

Christ Revealed through Colossians

Colossians chapter 3:1-17

Opening: In today's lesson we'll see what it means to have our desires set on heaven, to eliminate earthly things from our life, and to live a new life with Jesus.

1. A Life Consumed by Desire for Heaven (v.1-4)

- a. "Seek those things *which are above*" (heavenly things that God values)
 - i. "meek and quiet spirit...great price" (**1 Peter 3:4**)
 - ii. "godliness is great gain" (**1 Timothy 6:6-8**)
 - iii. "*virtuous woman...price is far above rubies*" (Proverbs 31:10)
 - iv. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) (a generous spirit)
- b. "set your affections on things above"
 - i. "store up treasure in heaven" (**Matthew 6:19, 20**)
 - ii. "remember Lot's wife" (**Luke 17:31, 32**)—a very Serious consideration—Can you part with it? (ask yourself honestly)
 - iii. "a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he owns..."(Luke 12:15)
- c. "for ye are dead" (v.3) (Selfish desires)
 - i. "Christ pleased not himself" (Romans 15:3)
 - ii. "Let him take up his cross, deny self..." (Luke 9:23)
 - iii. "no longer live" (Galatians 2:20) YOUR LIFE is "hid w/Christ in God" (new identity, new hope, new life orientation)
- d. Glory to be revealed when Christ comes. (NOW we are to live simply, SACRIFICIALLY)
 - i. "dwelling in tents...declare plainly..." (**Hebrews 11:9, 13, 14**)
 - ii. **God's people—clearly not living** a selfish life for the here and now (no, they glory in Christ and work to STORE up for what is coming—to win souls. Etc.!)
 - iii. Ill.—24hrs from now you have a Final. (Graduation hangs on it). TWO wks from now you're having a picnic in the park. (you must buy and prepare all the food) **What should you do?** (Yet people are living life today as if it were a picnic in the park—"they eat, drink, and rise up to play..." (Exodus 32:6) (selfish pleasures, amusements; sit around, collect degrees to hang on their walls, build great big houses, invest all their time and money in worthless pursuits)
 - iv. Don't end up like the man who built the bigger barn for all his stuff (**Luke 20:12**) "**fool, this night is thy life...**"(as if so much time to squander in selfish pursuits)
 - v. A great Christian author once said, "**We should live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the son of man**" (**Early Writing, p.58**). (Storing up Scriptures in our minds, etc).

2. Put to death the Earthly Things—i.e. Sin (v.5-11)

- a. "which is idolatry" (worship of things)
- b. "for which things the wrath..." (God is HOLY. Sin cannot dwell in His presence)
 - i. Could not be w/Israel "lest I consume thee" (Exodus 33:3). "...make me a Sanctuary that I may..." (Exodus 25:8).
 - ii. **Evil congregation w/Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** "our God is a consuming fire"

- iii. **God's wrath fell on Jesus at the CROSS.** (He bore the sin of the world). The wicked w/out Christ will be consumed by God's fire. (Jesus is working today separating sinners from sin—Let us cooperate with His work!)
 - c. V.7-the power of the gospel. "some of which *were* some of you" (**1 Corinthians 6:11**)
 - d. V.8 Anger (inflamed spirit), "do not let the sun go down..."(Ephesians 4:26), WRATH (acting upon), MALICE (evil intent), BLASPHEMY (cursing God, assuming duties of God), FILTHY COMMUNICATION.
 - i. "every idle word" (**Matthew 12:36**)
 - ii. "bridles not his tongue, religion vain" (James 1:26)
 - iii. "let no corrupt communication" (**Ephesians 4:29**)
 - iv. Peter denied Jesus this way (**Matthew 26:74**)
 - e. V.9-"lie not..." "all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns..." (**Revelation 21:8**)
 - i. "devil is a liar...the father of it" (John 8:44)
 - ii. God only speaks and is TRUTH. Jesus...the truth. **White lies?**
 - iii. "Let your yes be yes, and your no, no..." Jesus says (**Matthew 5:37**)
 - iv. **You don't** have to be rude and cruel hearted. "a fool utters all his mind..." (Proverbs 29:11). Speak truth only. Direct questions, direct answers. If you don't want to say, say so. "No comment. Don't want to talk about that." Change the subject.
 - v. Be courteous, meek, and respectful if you must deliver painful truth.
 - vi. A godly Christian leader, EGW, once counseled a man not to bring up a certain sin to his wife and others. It was not fitting to do so. It was of a private nature and would cause more pain and trouble by bringing it up; confess it to God was the counsel. (**don't think you have to tell every detail**)
 - vii. "**ye shall know the TRUTH and the truth shall set you free**" (John 8:32)
 - f. (v.10) Jesus, the express image being recreated in us.
- 3. Living the NEW LIFE in Jesus (v.12-17)**
- a. v.13—"bearing with" overlooking, putting up with, patience with, taking wrongs. "forgiving"
 - b. Popular concept, "See if I forgive you..." (not the spirit of Christ)
 - c. The messy things in life, the things that go against you, that wrong you—forgive. This is the attitude of Christ. Even while being pained, He said, "**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" (Luke23:34).
 - d. **1 John 1:9—conditional forgiveness.** (known sin un-confessed or forsaken remains un-forgiven) (See also Proverbs 28:13).
 - e. **V.14 ABOVE ALL put on...Love-principle (1 Corinthians 13). Attitude changes (what you can help.)** *You cannot always change circumstances, but by God's grace, your attitude can be changed!!*
 - f. Peace of God—SERINITY when chaos breaks loose.
 - g. To which we are called, "one body"—Homeostasis. Not fighting against the other members.
 - h. MUSIC (Colossians 3:17)—to be used as a tool for God's glory, for His words. Isn't it also true that the enemy of souls would be using such a tool for his Satanic purposes? We must be VERY careful in selecting the music we listen to.

Words for My Heart:

Is it your desire to have, cultivate, and keep the purity of Christ in your heart and mind? _____ (*setting our affections and desires on heavenly things, not earthly*)