

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 7

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: Our study tonight will look at a couple verses here in Colossians before we get to the application that Paul makes.

Notice Colossians 3:9-10

Paul tells us here that the old man was already put off and the new man was put on. This happened at the point of our salvation. There is much more at the end of verse 10.

Notice Colossians 3:10 again.

The New Man is renewed in knowledge. The idea of being "renewed" is to be strengthened. This is a constant process as we grow in knowledge the New Man get stronger and stronger. If we look closely at the end of the verse, we see that the knowledge makes the New Man increasingly like Jesus Christ. This is the will of God for our lives. That as we live on this earth we would grow in knowledge and then as the New Man is renewed, we would become more like Jesus so that He would be seen in our lives.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The word "knowledge" in verse 10 means "correct and precise knowledge" which was completely contrary to what the heretics were spreading in the church at Colossae.

Application:

This is exactly why it is so important that believers sit under solid Biblical teaching. As the Bible is taught the believers grow spiritually stronger. In Ephesians 4 Paul explains clearly why it is that we gather together as we do here.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The church is the "barracks" where soldiers are to be trained. It is where the Word of God is to be taught so that the people can learn and grow. So, what has happened in many churches today? They have gone to the entertainment side and there is a reason. We see it with Israel in the wilderness.

Numbers 11:4-6, 10

⁴ And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

⁵ We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

⁶ But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Now let us get back to Colossians.

Notice Colossians 3:11

The word "where" refers to "in Christ." In Jesus Christ we become new people.

Ephesians 2:13-16

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

In the world there are many divisions but in Christ there are none. We are all members of the body of Jesus Christ. There is one group listed here by Paul that we need to see closer. They are the Scythians. Notice what is written in the word studies of the New Testament.

"More barbarous than the barbarians" (Bengel). Hippocrates describes them as widely different from the rest of mankind, and like to nothing but themselves, and gives an absurd description of their physical peculiarities. Herodotus describes them as living in wagons, offering human sacrifices, scalping and sometimes flaying slain enemies, drinking their blood, and using their skulls for drinking-cups. When a king dies, one of his concubines is strangled and buried with him, and, at the close of a year, fifty of his attendants are strangled, disemboweled, mounted on dead horses, and left in a circle round his tomb."

I wanted you to see this to help us all to understand that no matter how sinful a person is salvation is made available to everyone. These Scythians were some of the most brutal people ever to live and Paul mentions that some of them were saved and in Christ they were as all of us.

Notice Colossians 3:11

Paul tells us that Christ is all and in all. What does it mean that Jesus is our ALL? He is ALL of our salvation. Let us notice a few thoughts to make the point.

1. Jesus provided our salvation.

It was Jesus and He alone that went to the cross and faced the wrath of the Father in our place so that we would have a Savior.

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And **he is the propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

2. Jesus imparts our salvation.

Romans 3:20-25

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Salvation is imparted to us when we believe. God imputes His righteousness to us and He justifies us by His grace through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus maintains our salvation.

Hebrews 10:11-17

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 7:23-28

²³ And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

²⁴ But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

4. Jesus will complete our salvation.

Hebrews 12:1-2

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,

² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

⁷ *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

⁸ *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Conclusion:

Our salvation is so sure that in the mind of God He sees us as already seated in the heavenlies with Jesus.

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

³⁰ *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Ephesians 2:5-6

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:*