

## Noise-Cancelled: Hearing God in the Chaos

### Wired for Worship: When Technology Becomes Our God

**Text:** Colossians 3:1–5

**Supporting:** Exodus 32:1–8; Matthew 6:19–24

**Series Anchor Verse:** “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” — Psalm 46:10

### Introduction

If you want to know what someone loves, just look at what holds their attention.

We live in a time when our attention is constantly under attack. From the moment we wake up, there’s a buzz, a ding, a notification, a message, a headline—all competing for that first glance, that first moment of focus.

And if we’re honest, many of us reach for our phones before we reach for the face of God.

Our world has become **wired for worship**—and not in the way God designed it.

We are constantly giving our focus, our time, and our affection to something.

The question is not *if* we worship, but *what* we worship.

Paul knew this tension. Writing to believers in Colossae, he urged them to live differently—to reset their focus, to remember who they are in Christ. And in **Colossians 3:1–5**, he gives us a powerful blueprint for worship that’s rooted in identity and holiness rather than distraction and idolatry.

Let’s read it together.

**Scripture Reading — Colossians 3:1–5**

## 1. What You Look At, You Love

(vv. 1–2)

Paul begins with this truth: “Since you have been raised with Christ...” He’s not telling us how to earn salvation; he’s reminding us who we already are.

“You have been raised”—past tense. The resurrection life of Jesus already belongs to you.

And because of that, you must now *set your heart*—aim your affection—toward things above.

The word Paul uses for *set* literally means to “keep seeking.”

It’s not a one-time click of attention; it’s a daily direction of desire.

Our modern world gives us more to *look at* than any generation before us. The question is: what happens to our hearts when our eyes are constantly fixed on the temporary instead of the eternal?

A recent study found that the average person checks their phone **144 times a day**.

That’s 144 tiny moments of worship—each one a chance to give attention to something, someone, or Someone.

When we repeatedly turn our gaze toward something, our hearts begin to follow.

That’s why Paul says, “Set your hearts on things above.”

He’s not just talking about heaven; he’s talking about focus. About fixing your attention on Christ, not the constant scroll.

### **Illustration:**

When Moses went up the mountain to meet with God, the Israelites grew restless. They couldn’t see what God was doing. They didn’t want to wait in silence. So, they built a golden calf (Exodus 32).

They didn’t stop worshiping—they just redirected it.

We don’t bow to statues, but we do bend toward screens.

We, too, can grow impatient when God seems silent.  
 So instead of waiting on Him, we fill the silence with noise.  
 We reach for distraction when we're called to devotion.

### **Application:**

What would happen if we started our mornings differently this week?  
 What if before checking our messages, we checked in with the Maker?  
 Who gets your *first look* each day—the feed or your Father?

## **2. What Captures Your Mind Controls Your Heart**

(vv. 2–3)

Paul continues:

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

He's showing us that focus leads to formation.

Whatever fills your mind will eventually shape your heart.

And the truth is—our devices aren't neutral. They're forming us.

Every scroll, every swipe, every video watched is shaping how we think, how we desire, and what we value.

Hold up your phone (if you like, you can do this as an object lesson):

This isn't evil. It's a tool. But every tool changes its user.

This little device can form your habits, your emotions, and your priorities—if you let it.

Jesus said it another way in **Matthew 6:21**:

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Today we might say: *Where your attention goes, your affection grows.*

And that's what Paul is warning against.

When we fill our minds with constant digital noise, we leave no room for the still, small voice of God.

### **Illustration / Story Prompt:**

You might share a personal moment here—perhaps a time you realized your

focus had drifted.

Maybe you caught yourself instinctively reaching for your phone in a quiet moment when you could've prayed.

Maybe your mind was more anxious, distracted, restless—and you realized, “I’ve been feeding my spirit a steady diet of noise.”

Then describe what changed—maybe you took a walk without your phone, or began a “Scripture before screens” habit, or spent a day unplugged.

### **Application:**

Our hearts can't be set on heaven if our minds are glued to the feed.

Silence is not the enemy—it's the environment where God speaks.

## **3. What Rules Your Love Reveals Your Lord**

(v. 5)

Paul doesn't say, “manage your idols.”

He says, “Put them to death.”

Because idolatry is not just bowing before a statue—it's letting anything else take God's rightful place in your heart.

It's giving ultimate devotion to something temporary.

He lists greed as idolatry, but the principle runs through everything that competes for our worship.

It's the impulse to find satisfaction, validation, or security in something that isn't God.

The Israelites took gold—a blessing from God—and turned it into a god.

We take technology—a blessing of creativity—and often turn it into an idol of control.

We look to our devices to comfort us, to connect us, to define us.

### **Application / Pastoral Challenge:**

Technology is not evil. But it's powerful.

If we're not intentional, it will disciple us faster than Scripture ever can.

That's why Paul says: *put it to death*.

Reclaim your focus. Reorder your loves. Let Christ rule your attention.

## Practical Tools:

- **Digital Fasting:** Try one hour, one evening, or one full day unplugged each week. Use that time to rest, pray, or be present with people.
- **Scripture Before Screens:** Make it your daily rhythm—before you read your notifications, read God’s Word.
- **Use Tech for Formation, Not Just Information:** Bible apps, worship playlists, podcasts that nourish your soul.

## Gospel Connection:

Jesus didn’t die to give us better habits.

He died to give us *new hearts*.

He rose so we could worship the right thing again.

When His Spirit rules our love, even our screens can serve His glory.

## Conclusion

You are a worshiper. You always have been. You were wired that way by your Creator.

The question is never *if* you’ll worship—but *what*.

Every glance, every click, every moment of attention is a decision about what you believe is most worthy of your time and affection.

Paul’s invitation is simple and stunning:

Lift your eyes.

Set your mind on things above.

Let your life be hidden with Christ in God.

When you do, you’ll discover that the noise begins to fade, and the still, steady voice of God begins to sound clearer than ever.

Because peace isn’t found in the next notification—it’s found in the presence of the One who never logs off, never loses signal, and never stops loving you.

---

## **Summary Statement**

**Technology is a tool; worship is a choice.  
What you behold determines who you become.**

## Welcome

Good morning, church family.

We are continuing in our series “**Noise-Cancelled: Hearing God in the Chaos.**”

In a world filled with endless scrolling, constant notification pings, and the pressure to always stay connected, God calls us not just to silence the noise—but to tune our hearts back to Him.

Today’s message is titled “**Wired for Worship: When Technology Becomes Our God.**”

It’s not just about phones or social media. It’s about the deep truth that our hearts are always worshiping something. And Scripture calls us to fix our attention not on the temporary things that distract us, but on the eternal One who defines us.

Wherever you are coming from this morning—distracted, hurried, burdened, or hungry for God—He welcomes you.

He invites you to lift your eyes, to set your mind on things above, and to remember that your life is hidden with Christ in God.

---

## Invocation

Let's pray together.

**Father,**

We come before You this morning in a world filled with noise and distraction.

We confess that our attention is easily captured and our devotion easily divided.

We reach for what is immediate instead of what is eternal,  
and too often we look to the glow of a screen before the glory of Your presence.

Lord, center our hearts.

Quiet our minds.

Fix our focus on Christ, who is seated at Your right hand.

As we open Your Word, reorder our affections.

Expose anything that has taken Your place in our love.

Teach us to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things.

We ask that Your Spirit would free us from our idols

and restore our worship,

so that in this chaotic world,

we would hear Your voice—clear, steady, and true.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,

**our life, our Lord, and the One worthy of all our attention.**

**Amen.**