



# COLOSSIANS 3 PART 1

We often treat our beliefs like a software update—we download the information, agree to the terms, and then continue using the device exactly as we did before. But Paul argues in Colossians 3 that true belief is impossible to hide. If you genuinely believe a fire is consuming your house, you don't sit on the couch watching TV; you move. In the same way, if you genuinely believe you have died with Christ and been raised to new life, you cannot simply go on living for the temporary pleasures of this world.

As we pivot from the doctrine of Chapters 1 and 2 to the duty of Chapters 3 and 4, the focus shifts from who Christ is to how we live because of Him. This study challenges us to close the gap between our "standing" (perfect in Christ) and our "state" (our actual daily behavior). We are called to become "spiritual assassins," ruthlessly identifying and putting to death the sins that once defined us, not to earn salvation, but because we have already been saved.

***Colossians shifts from declaring Christ's preeminence (Ch 1) and defending it (Ch 2) to demonstrating it (Ch 3-4). Why is it dangerous for a Christian to have right doctrine but wrong living? (OT: Isaiah 29:13 | NT: James 2:17)***

## Study Questions:

1. The word "If" in verse 1 can be translated as "Since." How does viewing your resurrection with Christ as a completed fact ("Since you were raised") change your motivation for holiness compared to viewing it as a conditional possibility ("If you are raised")? (OT: Psalm 116:16 | NT: Romans 6:11)
2. Will of Heaven vs. Will of Self Seeking "things above" implies seeking God's will over our own. Can you identify a recent situation where your will conflicted with God's will, and how did you respond? (OT: Psalm 40:8 | NT: John 5:30)
3. Verse 2 commands us to "set your mind" on things above. What is the difference between simply knowing a truth and actively "setting your mind" on it like a compass? (OT: Isaiah 26:3 | NT: Romans 8:5-6)
4. Paul lists anger, wrath, and malice as things to "put off." Why do we often excuse bad temper as "just how I am" rather than viewing it as a sin to be mortified? (OT: Proverbs 14:29 | NT: Ephesians 4:26-27)
5. "Filthy communication" and blasphemy are to be stripped away. How does your speech change when you are around non-believers versus when you are at church, and what does that reveal? (OT: Psalm 19:14 | NT: James 3:10-12)