

Colossians – Chapter Three

Now that Paul has defended the gospel against error, he now turns to the life-changing power of the gospel.

v. 1,2– We as believers identify ourselves with Christ' death, having been buried with him through baptism. Galations 2:20 says we are crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live. This verse in Colossians begins "if (better translated since) we are risen with Christ...". Being risen with him we now have a new life; we have passed from death to life, from old to new. Since we are new in Christ SEEK and SET AFFECTION ON things above. Dr. David Jeremiah gives these definitions. SEEK – the idea of setting one's heart on something longterm, then looking forward to it with growing emotion. In other words, learn how to pursue the things of heaven. SET AFFECTION ON – focus one's will and emotions on the spiritual reality of heaven, and letting that control one's motivations rather than getting caught up in earthly concerns. Christ sits in the place of exaltation, power, authority.

v.3,4 – Our life is now hidden with Christ in God until he returns and we are sharing glory with him. We are sealed, we are locked in. Our life is a mystery to the world (hidden).

v.5 -7– Works of the flesh must die (be mortified) FORNICATION – illicit sexual intercourse, considered to refer to those unmarried (in the greek, fornication can stand for all sexual perverseness outside of God's law). UNCLEANNES – Impurity in thought and speech, dirty mindedness, indecency. INORDINATE AFFECTION – deparaved passion, uncontrolled lust. EVIL CONCUPISCENCE – wicked craving and sensualness beyond natural expression. COVETOUSNESS – Greedy desire to have more; entire disregard for the right of others IDOLATRY – worship of false gods, putting things in place of God. This is what you used to do, who you used to be.

v.8 ,9– Put off these feelings ANGER – uncontrolled temper, a deepseated emotion of ill will. WRATH – Boiling agitation, fiery outburst of temper, violent fit of rage. MALICE - vicious disposition, spite, willful desire to injure, rejoices in evil to others BLASPHEMY – slanderous talk, evil speaking, railing insults, reckless and bitter abuse. FILTHY COMMUNICATION OUT OF YOUR MOUTH – obscene speech, shameful speaking, foul-mouthed abuse, dirty epithets, unclean stories. And don't lie to one another—that was the old man

10.,11 – Put on, or live like, the new man, renewed in knowledge and continuing to be renewed, progressively become more and more like Christ, as you learn more, get closer to him, experience more with him, get his word even more in your hearts. Christ is the one who created this new renewed man. v.11- And there are no more divisions between people, Jew, Greek, bond, free, barbarian (anyone not Greek) or Scythian (Scythian was the most barbaric. Was a savage nomadic people that invaded the fertile crescent in 6th century b.c.). In all of them, Christ is all and all sufficient. And all are made complete in him.