

Lesson 5

COLOSSIAN 3:1-11

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

What is your focus in life? I remember I always wanted to be a cheerleader. I practiced and practiced, then auditioned again and again but never made it. Paul has affirmed that we are new creations in Christ, but how do we make sure we are moving towards that new creation? How do we make sure we are in God's will?

1. Read verse 1. It begins with "Since then" we are raised with Christ. This is already accomplished by God's grace. It's not by works but by faith. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 say about this? No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, do you accept the fact that you are raised with Christ? What does raised with Christ look like in your life?

2. Many times, we don't feel or recognize our salvation as real. What does Colossians 3:1 say about our hearts? In what areas do you need to recalibrate your heart to the reality that you are a kingdom dweller now? (Hint: think about those heart desires or your passion in life)

3. What does Colossians 3:2 say about our minds? This involves our will, reshaping our thought process to align with God's will. How does focusing on "things above" reshape our minds? Can you think of an example in your life where this happened? What are we promised in verse 4?

The idea of being transformed into the image of Christ is called sanctification. Justification happens once and it is when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We are justified or "just as if we had not sinned" and we are saved (salvation). We can stay in that place of salvation because of our faith; it is secured. Or we can embrace the sanctification process. This is a lifelong, day by day, year by year process. It is the Holy Spirit's work within us to transform us into the image of Christ.

Read Colossians 3:5-11

4. Looking at Colossians 3:5, what are we to “put to death”? Why do you think Paul began with this list? How do these vices intertwine? What does Romans 12:1-2 say? How important is our physical purity to God?

5. In Colossians 3:8-9, what are we to “put away”? What is the common thread in these vices?

6. There is a sense of putting on a new self. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15 and Romans 13:11-14. What do you learn from these verses?

APPLICATION: Reread Romans 13:11-14. These verses remind me of my life. Has there been a time in your life when you awakened to the love of Jesus in your life and were renewed in heart and mind?

PRAYER: Most loving Father, you desire that all would come to you through your Son. We praise you that you made a way for each of us to return to you by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Give each of us a new sense of your passion so that we have a renewing of our hearts and minds to align with your heavenly kingdom. In a world that needs your love and mercy, use us to reflect your light to others. We pray this in the holy name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.