. And, their name says to the person—who is behind the counter or whatever—that there is an authorization to buy these pizzas.

When I put my name on a check and give that check to you, that means that the teller in the bank is authorized to take some of my money and give it to the bearer of that check, because my name is on that check, and that name stands for me. It has my authority behind it. Now, if I write a bad check, they don't put the check in jail—they put me in jail.

Because my name on that check stands for me, it stands for my authority.

We're to say, "It's not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me, because I take the name of Jesus—the authority of Jesus— and whatever I do, if I do it in the name of Jesus, that Jesus power and that Jesus authority is in me. And, I keep yielding more and more to him."

Someone has said, "I just vacate and He occupies, and I vacate and He occupies, and I vacate and He occupies, and the first thing you know, my life is just one great big vacation, because He has come into me, and He has begun to live His life through me."

Tomorrow, don't do anything that Jesus couldn't sign His name to. And tomorrow, don't attempt anything in your own strength, but do it in the name of Jesus—in the authority of Jesus.

3. TEST THREE – WILL WHAT I DO RESULT IN GLORY TO THE LORD

Now, suppose you have a job: Suppose you work in an automobile shop and you straighten bent fenders.

Now, the Bible says, in verse 23: “Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord” (Colossians 3:23). Now, you ought to straighten fenders to give Jesus glory, and if you can’t straighten fenders to give Jesus glory, then you ought not to straighten fenders. If you cannot be a lawyer or a dentist to give Jesus glory—or a physician, or a businessman—then you ought not to do it. The Bible says that everything you do, you are to do in the name of Jesus. Nothing is excluded out of that.

Everything that I am to do, I am to do with His approval, with His authority, and for His acclaim.

If you have a secular—a so-called secular job—how should you serve your employer?

Look again, if you will, in verse 24 of this same chapter here. It’s so clear: “Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:24). Now, that’s interesting. When you work at a secular job—what the world calls a secular job—Paul says that you’re serving Jesus. How many businessmen have there been who have said, “Boy I’d just like to quit this job and serve the Lord”? Friend, you’ve got a skewed idea of what Christianity is.

You are serving the Lord, on your job, if you do it in the name of Jesus. And, God puts you right there, and that job that you have is to be your temple of devotion and your lampstand of witness, and all that you do, you are to do as to the Lord. So, verse 22 says that you are to work honestly. Look at verse 22: “According...not with eyeservice, as menpleasers” (Colossians 3:22)—that means that you’re not to be a clock-watcher, just getting by. You are to serve the Lord heartily. In verse 23: “Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily” (Colossians 3:23). That is, it’s a sin for you not to do your best. The reputation of Jesus is at stake.

Let me say to you something about you kids and your homework. I wish somebody had told me this when I was in school: You ought to do your homework for Jesus—not for the teacher, and not even for Mom or Dad. You’ve been witnessing to your teacher. You say, “Well, my teacher just doesn’t know God. I’ve been witnessing to my teacher.” Well, I’m going to tell you that you’re going to do a poor job witnessing to your teacher, if you’re not a good student.

Some of you kids have unsaved parents, and you’re praying for your parents to be saved. Well, why should your parents believe in your Christianity, if you can’t even keep your room clean? Or, is that too much conviction? Some of you kids—If you took a vacuum cleaner in your room, then it would throw up. And yet, you’re praying for Mom and Dad to be saved. Now, this

is really practical, because look—what we do, we're to do for the glory of God. It is a sin for a Christian to do less than his best. When we go out to work tomorrow—whether we're moms, dads, kids, or employees—we're to do it honestly, and we're to do it heartily, as to the Lord.

Close:

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Is all that we are doing being done in His name, and heartily as to the Lord, and not unto me?