

Do All Things for the Lord

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17)

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men. (Colossians 3:23)

It does not matter *what* we do in life nearly as much as it matters *how* we do what we do. A pastor may be the leader of a large and active church, but is he serving himself or the Lord (Philippians 1:15-17)? Is he even teaching the truth (II Timothy 4:1-4)? A teacher may have a great following, but is he teaching for personal success or for the Lord? Is he motivated by the knowledge of man or the love of God? A musician may be considered gifted and powerful, but is he performing for the adulation of man? We must examine what we do and how and why we do it. Is our motivation to serve God or man?

For am I [*Paul*] now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

It is not easy to do all things for the Lord. In fact, because of our old sin nature, no one has ever done all things for the Lord. Our old nature is pure sin, is powerful, and is self-serving. It craves attention, admiration, and glory. As long as we walk on this earth, our new nature in Christ will be in constant battle with the old and, unfortunately, our sin nature will win its share of the battles. Thankfully, however, our new nature is greater and, by the grace of God, there is no condemnation because we are in Christ (Romans 7:14-25; 8:1).

To do all things for the Lord means we need to do the right things and with the right motivation. As believers, we have choices to make every day between right and wrong. Are we going to serve our sinful desires or are we going to serve God and do the right thing (Romans 6:8-14)?

We cannot depend on our own knowledge to do the right thing in the eyes of God. God does not want us to do what *seems right* but what *is right*. It is man's nature to do what is right in his own eyes, but for the nonbeliever the natural consequence is spiritual death (Proverbs 14:12; 21:2). We must rely on Scripture, rightly divided, to know and do the right thing (II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17). Of course, there are consequences for doing the right thing that many believers fear: suffering and persecution (Philippians 1:29; II Timothy 3:12). However, to suffer for doing what is right in the name of our Lord is a blessing (Matthew 5:11; Romans 5:3-5). Is it not far better to suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is wrong?

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. (I Peter 3:17)

What is our motivation to do the right things? Are we seeking rewards or treasure in heaven? By our works, do we hope to be in a better position in heaven than fellow brethren who are not as diligent as we are? Is not this attitude a form of selfish ambition? Would it not be far better to do the right thing, for the Lord, because it is the right thing to do? Do we need any more motivation to serve God than to remember what He has done for us through Christ and be thankful?