

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 2

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of Colossians we started into chapter 3 and it is in this chapter where Paul begins the practical part of this letter.

➤ **Seeking what is important.**

Part 2

Notice the words of Warren Wiersbe.

"We must keep in mind that the pagan religions of Paul's day said little or nothing about personal morality. A worshiper could bow before an idol, put his offering on the altar, and go back to live the same old life of sin. What a person believed had no direct relationship with how he behaved, and no one would condemn a person for his behavior. But the Christian faith brought a whole new concept into pagan society:"

Notice Colossians 3:1

The first thing that we see as we read this verse is that practical Christian living is built on solid doctrinal Truth. Last week we considered how we **MUST** know the Truth in order to walk in the Truth.

Hebrews 10:37-39

³⁷ *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

³⁸ *Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

³⁹ *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

We are saved by grace through faith in the finished work of our Lord and then we are to **LIVE BY FAITH** in what the Bible says about us as new creations after we are saved.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Notice Colossians 3:1 again.

At the end of this verse Paul reminds his readers that Jesus is seated in the place of honor at the right hand of the Father. What does this have to do with how we live?

Ephesians 2:5-7

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

⁷ *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

We have been baptized into Jesus Christ and therefore where He is seated, we are then seated. So, we too are seated in the place of honor, let us therefore live in a way that honors this position. Notice the story as told by a preacher.

"A Scottish preacher John McNeill liked to tell about an eagle that had been captured when it was quite young. The farmer who snared the bird put a restraint on it so it couldn't fly, and then he turned it loose to roam in the barnyard. It wasn't long till the eagle began to act like the chickens, scratching and pecking at the ground. This bird that once soared high in the heavens seemed satisfied to live the barnyard life of the lowly hen.

One day the farmer was visited by a shepherd who came down from the mountains where the eagles lived. Seeing the eagle, the shepherd said to the farmer, "What a shame to keep that bird hobbled here in your barnyard! Why don't you let it go?" The farmer agreed, so they cut off the restraint. But the eagle continued to wander around, scratching and pecking as before. The shepherd picked it up and set it on a high stone wall. For the first time in months, the eagle saw the grand expanse of blue sky and the glowing sun. Then it spread its wings and with a leap soared off into a tremendous spiral flight, up and up and up. At last, it was acting like an eagle again.

Perhaps you have let yourself be comfortable in the barnyard of the world—refusing to claim your lofty position as God's child. He wants you to live in a higher realm. Confess your sins, and "seek those things which are above." You will soon be longing to rise above the mundane things of this world. Like the eagle, it's not too late to soar to greater heights again."

Notice Colossians 3:1-2

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.

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.

Notice Colossians 3:1-2 again.

To "seek" those things that are above and to "set" your affections on things above both take a great amount of discipline. We must be willing to give up the desires of the flesh and pursue those things which have eternal value.

Romans 13:12-14

¹² *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

¹³ *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

¹⁴ *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

We must also be disciplined to cast out thoughts that should not have a place in our minds so that we can set our affections on that which is eternal.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds:)*

⁵ *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ:*

Notice Colossians 3:3

Three thoughts can be considered from the word "hid."

1. It speaks of the believer's safety and security.

We are forever secure in Jesus Christ. There is not one person or one angel who can in any way take us out of Jesus Christ. In order for that to happen they would need to overpower God and we know that there is no one who is capable of doing that.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and my Father are one.

Romans 5:19-21

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. It speaks of our identity.

Today we live in a world in which people identify as many different things. Some identify as the opposite sex, some identify as cats, and others identify as another kind of animal. We live in a world that is very confused. But as believers we are not confused because we can be sure that we identify with Jesus Christ as children of God. We are actually "Christ-bearers" because we have within us the Spirit of Christ who will manifest the life of Jesus Christ through us and in us.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

¹¹ For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

3. It speaks of secrecy.

The believer's life is nourished by a supply that the world knows nothing about. We have an endless supply of spiritual wealth to meet our every need.

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Conclusion:

Notice Colossians 3:3 again.

Our life is hidden in Christ but His life is not to be hid in us for we are called to live in a way that the world can see Jesus Christ in us. This happens as we live up to our position in Jesus Christ.