

# **Planning for Success in the Kingdom**

## **Rejecting Haphazard, Convenient, Work-it-in, Formulas for Failure**

### **Colossians 3:17, 23**

The Kingdom of God is a privileged place. Citizenship cost the life of Christ, but we are awarded it by grace. Its cost to God should be evidenced in our faithful response. Kingdom success in our lives should be our top priority.

#### **Colossians 3:17**

- “Whatever” is a very big word
- “You” makes it personal
- “Do” is a word of action
- “Word or deed” encompasses the whole of life
- “All” reinforces the idea
- “Name of the Lord Jesus” indicates much more than just authority, it involves the manner in which Jesus would act—Christ-likeness
- “Giving thanks” speaks of an attitude of appreciation
- “Through Him” indicates the indispensable place of Jesus in our lives
- “To God the Father” shows that our deeds as Christians have the most enormous importance possible

#### **Colossians 3:23**

- “Whatever you do” appears yet again
- “Do your work” also repeats the idea of our previous verse
- “Heartily” allows for no haphazard, convenient, work-it-in attitude of service
- “As for the Lord” rivets our attention on excellence
- “Rather than for men” shows a striking contrast to the way of the world

#### **Reinforcements**

- Luke 16:8
- Matthew 6:33
- Luke 9:23
- Hebrews 2:2
- II Corinthians 5:14-15
- John 14:15, 23

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