

## THE PERSONALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN

### “OUR AMBITION AND APPRECIATION”

[Message 5d]

Date: 7-27-08

Text: Colossians 3: <sup>17</sup> **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Purpose: We are to glorify God in everything that we think and do!

**Introduction:** In modern society, we pay little attention to names. But the ancient world held a man’s name to be of utmost importance. Often, during Old Testament days, God changed a person’s name because of some important experience or some new development.

As Christians, we bear the name of Christ. The word *Christian* is found only three times in the entire New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The name was given originally as a term of contempt, but gradually it became a name of honor. The name of Christ, then, means *identification*: we belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Personal Activities -- <sup>17</sup> **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed**

- A. The Scope of Our Action -- **“And whatever - you do – παν ποιητε”**
- B. The Spoken Communication -- **“whether in word - λογω”** is a noun, dative, singular, masculine. This refers to the thoughts of the mind and then the expression of those thoughts in words such as a discourse, speech, doctrinal teaching and admonitions, anything talked about and shared with others. Including manuscripts, books, any printed materials.
- C. The Significant Action -- **“whether in deed - εργω”** is a noun, dative, singular, neuter. It refers to an act, deed, a thing done: the idea of working is emphasized in opposition to that which is less than work. This would also include works of art, music, photography – copyrighted materials!

**Applications:**

---

<sup>1</sup>Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:17

1. Everything that we do today from rising out of bed in the morning to our going to bed at night is in the sphere of thanksgiving and glorifying God.
2. All of our thoughts and words are to bring glory to God. Psalms 19:14  
 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”<sup>i</sup>
3. This being true, that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer will guarantee that everything that we do today will glorify our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

Transitional Sentence: **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed ....**  
 Brings us to our \*\*\*

## 2. Personal Ambition -- do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus

- A. The All-inclusiveness of Our Ambition -- “do it all – παν {all} ποιητε {do}” -- is a verb, finite, second person, plural, present, subjunctive, active. There is no distinction between what is *secular* and what is *spiritual* in the mind of God. God and Christ are sovereign over all.
- B. The Aim of our Ambition -- “in the name of the Lord Jesus”
  - A. “in - “εν”” – in the sphere of.
  - B. “name - ονοματι” identification with the person and that that person is.
  - C. “of the Lord Jesus”
    - a) As Christians, we bear the name of Christ. The word *Christian* is found only three times in the entire New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The name was given originally as a term of contempt, but gradually it became a name of honor. The name of Christ, then, means *identification*: we belong to Jesus Christ.
    - b) But His name also means *authority*. A man’s name signed to a check authorizes the withdrawal of money from the bank. The President’s name signed to a bill makes it a law. In the same way, it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we have the authority to pray (John 14:13–14; 16:23–26). Because Jesus Christ is God, and He has died for us, we have authority in His name.<sup>ii</sup>
    - c) Bearing the name of Jesus is a great privilege, but it is also a tremendous responsibility.<sup>iii</sup>

Applications:

1. Everything that we do today is a *reflection* of the *Name of Christ – Christian!* The very *name – Christian* identifies us with the Person of Christ and His character.
2. We are faced with the reality that Jesus is to be *center of our minds and lives!*

Transitional Sentence: **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,**

### **3. Personal Thanksgiving -- giving thanks to God the Father through Him**

- A. Our Personal Appreciation -- “**giving thanks - ευχαριστουντε**□” is a verb, participle, nominative, plural, and masculine, present, active.
- B. Our Personal Intention -- “**to God the Father**” the object of our continual thanks.
- C. Our Personal Course of Action - Approach -- “**through him - δι αυτου**” -- by the means of and through him – the Lord Jesus.
  1. Note that Paul again mentioned thanksgiving in this Colossian letter. Whatever we do in the name of Christ ought to be joined with thanksgiving. If we cannot give thanks, then we had better not do it or say it! This is the fifth of six references in Colossians to thanksgiving (Col. 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2). When we remember that Paul was a Roman prisoner when he wrote this letter, it makes this emphasis on thanksgiving that much more wonderful.
  2. As we review these four spiritual motivations for godly living, we are impressed with the centrality of Jesus Christ.
    - a. We forgive because Christ forgave us (Col. 3:13).
    - b. It is the peace of Christ that should rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15).
    - c. The Word of Christ should dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16).
    - d. The name of Christ should be our identification and our authority. “Christ is all, and in all” (Col. 3:11).
  3. Since we are united with Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have all the resources we need for holy living. But we must be spiritually motivated. Because we have experienced the grace of Christ, we want to live for Him. Because we have enjoyed the peace of Christ, we want to obey Him. We have been enriched by the Word of Christ, and ennobled by the name of Christ; therefore, we want to honor and glorify Him.

#### 4. Can we desire any higher motivation? <sup>iv</sup>

##### Life Principles:

1. We are to be *thankful* in all that we think and do!
2. All that we do in our personal lives are to be done in the *Name of Jesus!*
3. This will result in our being transformed daily into the spiritual likeness of Jesus!
4. The Triune Godhead are our *motivators* to have such an ambitious lifestyle. All for the glory of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

**Transitional Sentence:** *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

##### How Can “I” apply this message to “my” life?

1. All that we do in our personal lives are to be done in the *Name of Jesus!*
2. This will result in our being transformed daily into the spiritual likeness of Jesus!
3. The Triune Godhead is our *motivators* to have such an ambitious lifestyle. All for the glory of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!
4. According to a March, 2008 survey conducted by the Barna Research Group, 23% of American adults has not attended a church in the past year. Now in America, there is estimated to be about 225,000,000 adults, so 23% is about 51.7 million adults that have not been in a church in the past year. Now 59% of that number actually consider themselves Christians – which is about 30.5 million. Out of that number, those who consider themselves to be born-again Christians is 17%. That means that there are approximately 5.2 million born-again Christian adults in the United States who have not stepped foot in a church in the past year. Perhaps you know one.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>i</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ps 19:14

<sup>ii</sup>Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary.* Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:17

<sup>iii</sup>Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary.* Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:17

<sup>iv</sup>Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary.* Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:17

---

<sup>2</sup> Rick George Evangelical/Non-denominational