

## No more Chains Pt 2

### Colossians 3:1-9

- Were more than half way through the letter that Paul wrote to the Colossian church, and after giving them the **truth about Christ** in **Ch 1**, and the **truth about false teaching and false teachers** in **Ch 2**, now in **chapters 3-4** he is going to tell them the **truth about being a Christian** and **walking in Christ**. Paul has declared and defended the truth and now he is going to teach the believer's how to demonstrate the truth by the way that they live out their lives.

#### V1-9

- **V1-2** for that to happen the first thing Paul has to check is the believers mindset, making sure that we know that although we are still on earth we should be living for heaven and the way to do that is to cultivate heavenly habits instead of trying to satisfy earthly cravings. The **"If"** is translated since, which removes the doubt, for it says **"since you are raised with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the Right Hand of God"**.
- So whether we like it or not being a Christian comes with an expectation > **"Raised with Christ"** means co-resurrected with Jesus, so as soon as we accepted Jesus as our Savior we were united with Him, which is why **2:12** says **"we've been buried with Christ in baptism and then raised with Him during His resurrection"**. As believers when Christ died for our sins so are we expected to die to self, and when Christ raised Himself from the dead so we are made alive spiritually from the moment of our conversion, because before this happened we were dead spiritually.
- Now that we are alive Paul says were to go after the things that are heavenly and not earthly, **"seek"** means- to set the heart on, what direction are you pointing your heart towards, the affection of the heart can be like arrows, so whatever you point, pull back, and let go toward, is the direction they will fly, that's our emotions and our desires, that will determine your passions. Paul wants us to be like Moses was in > **Ex 33:13-16**- how else will others know that we belong to you unless your presence is with us, in fact if you're not there neither should we.
- **V2** after the direction of the heart is set straight next is the mind, both heart and mind should be going in the same direction for if not then > **Jam 1:8**- says a double minded person is unstable in all their ways, and **Jam 4:8**- goes on to say it leads to a sinful fleshly life which requires rededication, humility, and purification of heart, that he may come near and enjoy God's fellowship. This is the warning of > **Philip 3:18-19** where a person who's lifestyle is that of self indulgence and pride, set their minds on earthly things, leading down a path for destruction.
- Which is why our minds must be on heavenly things because that's where Jesus is, and we want to be with Him just like Moses said in Exodus, and for that to happen we need to see things the way our Lord sees them, and want His perspective to rule in our hearts-minds not man's. **V3-4** gives an important point as it just doesn't say "we died" but also that your life is hidden in Christ

- The reason that's so important is if you just died then we would be still wrapped up in our sins, but because our life is now hidden, covered in Christ, this means we died because Jesus now lives in us, as we've been consumed by His magnificence, and His glory, so much so that **V4** says Christ has now become our life. You see there is no such thing as time sharing with Jesus, he is either God of all or not at all, He wants the deed to our hearts-minds not to rent a room there. There is a promise that accompanies this verse that at the return of Jesus not only will we see His glory but we will also appear with Him in glory, the revealing of the sons of God > **Rom 8:19**.
- **V5** Paul gets to a very important fact of the Christian life as unfortunately many don't understand this when they first make a confession for Christ. For when you say yes to Jesus you also are pronouncing a death sentence on yourself by saying no to the flesh, and if you never quite grasp that then your life will never truly be hid in Christ, for you will still be trying to find happiness here on earth, and eventually that will lead you to the wrong conclusion of >
- **1.** The possession you purchased was never quite what it was supposed to be, **2.** The relationships in the body are not as satisfying as I thought they would be, **3.** The ministries I was involved in and pursued was never as fulfilling as I hoped they'd be. Then bitterness sets in, anger and frustration causes you to think somehow the scripture is for everyone else but you, and those things that God has promised to deliver us from come storming back into our lives.
- The sins of the flesh resurrect themselves and instead of living for heaven were back to trying to satisfy the flesh which is impossible. If you look these sins fall into two categories > **greed– sex**, both of which are the plague in society today, as people cannot get enough of it, in the grocery aisles, T.V. Internet, magazines, you name it, it's there, even Christian radio will advertise how to get rich or some new show about becoming famous that believer's should watch. Paul says to **"mortify"** put it to death, for he knows in order to have life there first must be death, starting with attitudes, desires, and ultimately our past lifestyles, this is when true freedom happens.
- **V6-7** lists two factors that point out how improper it is for these sins to exist in the lives of the Colossian believers, **1<sup>st</sup>** he says to indulge in these will cause you to incur the wrath of God, which the believer has been saved from. Yes we can still receive the chastisement of God but the wrath of God is reserved for those who have rejected the Lord, not you who received the Lord. **2<sup>nd</sup>** – these sins characterize our old life, the pre- Christian attitudes and perspectives, and not the new life, that we've been resurrected to, which is why he speaks of them in a past tense.
- **V8-9** these sins have been disrobed from us, **"put off"** like an old coat, these are not the heavenly habits were now practicing but the deeds that have been put to death. Interestingly these particular sins are primarily committed by what we say while the first set was about what we do > **Jam 1:26**. As we'll see God never asks us to give up anything without providing something better in return, so what the new man offers is so much better than anything that the old man could ever give for our devotion to him, as it was all a lie.