

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 1

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: Today in our study of Colossians we have now come to chapter 3. In chapter 3 and 4 Paul will now get to the practical part of the letter. The first two chapters focused upon doctrine and now he will move on to duty.

Notice Colossians 2:12, 13, 20

In these verses Paul reminds the believers that they have been crucified with Jesus Christ. Paul had just addressed three topics of the false teachers. They were legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. He explained that neither of these practices could satisfy the flesh, meaning that neither could give a believer victory over the flesh. It is only the cross that will give a believer victory over the flesh because it is only the cross that the flesh will bow to.

Romans 6:3-6

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Now as we move on Paul will explain how the believer is to live since the old man has been crucified.

➤ **Seeking what is important.**

Part 1

Notice Colossians 3:1

Here in this verse Paul begins the practical part of this letter and he makes something very clear right away. Christian living is based upon solid doctrinal Truth. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and we were crucified with Him, buried, and now we have been raised

to live a new life in the power of the Holy Spirit. So, our new life in Jesus Christ rests in the solid Truth that Jesus was raised from the dead.

This is why Bible study and Bible teaching are so very important. We cannot live what we do not know because this new life in Jesus Christ is to be lived by faith. We must know the Truth if we are going to walk by faith in that Truth.

2 Peter 1:2-8

² *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

⁴ *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

⁵ *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

⁶ *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;*

⁷ *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

⁸ *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notice Colossians 3:1 again.

Since we have been raised with Jesus Christ then we should seek those things which are above. It could also be said that since we have been raised with Jesus Christ we should live as He did when He was resurrected. I want to borrow from another teacher and look at a list of what Jesus did after His resurrection.

- a. **After His resurrection, Jesus left the tomb. So should we because we do not live there anymore.**

As believers we are to leave behind those things that were part of our lives before we were saved. That is the old practices/sins that existed before. Sometimes believers do carry some of the old ways with them. Let me show you a picture of this.

John 11:41-44

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

⁴² And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

⁴³ And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

The "graveclothes" on Lazarus are a picture of the old practices that can stay with a believer. It is the responsibility of the church as a body not to be critical but to help him or her get loose.

- b. After His resurrection, Jesus spent His remaining time being with and ministering to His disciples. This is a picture of how we are to live our lives to be with and to serve one another.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1 Peter 4:9-10

⁹ Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- c. After His resurrection, Jesus lived in supernatural power with the ability to do impossible things. We should also live in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

We are not going to do miracles as Jesus did but we can walk in the power of the Spirit and allow God to work His power through us. When we live our lives surrendered over to the Spirit then we can expect God to use us in a mighty way. He will use lifestyle to glorify Jesus, He will use the words we speak to minister to others, and He will use our service to accomplish His purpose as He reaches into the lives of others through us.

Colossians 1:28-29

.²⁸ Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

²⁹ Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Let us understand that we are only channels through which the power of God can flow. Our responsibility is to be sure the channels are clean and not clogged with anything that will stop the flow. What hinders the flow of the mighty power of God? Pride, worldliness, fear, worry, and ultimately, sin. We **MUST** be walking in fellowship with our Lord in order to be a channel through which His power flows.

d. After His resurrection, Jesus looked forward to heaven, knowing He would soon ascend there. We also should live like this world is not our home.

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

I have underlined several words in verse 19 because they really help us to understand what Jesus is saying here. The words are MOTH, RUST, and BREAK THROUGH. In the first century wealth was measured in three ways and by three things that people invested in. Wealth was measured in GARMENTS, GRAIN, and GOLD. But each of these are

susceptible to loss. Moths eat garments. Grain is eaten by bugs (the word RUST means "the act of eating"). Gold can be stolen. The words BREAK THROUGH have the idea of digging through a house. People would invest in gold and bury it in the walls of their houses and thieves would get into a house, dig through the walls, and steal the gold.

Let us notice what Paul wrote to Timothy.

1 Timothy 6:5-12

⁵ *Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

⁶ *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

⁷ *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

⁸ *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

⁹ *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

¹⁰ *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

¹¹ *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

¹² *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

Getting back to the point, we are resurrected with Jesus therefore we should live as He lived.

Notice Colossians 3:1-4

We are to set our affections on that which is above meaning we are to be focused upon that which is eternal. We are dead to sin and to this world because we have been crucified with Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

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.

Notice Colossians 3:1-2 again.

There are two commands here.

- 1. Seek those things that are above.**
- 2. Set your affections on things above.**

To seek has the idea of striving for that which is eternal. To set has the idea of concentrating on that which is eternal.

Conclusion:

God has saved us and for now He has left us live in this world. We are to live with the purpose of bringing glory to God while we are here.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

This is what we are called to do and while we strive for this world's "stuff" and we concentrate on the "stuff" of this world we will not accomplish this purpose.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.