

Col 3:1-11

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

In these last two chapters Paul deals with the implications of the Christian life.

You and I were once dead in our trespasses,

- but now we are alive in Christ.

Paul opens chapter 3 by saying, “if then you were raised with Christ,”

(Raised - to be revived - to be delivered from spiritual death) with Christ

During WWII

- several Jewish refugees hid in cemeteries
- and a woman actually gave birth to a child
- in one of the graves.

But she didn't remain in that grave after giving birth.

Jesus died so that you and I wouldn't remain in the grave either.

When Paul uses the word “if” in verse 1,

- he isn't suggesting believers have not risen with Christ,
- because we do identify with His death,
- burial and resurrection.

So, this verse could be read, “since then you were raised with Christ.”

Paul told the believers in Colossae to seek those things which are above.

The Greek translates this as,

- “to seek something out with a desire to possess.”

We are to seek those things which are above.

If you make Him your priority,

- He will guide your steps.

Something of key importance in verse 1 and to the Christian faith

- is that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God.
- God’s right hand is the place of power and authority.

Matt 22:44, Mk 14:62, Mk 16:19, Acts 2:33-34, Acts 5:31, Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20, Heb 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2 and 1 Pet 3:22.

When Stephen was martyred, we’re told in Acts 7:55 that he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

It’s as if Jesus were standing and cheering Stephen on

- knowing that he’d soon be home with Him

Col 3:2

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

When we spend time with the Lord, do it in such a manner that it will be meaningful.

Jesus said:

Matt 6:6

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Col 3:3

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Death is separation and it emphasizes separation here, (“for you died.”)

And since the believer is dead,

- he is separated from the condemnation of evil
- and separated from the conduct of evil.

Because we are hidden with Christ in God,

- we are now safe and secure in Him.

You see, salvation is the best protection a person can have.

- It protects him from eternal damnation.

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- That in-itself should inspire us to honor the Savior.
- He protects us!

We are hidden with Christ IN God.

Now, there are 3 different Greek words Paul could have used here for the word “in.”

- The word he used means “to remain in place.”

In other words, when you have given your life to Christ, you are immovable.

Ps 16:5

5 O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You maintain my lot.

Paul speaks in chapter 1 of Colossians about the mystery that has been hidden for ages and from generations but has been revealed in us. The mystery is that Christ is in us.

Ps 62:2

2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will never be shaken.

Col 3:4

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him (Jesus), for we shall see Him (Jesus) as He is.

Col 3:1-3

3 If then you were raised with Christ, **SEEK** those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **SET** your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

So, what is our responsibility in light of our spiritual history?

- We are to seek actively verse 1
- and seek spiritually verse 2.

To seek and to set are a continuous action.

2 Tim 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the

righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

He persevered, he didn't quit,

- he didn't allow anything to get in the way of his prize.

Joshua, Caleb and the stubborn Israelites.

Illustration of Coach Lou Little of Georgetown University and his player of average ability who rarely got into the game.

What kept Joshua and Caleb going, they knew the Lord had a plan for them.

What kept the college player going? Both he and his father were believers and they had the hope of eternity in heaven with the Lord.

In the next 5 verses Paul is specific on which sins are to be put off, gotten rid of.

There were specific sins that he was telling the Colossians they needed to rid themselves of.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

It's time to get rid of the garbage,

- the sin we've kept for that day
- we think we'd want to return to it.

Paul was telling the Christians, it's time to mature.

- He's calling on them to grow in their faith.
- He said something similar in chapter 1:6.

There he said that the true gospel which had come upon them was bringing forth fruit.

But for now, he lists 10 sins which he wanted the new converts to remember and he says to put them to death. Bury them for good.

What are they?

- Fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness.

fornication (porneia), lust or passion of the heart.

uncleanness (filthy mind or a perverted mind),

passion (the desire to use another for your own sensual gratification),

evil desire (wicked desire, a desire to use your sex drive out of God's will and His plan),

and covetousness (is the desire for more, he or she is not meeting my needs),

Paul said in verse 3 that we died, and we are hidden in Christ.

He was speaking primarily to Gentiles.

- And he wasn't afraid to list some of
- the sins they were once involved in.

Peter said something similar:

1 Peter 4:3

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

To the Ephesians Paul said:

Eph 2:1-5

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, (everything this world has to offer, you were there indulging in it) according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (he's saying, you were on the same team as the devil. He was your coach.) 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Jesus said:

Matt 5:30

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (this was figurative language. Jesus didn't intend for anyone to cut their hand off, it's the heart that is wicked)

To cause to sin means to bait a trap and lure an animal.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive (that's our life after surrendering to Christ. He made us alive) together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Satan is always quick to remind us of the good times, not the bad!

Sin often has that spiral effect on people.

- They feel guilty because of what they've done,

- Therefore, they continue down that road.

Paul gives us two reasons why we should put these sins to death.

First - it brings the wrath of God and God will judge righteously.

Col 3:6

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Second reason to put sin to death - sin was part of your old life.

Col 3:7

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Paul is saying, you once did these things. That was your way of life.

In fact, he says we lived in them,

- that is, we were alive in that life.
- How much more should we not be alive
- in our life with Christ.

Then there are 3 attitude sins:

Col 3:8

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: (to put off is to **rid yourself as in to rid yourself of your dirty or worn-out clothes**)

Paul said earlier in verse 1, if you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above.

He may have been speaking of grave clothes.

- When Jesus rose from the grave,
- He stripped off His grave clothes.
- When Lazarus was raised from the dead,
- **Jesus said, loose him.**

Paul now lists the second set of 10 sins,

anger, wrath, malice,, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

anger, wrath, malice -

Anger is desire with grief.

In Mk 3:5 the Pharisees were asking for a sign because Jesus healed on the Sabbath
Mark 3:5

5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Anger leads to wrath and wrath to malice

- which is ill will to the point
- you want to hurt someone.

Both filthy language and slander typically produce lying because people are covering for their sin.

Therefore, Paul says:

Col 3:9-11

9 Do not lie to one another (Satan is called the father of lies), since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

So Paul listed some of the negative things the church was facing.

Ultimately, we can't have victory without a battle.

- You can't confess if there was nothing to confess about.
- You can't ever be saved unless you were lost.