

Do All in the Name of the Lord
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As Christians go throughout their lives, they face many trials and temptations. There are many passages in the Bible which help the Christian to endure through life. Colossians 3:17 is one example, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through Him” (NKJV). This passage gives a strong ground rule that all Christians should follow. Christians need to understand this verse so that they can properly serve God in all things.

To begin understanding the verse, Christians must know what each part of the verse means. “Whatever you do in word or deed” means everything you do. “In word” represents anything that a person says or that comes out of the mouth by the voice. “In deed” represents all the actions that a person does. The next section is “Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” The meaning to this is everything a Christian does must be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. “Do all” literally means everything that you do. The statement “Do all” is inclusive of all things and again there is nothing excluded. No matter what you are doing it must be done in the name of the Lord. The phrase “In the name of the Lord Jesus” means by the authority of the Lord Jesus. The statement all together means that everything you do must be authorized by Christ. The final part of the verse “giving thanks to God the father through Him” shows the importance of remembering to give thanks to God. As we do everything by the authority of Christ, we are to still thank God. “Giving thanks to God” tells us that our thanks are to be directed toward God the father. “Through Him” means literally through or by Jesus.

Once Christians know the meaning of the verse, they have to know how to follow it. To do all by the authority of Christ means that everything you do must be correct and right in God’s eyes. Christians must look to the scriptures to be able to understand what is acceptable to God. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says that all authority has been given to Him. Therefore, we are to do everything that we do under His authority. Since it is possible to do things by the authority of Christ, it is also possible to not do things by the authority of Christ. Living in sin and not following the path given in the Bible are some ways that this is done. Anything done without the approval of God is not done in the name of the Lord Jesus. Also, things that are approved of but are done with the wrong attitude would not be in the name of the Lord Jesus.

There are other places in the Bible which give similar texts to further solidify Colossians 3:17. Colossians 3:23 is one example “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” If Christians do everything as if they are doing it to the Lord, then they should only want to do what is right and under His authority. In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul wrote “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Everything that we do must bring glory or honor to God. If we are doing everything by His authority, then we are bringing glory to Him. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 shows that the Christian must “Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgement.” If all of God’s people fear Him and keep His commandments, then they will be doing all in His name. God will judge every single work that we do. That is why every work must be by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

As Christians go through their lives, they must understand the teaching given in Colossians 3:17. Christians must remember that whatever they say and do must be according to the authority of the Lord Jesus. They must also remember to always give thanks to God through Jesus for everything. Then using other scriptures, Christians can get a complete understanding of all the things they must do. By following this one verse, all Christians would want to do everything that God requires and would secure their place in heaven.