

Colossians 3 – 11 December 2022

“Born Again For Higher Things”

Introduction

*Theme: Godhood, centrality, & sufficiency of Jesus

*In Chap 1 Paul established that Jesus Christ is our Creator, Redeemer & Spirit within

*Chap 2 Paul addressed the major heresy of the day in Colossae - That of Gnosticism or personal knowledge

*Paul spent much time in Chap 2 saying that handling the earthly well doesn't make us spiritual

*We're created for higher things than just rituals and methodic routine of holidays and diets

*So our living God & Savior (of Chap 1) has raised us from the dead (if you've been born again at the cross)

*We'll if we don't live be earthly ritual, then what are we born again for?

We're born again for 3 higher things Paul points out in this chapter today

1st thing we're born again for is a Higher Calling (Vs 1-11)

Read Vs 1

1. Move toward becoming, in practice, what you are in position (a spiritual being)

Read Vs 2

1. 'Affection' here is to exercise the mind
2. The contrast goes back to chap 2:20-22
 - a. Don't be concerned about your food (that's earthly), but your fruit (that's spiritual)
 - b. Don't be concerned for rituals, but relationships
3. Live for eternal things not temporary things

Read Vs 3

1. Our life serving temp earthly things is done
2. Our new life & energy should be devoted to God who gave it to us thru Christ

Read Vs 4

1. Notice the progress of Paul's thinking here
 - a. The truth (vs 1) – We're risen w/ Christ

- b. What to do (vs 1-2) – Set minds on heaven
 - c. Why (vs 3) – Christ bought us
 - d. Now the reward (vs 4) - we'll be with Him for eternity in glory and worthiness
2. Read I John 3:2-3 – Don't know fully what this will be like but it's awesome
- a. Should have a purifying effect on us now

Read Vs 5-6

1. If you're truly born again (vs 1), then set your mind on eternity (vs 2-4) & now consider the lusts of your heart to be dead
- a. Fornication – pornography
 - b. Uncleanness – physical impurity
 - c. Inordinate affection – wrong passions
 - d. Evil concupiscence -longing for evil
 - e. Covetousness – fraud, stealing
2. These are a part of our human fleshly nature & are the very cause of God's wrath...
- a. God's wrath came on Jesus at cross
 - b. God's wrath will yet come on all those that haven't received forgiveness at the cross

Read Vs 7-8

1. Set our mind (vs 2-4), changed our heart (vs 5-6) & now we choose to speak & act differently
2. Paul told the Ephesians (5:8) we *were* sometimes darkness, but *now are* light in the Lord

Read Vs 9

1. Choose to put away these filthy habits

Read Vs 10

1. There should be an open honesty about us
2. Read II Cor 3:18: We're growing in knowledge, changing into the very image of God's character

Read Vs 11

1. This speaks of identity
2. Who we ultimately identify with is whom we'll ultimately take on the characteristics of

2nd thing we're born again for is Heavenly Desires (Vs 12-17)

Read Vs 12

1. Put on these things as a garment b/c we already are chosen, holy & loved (Read Eph 1:4-5)
2. Compassion; Kindness is usefulness; modesty of mind; restrained power and patience

Read Vs 13

1. Put up with each other, forgive
2. How did Christ forgive us?
 - a. Jesus chose on the cross to forgive all
 - i. Read Psm 86:5
 - b. But it's up to the individual to come to Him & receive it in faith

Read Vs 14

1. Love is the uniting principle & it is supreme

Read Vs 15

1. It's b/c we each have peace of God, brought by the cross (Col 1:20) that we abide in one body the church. Now continue to let that peace dominate
2. Be thankful for all God has done in bringing us into His body the church & on to eternity w/ Him

Read Vs 16

1. Let the truth of who Jesus is resonate thru your soul and spirit in Psalms, music and song words
2. We talk many things, but we sing only the things we love!

Read Vs 17

1. Our words and actions should reflect our gratitude for having a God in our life that loves us

3rd thing we're born again for is Healthy Relationships (Vs 18-25)

Read Vs 18 - *Wives*

1. Submit in the same way as any Christian would submit to Christ
 - a. He's there for our good
 - b. A wife wouldn't submit to a sinful ask
2. Doesn't speak of inequality but of having different roles designed by God at creation
 - a. ie I Cor 11:3 & Eph 5:22-24
 - b. Submission means sub-mission – you're putting your individual mission below the mission God has for your one flesh marriage

Read Vs 19 - *Husbands*

1. Husband's main admonition is to love his wife
 - a. Works hand in hand w/ the wives' main admonition to submit to her husband
 - b. When breaks down, there's chaos; when working, they complement each other!
2. How is the husband to love? With Agape love

Read Vs 20 - *Children*

1. The built-in assumption here is that the parents are teaching their children
2. One of the greatest things a child can do to honor God is to respect God's order of creation

Read Vs 21 - *Fathers*

1. 'Discouraged' = to have a broken heart or spirit
2. How could you stimulate them to anger?
 - a. Give impossible rules or unneeded harshness
 - b. Give rules without a relationship with you
3. What right have we to ask our children to have discipline, when we ourselves do not?

Read Vs 22-24 - *Employees*

1. It's not just a job to disrespect, it's God's provision to you for living
2. Do it heartily – Don't be a hypocrite in doing the job but not supporting the cause

Read Vs 24

1. Employees work for another's wealth, but if we're working it for God's glory then our earthly labor is storing up rewards in eternity *for even us*

Read Vs 25 - *Employers*

1. There needs to be just pay for just work

Read Chap 4:1

1. There's an inequality in role but should be an equality in character expressed

Conclusion

So we were made for higher things than just living, working and dying

1. **We're made for a Higher Calling**
 - a. Not temporary things, but an eternal mission
2. **We're made to have Heavenly Desires**
 - a. We've access to this power by the Holy Spirit
3. **We're made to have Healthy Relationships**
 - a. Submission to God's plan brings peace / joy