

For the Lord's Sake and For Ours
Colossians 1:9-14

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. I try to read a lot of articles written by brethren.
 - A. The wealth of material good material written by our brethren is quite impressive; I recommend visiting web sites and doing some reading on your own (e.g., *Truth Magazine* website has articles archived all the way back to 1956; truthmagazine.com).
 - B. I read them for my own personal edification and sometimes use them for sermon ideas.
2. **2** I recently ran across an article by Marc W. Gibson entitled: "*For the Lord's Sake.*"
 - A. The premise of the article was based on 2 Peter 2:13, where Peter writes, "*Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.*"
 - B. Brother Gibson focused on the phrase: "*for the Lord's sake.*"
 - C. His main point was the reason we obey the law of the land is to please God.
 - D. He then made a series of points on other things we should do "*for the Lord's sake.*"
3. I thought it would make a great sermon; so I started adapting it to preach here at Westside.
 - A. However, as I was working on the lesson; something dawned on me about the topic: "*For the Lord's Sake.*"
 - (1) It is certainly true we obey "every ordinance of man" "*for the Lord's sake.*"
 - (2) And, everything we do should be done "*for the Lord's sake.*"
 - (3) However, whatever we do for the Lord's sake we also do "*for our own sake.*"
 - B. Most people believe God is a control freak who wants us to dangle us on a string like a puppet doing His bidding whether we like it or not.
 - (1) They believe the things God wants of us are designed to take the fun and joy out of life.
 - (2) Nothing could be further from the truth!

Rom. 6:21-22: "*What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*"

Isa. 3:10-11: "*Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. 11 Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him.*"

Deut. 6:24: "*And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.*"

Matt. 11:28-30: "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

Jer. 29:11: "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"

I Jn. 5:3: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

4. You see, what the Lord asks of us we are certainly to do “for His sake.”
5. But, everything we do for do “for His sake” is in our best interest! What we do “for His sake,” we also do for “our own sake!”
6. **3** Briefly let us consider five things we do “For the Lord’s Sake and For Ours.”

II. DISCUSSION:

I. **4** Attend worship services:

- A. Some attend worship services to please another person, or simply out of habit.
- B. We should attend the worship services of the church “for the Lord’s sake.”
 - (1) We worship God because He is worthy of our worship, and it is our obligation to worship our Creator and Father (**Psa. 95:6-7:** “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.”).
 - (2) Only God is worthy of our worship! **Matt. 4:10:** “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” (cf. Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9).
 - (3) We worship Him because Jesus told us to! **Jn. 4:24:** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 - (4) There are a whole host of reasons we could cite for why we should worship and thus, take advantage of EVERY worship service!
 - ☛ “all spiritual blessings” are “in Christ” (Eph. 1:3),
 - ☛ “He chose us [for salvation] in Him” (Eph. 1:4),
 - ☛ “predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:5),
 - ☛ “He made us accepted in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6),
 - ☛ “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7),
 - ☛ “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance” (Eph. 1:11),
 - (5) Christ is the Creator and sustainer of all life, physical and spiritual! **Col. 1:16-22**
- C. To not have a burning desire to worship Him, “for His sake,” is the height of apathy and ingratitude! Mal. 1:13
- D. But what about worshiping Him “for our own sake”?
 - (1) Is there anything more disgusting than one who is ungrateful?
 - (a) If for no other reason, “for our own sake” we should worship God to show we are not ingrates!
 - (b) When we miss services; we are, in essence, telling God and His Son that they are not as important to us as the reason we use to miss services! Ingratitude!
 - (2) More reasons:
 - ☛ To not show up and participate in worship is to disrespect our brethren who do show up to worship (**Heb. 10:24-25:** “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the

manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”).

- ☛ Opportunity to remember the Lord’s sacrifice (**1 Cor. 11:26**: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”). We are so forgetful! Recall the Israelites and the 10 unfaithful spies!
- ☛ Opportunity for self-examination (1 Cor. 11:23-29; esp. **v. 28**: “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”). We need to see ourselves as God sees us! Also, James 1:25!
- ☛ Opportunity to mutually edify one another (**Eph. 5:19**: “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”; **Col. 3:16**: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”).

(3) Do you agree with this statement?

- (a) Many who find out they’re lost on the Day of Judgment will be unfaithful brethren?”
- (b) Yes? No?

(4) What thoughts do you think will be going through their minds?

- (a) A lot of things!
- (b) ** Not the least will be: “Why didn’t I take advantage of all of those times the brethren gathered together to worship God and mutually encourage me and one another.”

2. **5** Choose a good mate:

A. The first criteria in our choice of a mate would be to choose someone who meets God’s criteria (i.e., pick a mate “for the Lord’s sake”):

Matt. 19:9: “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

B. It is certainly important to pick a person for our spouse who is eligible, according to God’s law on marriage, to be married.

C. However, despite how important that criteria might be, it is not the only thing that should enter into our decision of who to marry.

D. Unfortunately, I’ve known many Christians, young and old, who picked a mate solely on whether or not they passed the “Matthew 19:9 test.”

E. Our choice of a mate should also be done in light of what would be best for our souls.

(1) The “Matthew 19:9 test” should undoubtedly be the first and most important criteria.

