

In the Interests of Jesus

Colossians 3:17

READY

Have you ever had to use a power of attorney? In what circumstances might you use one?

SET & GO

Primary Text: Colossians 3:17

Supporting Texts: John 12:13 (Ps. 118:26)

Set 1 *Read Colossians 3:17 and John 12:13 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

Compare these passages. What do they share in common?

What is the primary command in Colossians 3:17? To what extent are we to keep it?

To whom are we to give thanks (Col. 3:17)? Through whom?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss: Jesus fulfilled Ps. 118:26 as the one who would come “in the name of the LORD.” To come in someone’s name is to act on that person’s behalf, to carry out all of his desires. It requires setting aside all **self**-interest, and Jesus did this perfectly (cf. John 12:49). You are now called to do all things “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” You’re to act on His behalf and carry out His desires, setting aside your interests for His. Many claim to have “salvation” from Jesus but have no interest in living for Him, but it’s not possible to separate the gift from the Giver. In fact, the gift **is** the Giver!*

Go 2a If you asked a friend to act on your behalf or in your name, how conscientiously would you hope s/he would act? How would you feel if s/he made a few of the decisions in his or her own interests?

Go 2b Discuss this statement: Eternal life is found **in** Christ not something obtained **from** Christ.* How might seeing salvation as something you have apart from Christ lead to a life lived apart from Him? How do you see yourself?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss: Paul’s intention in v 17 is to make it clear that every aspect of your life is to be lived for Christ. You will be tempted to compartmentalize your life, to apply Christ’s standards to some areas but the world’s standards to others. But Jesus is Lord of **all**. What you say or do in every aspect of your life represents Christ because you are united to Him. He is in you and you are in Him (cf. Jn. 14:10-17).*

Go 3a In what ways are you tempted to compartmentalize your life? Why is this so easy to do?

Go 3b In what ways can your speech disserve Jesus’ interests? What about the counsel you give people?

Go 3c What area of your life would most change if Jesus were standing right next to you watching and listening?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss: As you come to understand what you’ve been entrusted with as one called to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,” you will not be able to contain your gratitude and joy. You’ve been asked by the King of the universe to represent Him with your life, to carry out **His** interests in this world. What an honor! You are to give thanks **to** the Father because this was His plan and **through** Jesus because it was He who called you and qualified you for the task.*

Go 4a If Jesus summoned you into His heavenly court and personally assigned you with a task to do, how would you respond? How would the experience shape your attitude while doing the task? What if it were something really “small”?

Go 4b What makes it so difficult to see both the painful stuff of life and the menial stuff of life as amazing opportunities to serve the interests of Jesus?

Go 4c Are you happy to do “big” things for Jesus but begrudge the “small” things? What are some of the “small” things Jesus is asking you to do?

FINISH

If you are struggling to understand the gospel, Pastor Kelly would love to meet with you. You can also seek out someone you know to have a good understanding. There are many who would love to help.

*Note Rom. 6:23 “eternal life **in** Christ” or 8:2 “life **in** Christ,” etc.

Walk it Out!
Living Christian in a New Reality
In the Interests of Jesus
Colossians 3:17 (John 12:13)

Living Christian means gladly doing all of life in the interests of Jesus.

1. Are you doing your life in the interests of Jesus?

a. Your calling

b. His example

2. Are you doing **all** of life for Him?

a. All of everything you say

b. All of everything you do

3. Are you doing it gladly?

a. Giving thanks to the Father

b. Rejoicing in His Son