

## COLOSSIANS 3:1-10

### Introduction:

1. In the first two chapters of Colossians, Paul gave us the doctrinal section of the preeminence of Christ and how He must be our top priority in life.
  - a. If Christ is preeminent in the believer's life, then they will live out this new life that they have been given. Putting off the old man nature and putting on the new man - being in Christ. We identify with Christ and now live for Him.
  - b. Colossians 2:10 - And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
2. Apostle Paul had discussed the different traits that lead people away from the person of Christ. Paul warns about enticing words and empty lies which carry people away by smooth talking. He warned them against the philosophy of men, legalism, and the religious cults attacking the Gospel of Grace.
3. Paul has taught that we who have believed in the Gospel of Grace are dead to all the religious rituals and ordinances of this world. We are not to place ourselves under the religious legalists, but to live separate from the things of this world.
4. Now beginning in these last two chapters of Colossians, we have the practical section of how our Christian walk ought to be and how we are to live for Christ.

Colossians 3:1 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

1. This verse starts with the word "If". Paul is not expressing any doubt of the believer's condition, but it is really the if of argument. A better word to use here would probably be "since".
2. Paul is challenging them that since they had been risen with Christ, some things would naturally come as a result of being who they were in Christ.
3. The spiritual meaning of all this is that we have said goodbye to the former way we lived and now we have entered into a completely new type of life - the life of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. We are still on earth, but we now seek those things in heavenly ways.
4. What are we to do today? We are to "seek" those things which are above (the heavenlies). This means having an urgency and a desire to seek spiritual things to come. Unfortunately, a lot of believers live for the earthly temporal things rather than the heavenly eternal things.
5. The things above are where Christ sits as Head over His Body Church. This is where He is fulfilling His plans, by giving the Body Church their needed provisions and power through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:6 - And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 3:2 - Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

1. The Christian believer should not be looking earth-ward, but seeking heaven-bound. He should be living like a citizen of heaven here on earth.

- a. We are in this world physically, but we are not of this world. It is not until we realize this truth that we can really live out who we are in Christ.
  - b. Philippians 2:5 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
2. Remember, our focus and priority is not on the things of this earth (the materialism & possessions) beyond what is necessary to provide for our needs. In this mindset, we can prioritize our serving the Lord Jesus Christ and His Body Church.

I Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Tim. 6:7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. 1Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 1Tim. 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 1Tim. 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Colossians 3:3 - For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

1. In this verse, Paul mentions two functions of nature that God has shown us - Death and Life. Throughout all of nature, you cannot get life until there is death.
2. When we become a believer, we are born into a spiritual world - making us dead to the old nature life of being controlled by sin. But now, we have been raised to walk in newness of life. You become dead to sin by your position in Christ.
3. This new life in Christ is real, true, and powerful in not allowing us to be controlled by sin.

Romans 6:8 - Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Romans 6:11 - Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. This does not mean we will always be perfect. But, it does mean a new resurrected life principle has begun in us and will complete us one day.

Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1. Apostle Paul now looks on Christ coming back again one day. At the present time, we are raised with Him in belief and enjoying a life that is not seen or understood by men. The last part of Colossians 3:3 said, "and your life is hid with Christ in God". The world does not see our spiritual life or understand it.

I John 3:1 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2. Today the world persecutes, despises, and ignores Christ and us. But one day, our real position in Christ will be revealed and known.
  - a. The lost world will be amazed by Christ and our transformation into incorruptible and immortal glorified bodies.
  - b. II Timothy 2:19 - Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

3. One of these days, those who belong to God are going to appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:5 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

1. If you have been risen in Christ and accepted Him as your Savior, then that is going to show in your life down here on earth. We are not to allow our old life of earthly, sinful, and worldly things to pull us away from this new life that we have in Christ.
2. To mortify means "to put to death" the desires of the flesh that are attracted to sin. We are not to allow these fleshly sins to be a part of our lives and practice.
3. Paul begins to list these sins that we are to avoid if we are truly Spirit controlled. Romans 8:13 says - *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*
  - a. fornication - means sexual immorality such as: adultery, incest, or any sex outside of marriage.  
Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
  - b. uncleanness - refers to the impurity of perverted thoughts and having a filthy mind of unbridled lusts.  
Ephesians 5:3 - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
  - c. inordinate affection - means uncontrolled passion or lust. This is when our depraved emotions gets the best of us.  
Romans 1:26-27 - For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: Rom 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
  - d. evil concupiscence - has the meaning of "evil desires". It is one's inner cravings, led by the sinful nature to finally overwhelm all that is holy.
  - e. covetousness - which is idolatry and means we must have more of the material things of this world. The flesh can never be satisfied with more. When the flesh controls, it becomes greedy.
4. This list begins with acts and moves to motives and consequences in life in the following next verses.

Colossians 3:6 - For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

1. Mankind thinks that they can commit these terrible sins and escape punishment. Remember, God is not mocked!
2. When God, Who gave us His holy standards to live by and sees these sins, then the wrath of God comes down on the children of disobedience. These sins will have their consequences in this life - and they will reap a terrible harvest of judgment in the future to come.

3. As believers, we can fail or fall. This is why Paul encourages us to daily "put to death" the earthly part that is in us. We should know that our flesh and our sinful nature can rear its ugly head and lead us back into sin again.
4. Galatians 5:19-21 lists the works of the flesh and such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. We have to decide what we should do to be in God's grace from Galatians 5:16-17. Having the Spirit of the fruits in you will help in your walk with Christ.

Colossians 3:7 - In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

1. Paul reminds the Colossians (and us) that they once indulged in these sins before being saved. But by the grace of God, all of their sins have been forgiven by coming to Christ in their life.

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

2. Now in their life (and ours) they have been covered by the blood of Christ. They now have a new life which empowers them to live for God.

Galatians 5:25 - If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Colossians 3:8 - But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

\*Since they had been redeemed by the sacrificial Lamb of God - Jesus Christ, they should now "put off" all these things mentioned in this verse. These can be labeled as wicked hatred.

- a. anger - a strong spirit of dislike or a vengeful spirit. Anger is a lack of control.
- b. wrath - describes an intense form of anger, probably involving violent outbursts.
- c. malice - is a wicked conduct toward another person. An idea of harming a person's character or reputation.
- d. blasphemy - this means to speak abusive, slanderous, unkind, and false words towards others.
- e. filthy communications - means to shame someone by having disgraceful speech that is foul and disgusting.

Colossians 3:9 - Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

1. Paul is saying, "You have put off the old man, now put him off by refraining from lies." Lying becomes doubly serious when we injure another by a false statement, particularly in the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:25 - Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

2. We need to know that God expects us to be truthful to others. We are not to be dishonest with other believers. Don't let Satan tempt you to distort the truth.

Colossians 3:10 - And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

1. As a believer, we have already put off Adam and have put on Christ. It is on this basis that we should put off these sinful behaviors of sin and replace them with a Christ-like behavior.

Ephesians 4:22-24 - That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; Eph. 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; Eph. 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2. By putting off and putting on, we need to renew our minds and apply it to our lives.

Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.