

Graduation  
May 22, 2019  
\*CW-S – “In Christ Alone”

1 Corinthians 10:31  
168-469-452-752\*

“Do It All for the Glory of God”

- I. Consider the reasons for this.
- II. Consider the alternative to this.
- III. Consider the opportunities for this.

Dear Christian friends – and especially you the members of this year’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade class,

Last Friday morning – during one of your VISITS to my office with **confirmation questions** – Lucas, you COMMENTED **to the effect**, “We’ve been at St. John’s a LONG time!” Grade school IS a **long time**. MOST of the life you remember has been in grade school.

That changes now. The PACE really picks up. In the time it took you to **get through** grade school you could be out of college. Or put it THIS WAY – and your parents might **not want to hear** this - in the next two or **three years** you could BE DRIVING – and dating – and have a part-time paying job. Depending on your birthday **in four years** or so you’ll be a LEGAL adult. In four short and fast years you’ll be DONE with high school and having to decide WHAT TO DO then – go on to college – a career, etc. You will also be bombarded FROM ALL SIDES with opportunities and temptations about WHAT to **believe** – HOW to **live** your life – WHERE does God really fit in your **life and plans**.

In **all** the CHANGES and CHALLENGES that are coming your teachers and I pray that you’ll **remember** your class motto – **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”** **“Do it ALL for the GLORY OF GOD.”** Let’s now briefly consider 1)the reasons for this, 2)the alternative to this and 3)the opportunities for this.

**I. Consider the reasons for this.**

What are **some reasons** for us to live so that **“whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do it all for the glory of God”**? The FIRST big reason is that’s what we were CREATED to do! It goes back to the VERY FIRST commandment – that God is to always come first in our lives – EVEN AHEAD of **ourselves**.

Each one of you – **each one** of us – is a SPECIAL CREATION of God blessed with unique gifts and **talents** TO BE USED **“all to the glory of God.”** Nobody has all the **different gifts** and talents but we all have some gifts and talents. CONTRARY to evolution we are not glorified animals – the KING OF THE HILL **until something better** comes along. We humans are the CROWN of God’s creation – but we are not God’s EQUALS. We were not created to be God’s BUDDIES or His BOSSES but **to be** His loving – grateful – obedient children.

You know how the **devil came tempting** Eve and got her and then Adam to DEFY and **disobey** God. With HALF-TRUTHS and out-right lies the **devil convinced** them that God was mean – UNFAIR – that God takes all the fun out of life. The **devil convinced** them that IGNORING and DEFYING God is the way to live your life. FORGET this **“all to the glory of God”** stuff. Life is ALL ABOUT us/me. Nobody can tell me WHAT to **believe** or HOW to **live** my life – and that includes God. EVER SINCE the fall into sin we are all born CURSED with stubborn, selfish sinful natures that have that attitude. WE TOO have fallen so often for the devil’s **lies** and **empty promises**.

But that also leads us to the BIGGEST REASON to **“do all to the glory of God.”** We’ve been redeemed FROM our sin and guilt TO now live **“to the glory of God.”** Don’t ever OUTGROW the catechism’s BIBLE-BASED explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article! Jesus - the eternal Son of God born a true man – He “HAS REDEEMED ME a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and

with His innocent sufferings and death.” But don't stop there! “ALL THIS HE DID that I should **be His own**, and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness.”

Those simple, familiar facts of the gospel are the HEART of our relationship with God and our MOTIVATION for living every day “**all to the glory of God.**” God saw us in ALL our sin and rebellion yet instead of **giving up** on us and **justly condemning** us to hell's eternal banishment and punishment God took it upon Himself to DO EVERYTHING to save us. And so Jesus did! IN OUR PLACE Jesus lived His whole life – EVEN DIED on the cross – “**to the glory of God.**” Jesus lived for us that life of **perfect love** and **obedience** that we owed God but never could live. Jesus shed His blood on the cross to “**purify us from all sin.**” Jesus died to “**take away the sin of the world.**” Now risen triumphant from the dead Jesus promises us eternal life in heaven the moment we die. TRUSTING in – CLINGING **by faith** to Jesus – we are God's redeemed, beloved children – heirs of heaven. How can we NOW NOT LIVE so that “**whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do it all for the glory of God**”?

