

Colossians 3 cure for worry

6/3/2020

Wednesday Night

1. If you watch a show – you do so for entertainment
 - a. You get lost from the real world for a while – watching whatever
2. I'm not big on conspiracies – but there is one conspiracy that I know for a fact is real – Satan's conspiracy to damage the Church
3. Satan is using fear, anxiety, anger & depression to immobilize the bride of Christ
4. At first it was the bad news about politics – Russia, rigged elections, deep state evil, dishonesty at the highest levels – and some of that is true!
5. Then came the Covid-19 virus & 2 million were going to die in the U.S. alone
 - a. People sequestered – unemployed – suspicious – judgmental – but mostly anxious, fearful!
 - b. Well, 100 thousand people have died – not good, but far from 2 million – even if you believe the numbers
 - i. Many of those didn't need to die but were grouped together in nursing homes
 - ii. Common sense would have stopped at least 50% of those deaths
6. Then a man was killed by a rouge police officer – which is tragic
7. That started riots in the streets
 - a. If you watched the news you saw hoodlums burning & looting
 - b. That too, caused good people to be self-sequestered – created unemployment – suspicion – judgmental attitude – but mostly anxiousness, fearfulness & anger!
8. There is a deep level of anxiety all around
9. We need to take a break & do a reality check!
10. First – are things as bad as they are portrayed? No!
 - a. We are witnessing a scripted plot
 - b. Is the virus as bad as they told us it would be – NO!
 - i. When the election is over – you probably won't hear much about the virus anymore
 - ii. The same people saying how awful it was for people to be together are saying that the riots are good – how can both be true?
 - c. Are the riots as bad as they are portrayed? No!

- i. There have always been anarchists – always been riots – this is not the end of America
 - 1. America has been in decline for decades – w/out revival it will continue – it started in the pulpits
 - 2. Satan is the god of this world – including America
- d. Is the government as corrupt as we have been told – it's probably worse!
 - i. But, it is better than other governments
 - ii. Compare it to Paul's day – under Nero
- 11. Am I minimizing the issues – NO! just I'm trying to put them into perspective
- 12. So, why so much anxiety & anger & depression?
- 13. Because it is a script played out like a movie w/ purpose
 - a. It is to defeat the only group of people who have nothing to fear – Church
 - b. It is to make the world desperate for peace
 - c. It is to prepare the world for one world leader – Antichrist!
 - d. I'm not saying totally ignore the virus, riots, government – God gave you a brain to use – but do not be fear
 - e. What is it exactly that people are afraid of?
 - i. Getting sick? Dying? – these bodies are mortal – or is it just fear itself?
- 14. I know for a fact that God doesn't want us to live in fear

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Hebrews 13:6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

Matthew 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

a. Fear, depression, anxiety & anger rob us of hope – & our testimony

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

b. Anxiety chokes the fruit out of a believer's life

Matthew 13:22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

c. Begin giving your anxiety to God

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

i. It is the enemy who wants us to live in fear

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

15. Since fear is a human emotion, anxiety is an emotion – it isn't wrong in itself

a. It is what we do w/ it that counts

16. We start by realigning our goals

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

V.1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1. "Therefore"

a. What was he talking about?

i. Speaking of the preeminence of Christ

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

2. "If you have been raised up with Christ"

a. "If" is "since"

b. Therefore since you were raised w/ Christ

i. He talked about the fact that Christ raised us to immortality

Colossians 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him

from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

ii. We now live eternally b/c we have been raised eternal beings

3. "keep seeking the things above"

a. "keep seeking" – in particular seek after, look for, strive to find, endeavor after, try to gain w/ earnestness & anxiety, to demand, to press after

b. You should be consumed w/ one goal – to seek the things above!

c. It is in the imperative mode – a command!

d. There should be one driving force in your life – to seek the things above

i. How much time is spent on social media – news – negative worldly ideas – verses seeking the eternal?

4. "where Christ is"

a. In all of space & creation there is no place like where the Son is

b. God is there – the Son is there – it is so grand that we can't imagine

i. He is so far above us that we can't comprehend Him

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

ii. He is beyond thoughts & imagination

Psalms 8:1 (NLT2) O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens.

iii. When the apostle Paul was trying to think about Who God is – all he could come up w/ was

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable

His ways!

³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD,
OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT
MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all
things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

iv. "Keep seeking" is a deliberate action taken

5. "seated at the right hand of God"

a. You know why He is seated?

b. Because He won the battle over His enemies

Colossians 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers
and authorities, He made a public display of them,
having triumphed over them through Him.

c. He has defeated them – but God isn't thru w/ them yet

Psalms 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My
right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for
Your feet."

i. Complete subjugation is awaiting His enemies

1 Corinthians 15:24 then comes the end, when He
hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when
He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies
under His feet.

V.2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1. "Set your mind on the things above"

a. "Setting your mind" is a deliberate decision to think

b. How much time do you spend thinking about eternity?

c. When you drive you are always aware of where you are

d. While on earth you should always be aware of where you're going

e. How much time in Scripture – meditating on Scripture?

2. "not on the things that are on earth"

a. The world is upset & rightly so

i. Don't expect the world to know what to do

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS";

²⁰ and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

b. We see this life differently than the world

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

c. We need to look at life thru eternal eyes

i. This life doesn't stay the same for very long – look at it thru eternal eyes

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

V.3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1. "your life is hidden with Christ"

a. Your real life is unseen at the moment

i. God actually lives in us – He protects us for the future

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

V.4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

1. "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed"

a. Christ is coming back

i. It will be worth it all when He does

ii. This is not home!

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven,
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord
Jesus Christ;

V.5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to
idolatry.

V.6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the
sons of disobedience,

1. "the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience"
 - a. Don't get too upset – God will deal w/ the world when He is ready
 - b. Until He comes let's remember who we are – be careful what we
write on social media & say

V.7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

V.8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and
abusive speech from your mouth.

1. Until Christ comes for us – God is going to give us what is best!

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son,
but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also
with Him freely give us all things?