

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 5

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of Colossians we ended on Colossians 3:6 and it was in this verse that Paul reminded his readers that the wrath of God will come and is at this present time is being poured upon the unsaved in this world because of their unrighteousness.

Notice Colossians 3:5-6

In verse 5 Paul gives a list of detestable sins that the unsaved world is entangled in. It is for this reason they are under the wrath of Almighty God.

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Paul tells us they are without excuse. They know there is a God and they know right from wrong because the Law of God is written within their hearts.

Romans 2:14-15

¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Paul is calling upon his readers, who are believers, to be sure not to allow these sins into their lives. The potential is in every one of us to fall back into the sins of the past. Now we as believers will never experience the wrath of God but we will experience the chastening

of God and the consequences of the sin can stay with us the rest of our lives. We can see this Truth in David's life.

2 Samuel 12:7-12

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

¹² For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

- Casting off Sin
- Part 3

Notice Colossians 3:7

Notice that Paul uses the word "IN" twice in this verse. In the past as unbelievers, we were living IN sin.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

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

This was our past; we were living IN sin. We were like fish in the water. Fish do not feel wet because they are so used to the water it is just natural for them. In the same way when we were IN sin, we did not feel all that bad and all that sinful because we were so used to our sin that it was just natural. That is until we came under the conviction of the Holy Spirit then we began to feel the corruption of our sin. Praise God for the conviction of the Spirit. Now we are no longer IN sin but now we are IN Jesus Christ and being IN Him we are to live IN righteous.

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.

Romans 6:19-22

¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Notice Colossians 3:8

Now Paul gives another list of sins that the believer is to put off. Why does he give the second list here? These sins are as Morgan said, "Sins in good standing," meaning that these sins are not as filthy as the previous list and therefore they are sins that are often accepted as being okay.

This reminds me of the Reformed sinner that Paul writes about in Romans.

Romans 2:1-6

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

² *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

³ *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

⁴ *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

⁵ *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

⁶ *Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

The reformed sinner thinks he is better than the man that commits immoral acts while at the same time he is guilty of other sins that are often accepted in society. The truth is that he is just as guilty. Believers often think the very same way and that is one reason Paul gives the two lists in Colossians 3. There are no acceptable sins. There are no sins in "good standing."

Notice Colossians 3:8 again.

The word "but" here introduces a contrast between the way we are and the way we should be now that we are IN Christ. We are to NOW put off these sinful practices and understand this is a constant battle in the believer's life.

Notice the words of Carr.

"Joseph Stalin and his collapse before parliament. Some, believing him to be dead, began to shout and to rejoice, congratulating one another over the apparent death of the evil dictator. Stalin, however, was far from dead and many of those who rejoiced paid with their lives.

As I considered that, I began to realize that the Christian life is similar. When we come into this world, we are born into a sinful fleshly body. A body controlled by the world, the devil and it's own lusts. Then, one day, you come to Jesus for salvation! Do you remember

the glory of that moment? The joy of that incredible feeling? It felt as though all the old, sinful ways were gone forever. It felt like the world was brand new, especially for you! It felt so good, and oh, how your heart rejoiced. It wasn't long, however, until it began to dawn on you that the old nature was still active. Perhaps you found yourself being drawn back to some of your old ways. You found that now, there was a spiritual struggle going on inside you. It was at that moment that you realized that life was going to be a struggle.

It is this struggle which Paul is writing about here. In these verses, he gives us some ammunition to fight this battle. He lays out some principles that, if followed, will help us live the right kind of life before God and the world. Paul is telling us how to gain the victory over the old man."

The idea in this verse is to stop doing these things, cast them aside and be finished with them. Let us notice other verses where this Greek word for "put off" is used.

Matthew 14:3

³ For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and **put** him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Acts 7:58

⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses **laid down** their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Romans 13:12

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.

Ephesians 4:22, 25

²² That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²⁵ Wherefore **putting away** lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

James 1:21

²¹ Wherefore **lay apart** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

1 Peter 2:1

Wherefore **laying aside** all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Here we see why it is so important to put these and all other sins off. It is because these sins will kill your appetite for the Word of God. If someone professes to be a believer and they have little desire for the Bible then you can be sure there is sin in their life that has killed their appetite. Sin will keep you from the Word of God and the Word of God will keep you from sin.

Conclusion:

God never commands us to do something that we cannot do. He therefore commands us to put off all sin and we can be sure that He has equipped us to do so.

Philippians 4:13

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.