

COLOSSIANS SESSION 3

Review: Last week we studied chapter 2 which ends the doctrinal part of the letter. Paul warns them of being robbed by worldly philosophers and religious occultists. He then goes through what believing the gospel really does for a person, circumcision made without hands, buried and raised with Christ in baptism, having all trespasses forgiven and the handwriting of ordinances blotted out and nailed to his cross. We are now not of this world so we don't need to be subject to the regulations of the world. We now enter into the practical part of the letter – how do we apply what we've learned?

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. *Now that we're saved, we need a new perspective. When we were without God and lost our focus was on gratifying our flesh and pursuing the temporal things of the world. But we have new life in Christ and we need new pursuits. Things down here are temporary and have no lasting value but the things where Christ is are eternal and precious.*

Colossians 3:2-3 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. *You set your affections by what you feed yourself. If you feed on spiritual things, your spiritual appetite increases and your carnal appetite decreases and vice versa. It is of the utmost importance that Christians renew their minds and you do that by consistently reading/studying/meditating on God's word. Why? Because how you think is how you behave. Romans 8:6-7 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. *Christ is our life meaning he is both the source and the sustainer of it.*

Colossians 3:5-7 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. *The word mortify means "to put to death" and we're instructed here to put to death the lusts of the flesh.*

- **Fornication** – sexual immorality (any sexual sin outside the covenant of marriage)
- **Uncleanness** – lustful impurity connected with loose living

- **Inordinate affection** – inappropriate and excessive affection: appetites seek opportunities to satisfy themselves
- **Evil concupiscence** – base evil desires; unlawful lusts: desires lead to deeds
- **Covetousness** – putting things in the place of God; worship of self falls into this category which is idolatry

These things bring the wrath of God so put them to death!

Colossians 3:8-11 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ is all, and in all.

- **Anger** – unrighteous anger and anger left burning
- **Wrath** – violent anger
- **Malice** – the intention or desire to injure or do evil to
- **Blasphemy** – the act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about God or sacred things
- **Filthy communication** – profanity, vulgarity, crude speech

The old man with his deeds are deceitful and destructive but the new man is created in the image of Jesus Christ. The new man is renewed by knowledge and the spiritually minded will do his best not to offend God or hurt his neighbor in any way. All of the classes and divisions are gone positionally in Christ.

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

- **Bowels of mercies** – great compassion
- **Kindness** – friendly, generous and considerate
- **Humbleness of mind** – having an accurate assessment of your strength and importance. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less
- **Meekness** – strength under control
- **Longsuffering** – patience with a good attitude

Charity is unconditional, unselfish, and sacrificial love

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. *The peace of God is to act as an umpire in our hearts. If our peace is disturbed for some reason, then we need to find out why and make the necessary adjustment.*

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. *The process is: Take in the word of God consistently, think on it purposefully, and it will produce in you fruitfully - Psalm 1:1-3* Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. *Spiritual songs and hymns sung in the heart to God soften the soil of your heart to receive the word.*

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. *This verse teaches us that there are no compartments of sacred and secular for Christians. We may view our life that way but to the Christian all of life is sacred and God is not excluded from any of it. Our words and actions should bring honor to God whether we're at church, home or at work.*

Colossians 3:18-21 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. *This is the divine order for the Christian home. It's where the authority of Jesus Christ rules the participants of the family. Wives are to align themselves under the legitimate leadership of their husbands. Husbands are to love their wives like Christ loves the church (unconditionally and sacrificially). Children are to be obedient to their parents in all things. Fathers are commanded not to provoke their children to anger – meaning that we don't break their spirit or push them to resentment.*

Colossians 3:22-24 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. *God is pleased when authority is respected and obeyed. A Christian is commanded to obey the authority over him – during the writing of this letter there were slaves and masters. The command was for slaves to obey their masters and look past them to see they were serving Christ even in their labor. To honor Christ in your work knowing that you will be rewarded for it.*

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. *We aren't at that time now, but we are employers and employees. When we do well in the workplace, we not only please those in charge but we please God. Excellent and obedient work honors God and there will be a reward for that BUT just like we will be rewarded for the good, we also will be paid back for being a wrongdoer too.*