Just consider these passages. “**(Jesus) gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good. (Jesus) died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for Him, who died for them and was raised again.**”

Now let's...

## II. Consider the alternative to this.

Some would say that **an alternative** to “**doing all to the glory of God**” is to do whatever I WANT – to do what pleases ME. Instead of “**all to the glory of God**” it's all to the GLORY OF ME. I'm to be noticed – **appreciated** – **applauded**. WHAT I FEEL **like doing** or **believing** is MORE IMPORTANT than what God actually says or **wants**.

But there's really only one **alternative** to “**doing all to the glory of God.**” The only real **alternative** to doing WHAT PLEASES GOD is **doing what pleases** the DEVIL. The devil wants us to **do whatever** DISPLEASES God. **If that's catering** to our **sinful natures** – cuddling up to them instead of “**crucifying them**” – **if** that's pushing God OFF TO the side in our lives - **if** that's going along with what EVERYBODY ELSE is **doing** or **believing** – SO BE IT! God doesn't want it so the DEVIL'S ALL FOR it. And **if** the devil can get us to do that he's MORE THAN HAPPY no matter what it's called. He's deceived another person – he's snares another victim for hell.

The devil doesn't want us to SEE IT THAT WAY but that's the way it is. It comes down to **do I want** to SERVE GOD with my life and “**do all to the glory of God**” or am I going to SERVE THE DEVIL and follow him to hell? That's not really an alternative to CONSIDER, is it?

“**So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**” Let's now...

## III. Consider the opportunities for this.

Just what does it MEAN to “**do it all for the GLORY OF GOD**”? Simply put it **means** GOD GETS “**all the glory**” and credit – God is the CENTER of attention. Instead of “LOOK what I've done!” it's “LOOK WHAT GOD has enabled me to do!” It's not “Look what I'VE all accomplished!” but “Look how richly GOD HAS BLESSED me – how far GOD has **brought me.**”

That doesn't rule out SATISFACTION in a **job well done**. That gives added reason for DOING A JOB **well**. I can take satisfaction in a WELL-KEPT **lawn** and **garden** but it's with the attitude of “WOW! What a fantastic world GOD CREATED for us to **enjoy** and **take care** of. The flowers – the plants – GOD HAS GIVEN us to **grow** and **enjoy** – THANKS, God!” Do you see the difference? The focus isn't ME and all MY HARD WORK in the garden but on the GOD **who created** the garden.

Apply that to EVERY AREA – every MINUTE – of our lives. Paul doesn't exempt **any part** of our lives. We're reminded that GOD IS GOD of our whole life **not just certain parts** of our lives. We don't give God AN HOUR of church and then the rest of the week IS OURS and God better keep His hands off it.

***“Whatever you do – do it all for the glory of God.”*** Paul wasn't thinking about it back then but that ***“whatever”*** now includes WATCHING TV – using the internet – listening to ***whatever*** music, etc. We CAN DO **all that** stuff ***“to the glory of God”*** in ways that PLEASE our God – or we can do it to please the devil and our sinful natures. BEFORE I start watching a show or movie or surfing the internet I NEED TO ASK myself, “Am I doing this ***‘all to the glory’*** of my God? Is this making my SAVIOR HAPPY?”

It's almost summer vacation but that ***“whatever you do”*** includes homework – your job or career later on – chores around the house – making your bed – mowing the lawn, etc. ***“Doing it all to the glory of God”*** is not doing JUST ENOUGH to **get by** but doing the best we can WITH THE GIFTS God has given us. Paul once put it this way, ***“Whatever you do, keep working at it with all your heart, as for the Lord and not for people”*** and ***“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.”***

We live in a world **more and more** ANTI-Christian – **more and more** OPENLY DEFIANT of God's will and ways. Temptations come from all sides to IGNORE what God **says/wants**. It's harder and harder to live a GOD-CENTERED – God-**pleasing** life. Recall then Paul's words, ***“You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.”***

***“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*** CREATED by our loving God – REDEEMED with the blood of God's own Son – we have good reasons so to live. We also have COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES **every day** to do just that. God bless you as you move on in your education. God grant that ***“whatever you do, you do it all for the glory of God.”*** Amen.

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