

## Message Three

# **The All-inclusive, Extensive Christ Having the Preeminence in All Things**

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:15, 18; 3:4, 10-11, 17; Rev. 2:4; Dan. 7:9-10

- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,  
Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;  
Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.  
Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,  
Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.  
Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.  
Rev. 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.  
Dan. 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.  
Dan. 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

## Outline

### **I. God's intention in His administration is to give Christ the preeminence in all things, to cause Christ to have the first place in everything—Col. 1:15, 18:**

- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,  
Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- A. The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens to match His intention in His economy, of which Christ is the center—Dan. 7:9-10; 4:34-35; Eph. 1:10.
- Dan. 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.  
Dan. 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.  
Dan. 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;

- Dan. 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- B. For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, God needs a people; apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent—Col. 1:18; 3:10-11.
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- C. Under His heavenly rule God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality (the first) and the universality (everything) to us—Rom. 8:28; Col. 1:18, 27; 3:4, 10-11.
- Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

## II. Christ has the first place, the preeminence, in God's economy—1:18; Eph. 1:10:

- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- A. Christ is the preeminent One, the One who has the first place in everything—Col. 1:18.
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- B. Christ is preeminent in the triune Godhead; the first, the Father, exalts the Son, and the third, the Spirit, always testifies concerning the Son—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:9; John 15:26.
- 2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Phil. 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- C. Christ is preeminent in God's exaltation of Him—Acts 2:33a; Eph. 1:22:
- Acts 2:33a Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God...
- Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

1. Christ has been exalted to the right hand of God in the third heaven—Acts 2:33a.

Acts 2:33a Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God...

2. In God's exaltation of Christ, He has been given to be the Head over all things—Eph. 1:22.

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

D. Both in the old creation and in the new creation, both in the universe and in the church, Christ occupies the first place, the place of preeminence—Col. 1:15, 18.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

E. For Christ to be the first means that He is all; since Christ is the first both in the universe and in the church, He must be all things in the universe and in the church—3:10-11.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

### **III. Christ should have the preeminence in our personal universe—v. 17; 1 Cor. 10:31:**

Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Cor. 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

A. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under His heavenly rule—Dan. 4:26; Matt. 5:3.

Dan. 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

B. Christ, the preeminent One, must be the centrality and universality in our church life, family life, and daily life—Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31.

Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Cor. 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

C. Under God's heavenly rule everything is working together for our good; this is especially true of the things in our personal universe—Rom. 8:28:

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

1. Our personal universe includes ourselves, our families, and the church.

2. In our personal universe many things happen day by day for the purpose of making Christ preeminent; we need to realize this and be submissive to God's heavenly rule—Eph. 1:11; Rev. 4:11.

Eph. 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

- D. In order to give Christ the preeminence in all things, we must be willing to be adjusted, to be broken, and to be made nothing so that the Lord can have a way in us, through us, and among us for the building up of His organic Body—Eph. 3:17; 4:16.

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- E. If we have a vision of the preeminence of Christ, our living and our church life will be revolutionized, for we will realize that in all things Christ must have the first place—Col. 1:18.

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

#### **IV. Christ should have the preeminence in our love—Rev. 2:4:**

Rev. 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

- A. To give the Lord the first place in all things is to love Him with the first love; we need to maintain and develop our first love toward the Lord—v. 4.

Rev. 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

- B. Whatever one loves, his whole heart, even his whole being, is set on and occupied and possessed by—1 Tim. 6:10; 2 Tim. 3:2-4; 4:8, 10a; Titus 1:8.

1 Tim. 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all evils, because of which some, aspiring after money, have been led away from the faith and pierced themselves through with many pains.

2 Tim. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Tim. 3:3 Without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, not lovers of good,

2 Tim. 3:4 Traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

2 Tim. 4:10a For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; ...

Titus 1:8 But hospitable, a lover of good, of a sober mind, righteous, holy, self-controlled;

- C. Whether there would be a day of glory in the church's victory or grievous days of the church's decline depends on what kind of love we have—Rev. 2:4; 2 Tim. 3:2-4.

