

## Colossians 3:17

***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.***

It seems every Friday that we ask our coworkers and friends and even family that common question, which is “*So, what are you going to do this weekend?*”

Summer just ended and even though it did, it’s still a little hot were I live, so if you lived here, maybe this coming weekend you would be planning a day trip to the beach, or going to a friend’s to hang out in their swimming pool and have a BBQ. Maybe you are going to go see a movie or go to the mall, or maybe you are exhausted from the week and you are just going to relax at home. But regardless of what you are planning to do for the weekend, we need to remember today’s verse as we do, which is “***whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***”

If you look at all the things you did last week, could you truly say that you did them all “***in the name of the Lord Jesus***”? But not just “***in the name of the Lord Jesus***” but also in” ***giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***”

I think we are all familiar with doing in the name of the Lord Jesus, and I have taught it here as well that if you can’t do it in the name of Jesus, it’s probably something you shouldn’t be doing.

- ☹ Can you truly go see that “R” rated movie full of sex, nudity and profanity “***in the name of the Lord Jesus***” ?
- ☹ Can you go to your friends house and hang out and get drunk “***in the name of the Lord Jesus***”?
- ☹ Can you go to the beach and look at the guys or girls wearing almost nothing and lusting after them “***in the name of the Lord Jesus***” ?

You get the idea. But there is a second part to this verse that most over look, because yeah, we can do things in the name of Jesus, or try and live a good and right life in the name of Jesus, but are we doing it “***giving thanks to God the Father through Him***”?

For some reason, we tend to try our best to be pleasing to God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son with our lives, but how often are we truly “***giving thanks to God the Father through Him***”? Sure, it’s easy to give thanks when things are going great. But how often do we forget the Lord when things are going great, or just good, and forget to give thanks to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ?

Sometimes we take the things the Lord does for us for granted, like it’s His job to make us happy or to do for us; therefore, some think that He has to do these things. And, yes, He does these things because He loves us. But have you ever done something for someone and never gotten a thank you for what you have done for them? How did you feel?

Now we don't do things for others to get the thank you, but it's still nice to hear it once in a while, isn't it? Don't you think God takes pleasure in us being thankful to Him as well? It's not like He needs it or that He will stop doing for you if you don't thank Him. But if you are not thanking Him at all, you are becoming a spoiled brat, because spoiled kids don't say thank you, they just say, "*give me more*" or "*do more for me*".

So, this next week and weekend, start (and continue to) give the Lord Thanks for all that He has done and given you. As well as the ability to do the things you are able to do "*in the name of the Lord Jesus*" but also in "*giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*" Because He has blessed you with the ability to do them. You know those everyday things you can do, like going your job, or to drive the car that He has provided for you, or buy the food that you eat each day, or having friends to go hang out with, or having the money to go to the movies, or simply the ability to "walk" around a mall. So much that the Lord does for us, so much so that it would take a thousand lifetimes to thank Him for them all.

One thing I do at least once a week during my prayer time is, I don't ask for anything, instead I spend the entire time thanking the Lord for everything. So start now with a **Thank You Lord**, simply because you are thankful, and not because I am telling you to say it.

- † **Romans 1:21** *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
  
- † **Colossians 4:2 (NLT2)** *Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.*