(2) But we should pray for guidance and wisdom to choose a mate, “for our sake,” that will help us get to heaven.

(3) Our mate will be the most important person in our life; our closest friend, our greatest ally in life!

(4) We must not only choose a person who is a Christian; but also one who is totally committed to Christ!

(5) Does the person I propose to marry meet the “Lk. 9:23 test”? **Lk. 9:23**: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

3. **6** Make good moral choices: Phil. 3:20

- A. Knowing we live in a world filled with temptation and sin, we should make godly, moral choices that reflect spiritual mindedness and be not worldly minded “for the Lord’s sake.”

Titus 2:14: “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Rom. 8:5-8: “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Rom. 13:13-14: “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

- B. Part of our gratitude for all the Lord has done for us (physically and spiritually) is to serve Him with all fervor! Matt. 6:33; 5:6; **Rom. 12:11:** “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord...”

- C. Our speech, dress, recreation, thinking should be righteous and good, “for the Lord’s sake.”

2 Cor. 5:9: “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”

Col. 1:9-10: “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

- D. But conforming our manner of life to the Lord’s way should also be done “for our own sake”!

(1) Contrast the “works of the flesh” with the “fruit of the Spirit”: **Gal. 5:19-26**

- (a) Which course of life is the one that will lead to health, happiness and peace of mind?
- (b) Which leads to misery, unhappiness and no peace of mind?

(2) For the sake of our prayers: **1 Jn. 3:22:** “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

(3) For the sake of our children: **1 Tim. 4:12:** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

- (a) Do you want your children to experience all the heartache, pain and disappointment sin brings to one’s life?
- (b) Surely no one can be more important to influence for good than those we love the most!

(4) For our own soul’s sake: **2 Cor. 5:9-11a:** “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord,”

4. **7** Oppose error:

- A. We must do it “for the Lord’s sake”: “For the Lord’s sake” we...

Eph. 5:11: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Jude 3-4: “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

1 Pet. 3:15: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

B. Like the faithful of all times; we must defend the truth “for the Lord’s sake”:

☛ Noah: 2 Pet. 2:5; Gen. 6:3

☛ Elijah: 1 Kgs. 18

☛ Paul: **Phil. 1:17:** “I am set for the defence of the gospel.”; **Gal. 2:5:** “to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”; **2 Tim. 4:7:** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

(1) Remember the song “Christ Has No Hands but our hands to do His work today.”?

(2) If we, as God’s people, don’t oppose error and defend the truth, who will?!

C. But, we should not only battle error “for the Lord’s sake,” but also “for our own sake”:

(1) If we don’t combat error; we can easily be led away by error!

Eph. 4:14: “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”

2 Pet. 3:17: “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;”

(2) Protect those weak in the faith: **Rom. 16:17-18:** “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

(3) Protect the church: 1 Tim. 3:15; but who is the church? You and me!

(a) The NT truth of one true church is a very, very unpopular teaching; with the world and especially with people claiming to be Christians. Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:21-22

(b) Who will defend the NT church if not you and me?

(c) If you and I do not battle error concerning the one true NT church; will there be any faithful congregations when we’re dead and gone?

(d) What will become of our children and their children? **Isa. 6:8-9a:** “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ 9 And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people’

(e) For our own sake; for the sake of our children and their children we must “Go, and tell this people” the truth! Acts 20:27

5. **8** Love others:

A. We are admonished to “let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).

B. We are to love one another because we are children of the Lord who first loved us.

Jn. 13:34: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

- C. “For the Lord’s sake” we show those around us the kind of love the Lord taught by His own example.
- D. But, we should also love the brethren “for our own sake”; it’s in our best interest to do so (not selfishly so, but selflessly so! **Rom. 12:9:** “Let love be without hypocrisy.”).
 - (1) We imitate Christ: **Phil. 2:1-5:** “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”
 - (2) We allow God’s love to abide in us: **1 Jn. 3:17:** “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”
 - (3) Lay up treasure in heaven: **Mk. 10:21:** “Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven ; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”
 - (4) Become perfect like our Father in heaven: **Matt. 5:43-48:** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

III. CONCLUSION: 9

- 1. We could go on for hours about the many things the Bible tells us to do “for the Lord’s sake.”
 - A. As Christians, all the decisions we make should be decisions that please God.
 - B. He is our first priority (Matt. 6:33).
- 2. However, I submit to you that every single thing the Bible tells us to do “for the Lord’s sake” is also in our best interest.
 - A. So by doing these things, we are also do them “for our own sake.”
 - B. When we please God, we do ourselves well!
 - 1 Jn. 5:3:** “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”
- 3. If we “keep the faith” like the apostle Paul we will receive “the crown of righteousness” and “the end of our faith—the salvation of your souls.” (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:9)
- 4. Are you walking “worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...” (Col. 1:10)
 - A. If not, you will not go to heaven on the Day of Judgment!
 - B. All that awaits you is darkness, pain, hopelessness and eternal separation from God and all that is good and that will last FOREVER!

Adapted from an article (*For the Lord’s Sake*) by Marc W. Gibson