

- We sing that last song and our minds go to the verse that it was written to teach in **Colossians 3:17**. I would speculate that normally when we consider **Colossians 3:17**, we do so in the context of authority. While that certainly is a correct application in my estimation, I wonder why it was that Paul felt the need to write that to the Colossians at that point in his letter. One of the things we struggle with being nearly 2,000 years removed from the writing of the letters of the Bible is being to gain a true sense why the writer is writing what he is writing. We use particular text to make points in teaching and preaching, but we just don't have the time to go back and explain why exactly it is where it is or we just don't know exactly why it is where it is. We often know book, chapter, and verse, but we might not know why that book chapter and verse fits into a particular letter or portion of the letter.
- One of the great benefits of daily Bible reading is that you get to see the flow of the text a lot better than just randomly reading different text sporadically. Those who read through **Colossians** within the past couple of weeks might have been able to see exactly why it is that Paul says what he says in **Colossians 3:17**. The reasoning of Paul is very clear once you recognize it.
- Having a little knowledge about the city of Colossae also greatly helps with understanding Paul's main point of his letter to the Colossians. Colossae was a port city and it was a great center of trade. So naturally, many different people's from many different cultures and backgrounds are intermingling and sharing thoughts and ideas. Therefore, there are many different ideas that are trying to influence the Christians in Colossae. Paul feels the need to write and remind them that they should do all in the name of the Lord and none else. So let's look at Paul's reasoning for why they should follow the Lord and Him alone.

## **Paul's reasoning for doing all in the name of the Lord.**

### **I. Christ is superior to all things. (1:15-23)**

- A. After his customary greeting and expressing his prayer and love for the brethren at Colossae, Paul gets right to the point by declaring Jesus Christ's superiority to all things and how He should have first place in all things.
  1. Jesus is God. (v.15)
  2. He created all things. (v.16)
  3. He holds all things together. (v.17)
  4. He is the Head of the Church. (v.18)
  5. Through Him we are reconciled. (v.20-22)
- B. There were a lot of different influences there in Colossae that could take the place of Christ.
  1. Paul is reminding them that they needed to remember who really is better than all else.
  2. His ultimate point is that Christ, because He is superior, is the one that we should act in the name of, not other things.
  3. Paul also stresses that if we want to continue to be holy, blameless, and beyond reproach then we better continue to be firmly established and steadfast in Jesus and His Gospel. We do that by doing all in the name of the Lord. (v.23)

### **II. Christ has made them complete. (2:6-13)**

- A. The Colossians had been made complete in Jesus through their obedience to the Gospel.
  1. They had received Christ. (v.6)
  2. They had been made complete. (v.10)
  3. They were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands. (v.11)
  4. They were buried with Him through baptism. (v.12) (**Romans 6:3,4**)
  5. They had been made alive together through Him. (v.13) (**Romans 6:8-11**)
- B. None of this was done by their own working, but it was through the working of God that they were forgiven of sins.
  1. Faith was necessary for their sins to be forgiven, but the power was still in God who was working through their obedience.
  2. This power of God and Jesus makes them the rule and authority (v.10) through whom we must live by.
  3. We do all in His name because He has made us complete and through His power we can continue to be what we need to be.

### **III. Christ has disarmed all other powers. (2:14-23)**

- A. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus showed His rule and authority over all other things. He now reigns with absolute authority.
  - 1. He nailed the Old Law to the cross and took its power. **(v.14)**
  - 2. He disarmed all rulers and authorities. **(v.15)**
  - 3. No one should be their judge according to matters of the Law because they were shadows of things to come. **(vv.16,17)**
  - 4. They had died with Christ and they no longer should worry about the rules of other faiths or teachings. **(vv.20-23)**
- B. Christ now has all power and should be the authority by which we follow and hold to. **(Galatians 3:24,25)**
  - 1. We should not allow others to fool us by false teachings and visions. **(v.18)**
  - 2. We should not allow those things with no power to rule us. **(made made religions and teachings v.23)**

### **IV. Christ has given them a new life. (3:1-16)**

- A. Being raised up with Christ means that they have a new life in Him.
  - 1. They were to set their minds on the spiritual and not the physical. **(vv.1-5)**
  - 2. They were to no longer be involved in the sins of their old life. **(vv.5-9)**
  - 3. They were to now live according to their renewed and true knowledge of God. **(vv.10-11)**
  - 4. They were chosen of God to live in righteousness. **(vv.12-16)**
- B. In this new life, we are to live according to the one who has given us new life.
  - 1. In our old life, we lived according to our own wants and desires.
  - 2. In our new life, we now live according to the standard of the one who has given us this new life.
  - 3. We go on from this point living according to the standard He has set for us, regardless of our status or situation in this life. **(3:18-4:6)**

So why should we do all in the name of the Lord? Well, Paul didn't just say that without including sound reasoning for doing so. Christ is worthy of us doing things in this life according to His will. He is superior to all else, He has made us complete in Him, He has taken all authority from all other powers, and He has given us a new life to live for His glory. May God help us to recognize why we do things according to the name of His Son.