Rev. 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

2 Tim. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Tim. 3:3 Without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, not lovers of good,

2 Tim. 3:4 Traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

- D. Our love for the Lord must be absolute; we should not love anyone or anything above Him—Matt. 10:37-39.

Matt. 10:37 He who loves father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter above Me is not worthy of Me;  
Matt. 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.  
Matt. 10:39 He who finds his soul-life shall lose it, and he who loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

E. We love the Lord because He first loved us, infusing His loving essence into us and generating within us the love with which we love Him—1 John 4:19, 8, 16.

1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

F. We love the Lord according to the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity as love—Rom. 5:5; 8:35, 39; 15:30.

Rom. 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Rom. 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 15:30 Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

## V. Christ should have the preeminence in our tripartite being—Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11, 15-16:

Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

A. We worship the enthroned Christ in the heavens, but we experience, enjoy, and partake of the indwelling Christ in our spirit; we are one with Him in a very subjective way—v. 1; 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 3:17:

Col. 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. The Christ who indwells us is not a small, limited Christ but the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ—Col. 1:15-16, 18-19.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

- Col. 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell
2. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ until in our experience He is everything to us—2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11.
- Col. 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col. 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- B. Because Christ is our life, all He has and all He has attained and obtained become subjective to us; universally, Christ is extensive, but in our experience, He is our life, our being—v. 4; Rom. 8:34, 10.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Rom. 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Rom. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- C. The content and constituent should only be the all-inclusive, extensive Christ—Col. 3:10-11.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- D. We should allow Christ to fill our entire being and replace every aspect of our natural life with Himself—Eph. 3:17; Col. 3:10-11.
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

## **VI. Christ should have the preeminence in our spiritual experiences—1:18, 27; 2:9-13, 20; 3:1-4:**

- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col. 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.
- Col. 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the

- Col. 2:12 putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,  
Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- Col. 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
- Col. 2:20 If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances:
- Col. 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col. 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
- Col. 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

**A. The history of Christ is the experience of the Christian, and the experience of Christ is the history of the Christian—1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:5-6:**

- 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Rom. 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- Rom. 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom. 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Eph. 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
- Eph. 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

**1. The history of Christ becomes our experience and our spiritual history—John 14:19b; Gal. 2:20.**

- John 14:19b ... because I live, you also shall live.
- Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**2. In the organic union with Christ, whatever Christ passed through has become our history—John 15:1, 4-5.**

- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**B. In Colossians a number of phrases point to our experience of Christ; these expressions give us a complete picture of the proper experience of Christ—1:27-28; 2:6, 8, 13, 19-20.**

- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

- Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
- Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
- Col 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
- Col 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 2:20 If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances: (21) Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch,

## **VII. Christ should have the preeminence in our human living—3:18—4:1:**

- Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them.
- Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.
- Col 3:21 Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened.
- Col 3:22 Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord.
- Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men,
- Col 3:24 Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ.
- Col 3:25 For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons.
- Col 4:1 Masters, grant to your slaves that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

### **A. God desires that Christ be expressed through human life—Phil. 1:19-21a.**

- Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil. 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ....

### **B. The living of the believers must be in union with Christ; this means that in our living we need to be one with Him—1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:4-5:**

- 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

### **1. We need to be one with the Lord Jesus just as He is one with the Father—10:30; 14:10; 6:57.**

- John 10:30 I and the Father are one.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.



2. We and Christ should now have one life and one living; the Son's life becomes our life, and our living becomes the Son's living—Gal. 2:20.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

3. The living of the believers in union with Christ results in the expression of Christ in their human living—Col. 3:18—4:1.

Col. 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Col. 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them.

Col. 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened.

Col. 3:22 Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord.

Col. 3:23 Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men,

Col. 3:24 Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ.

Col. 3:25 For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons.

Col. 4:1 Masters, grant to your slaves that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

C. We should do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus—3:17:

Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1. The name denotes the person, and the Lord's person is the Spirit—2 Cor. 3:17a.

2 Cor. 3:17a And the Lord is the Spirit;...

2. To do things in the name of the Lord is to act in the Spirit; this is to live Christ and to give Him the preeminence in our human living—Col. 1:18.

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;