



COLOSSIANS Course, Session Four

Text: Colossians 3:1-17

Chapter Introduction

1. This chapter offers a number of “Next Steps,” where Paul builds off of what he has set forth so far. We know this because of the layout of those first verses in Chapter 3:
 - SINCE all these things are true about you that I’ve been saying,
 - AND you know what kinds of thinking can lead you down a wrong path,
 - WHAT FOLLOWS NOW is the *right path* that Jesus wants us to take.
2. What do you think about the sci-fi concept of alternate, parallel universes as a way of understanding the relationship of heaven and earth? Is that a new way for you of picturing how they interrelate? Does it help or confuse you?

3. Paul also talks about a death to our old life and the new life that follows. Our old self is dead. Is this image something you have ever considered as a way to understand your new identity as a Christ-follower? _____

Colossians 1:1-4

4. Robert referred to these verses 3:1-3, as the “Summit” and “Grand Peak” of the letter:
“Since then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”
6. What is the “since” and what is the “then” of this passage? HINT! There is more than one “then.” Identify each and list them here. Keep in mind all the “thens” combined are because of the one very important “since!” _____
7. What might Paul mean that we are “*hidden with Christ in God?*” Do the ideas expressed about this in the video resonate with you? Can you think of other ways to understand this phrase? _____

8. In verse 4 Paul says “When Christ, who IS your life, is revealed, we will be revealed with him in glory.”
 - a. What does it mean “when Christ is revealed?” Why does Robert consider this a progressive process? _____
 - b. What does it mean that we will “be revealed”? _____
 - c. How does this make sense of our day-to-day living as Christ-followers?

9. What *IS* Glory? How do the ideas of Radiance and Weightiness help you understand the word more clearly? _____
10. What kind of *Glory* is Paul suggesting when he says we ourselves “will be revealed in glory?” _____
11. What would our communities look like if ALL God’s people were *fully reflecting God’s character* in our lives, 24/7? _____
12. What is *one area of your life* that needs a new attitude, or new deeper trust, or maybe a surrendering of your wants, so that you will reflect God’s glory a little more than before?

Colossians 3:5-11

13. What do you think about the picture of taking OFF the bad clothing of your old life and clothing yourself with Christ? _____
14. Which of these commands in 5 through 10 speaks most powerfully to you? _____
15. Verse 11 says “Here [in God’s family] there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” Why do you think Paul places this verse here, after 5-10? _____

Colossians 3:12-17

16. Summarize in your own words each direct command that he is making in these verses. What is different about these commands from those in verses 5 to 11?

17. Which one of these hits you hardest? Which one convicts you most? Which one appeals to you most, the one you feel most hungry to do? _____
18. Having made our way through almost 3 chapters, summarize how Paul ties our *Identity* to the kind of lives we are called to live?

