

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 3:1-17**.
- B. Chapters 3 & 4 give practical applications to the doctrinal positions of chapters 1 & 2.
- C. It does little good to *declare* and *defend* the truth, if you fail to *demonstrate* it.
- D. Pagan worship said what a person believed had no direct relationship with how he behaved. But Christianity connects doctrine with duty!

I. SEEK THE HEAVENLY.

- A. Scripture text: **Col. 3:1-4**.

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Within these first 4 verses of chapter 3, Paul mentions 4 things that define or explain our relationship with Christ.

- B. We have **died** with Him (3:3a).
 - 1. See Rom 6:1-11, where this is the main theme.
 - 2. He had also just mentioned it in 2:20.
- C. We have been **raised** with Him (3:1).
 - 1. The word "since" is better than the word "if."
 - 2. Seeking the things that are above means to do so habitually. Your attention is habitually focused on things that are above. Let us not be "so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good."
- D. We are **hidden** in Him (3:3b).
 - 1. This means security and satisfaction.
 - 2. It also means a complete denial of self. Instead of seeing the "real you" they see X!
- E. We are to **live** in Him (3:4a).
 - 1. "Life is what you are alive to." I come alive to golf, others food, etc.
 - 2. Paul came alive with anything having to do with Christ (Phil. 1:21).

II. SLAY THE EARTHLY.

- A. Scripture text: **Col. 3:5-9**.

Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

- B. The word *mortify* means to "put to death." Because we have died w/X (3:3), we have the spiritual power to slay the earthly, fleshly desires that want to control us.
- C. Paul names some specific sins and some people do not like that. But God's judgment (condemnation) falls on those who practice these things (3:6) --they need to be mentioned:
 - 1. Fornication (immorality) -- sexual sin committed w/the body against the body.
 - 2. Uncleanness (impurity) -- lustful impurity connected with loose living.
 - 3. Inordinate affection (passion) -- loving the wrong things.
 - 4. Evil concupiscence (evil desires) -- attitude determines action, mortify evil attitudes.
 - 5. Covetousness (greed) -- always wanting more, never satisfied or content.
 - 6. Idolatry -- anything admired or worshiped other than God.

- D. Verses 7 says that these things are only to be characteristic of the past life; before becoming a Xian. Putting off the old man of sin means (3:8,9) getting rid of:
1. Anger.
 2. Wrath.
 3. Malice.
 4. Blasphemy.
 5. Filthy communication (slander, abusive speech, and lying).

III. STRENGTHEN THE NEW SELF.

- A. Scripture text: **Col. 3:10-11.**
*and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-- 11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*
- B. The Greeks had two different words for *new*:
1. “Neos” meant new in time (when a person became a Xian).
 2. “Kainos” meant new in quality, or fresh (as in manner/character of life).
- C. The Xian has once and for all put on the “new man” (*neos*), and, as a consequence he is being renewed (*kainos*), everyday. There is a change in quality, as one strives to become like X (see Rom. 8:29).
- D. Paul then goes on to tell of the absence of distinctions in the church (3:11). Such distinctions, if allowed to remain are barriers to holy living and spiritual maturity:
1. There are no nationalities (“neither Greek nor Jew”).
 2. There are no religious differences (“circumcision nor uncircumcision”).
 3. There are no cultural differences (barbarian, nor Scythian).
 4. There are no economic or political differences (“bond or free”).
- E. The Gnostics wanted to make people into “super saints” by the addition of doctrines to believe in; Paul wanted everyone on the same level-- Christ-like believers.

IV. SHOW IT TO THE WORLD.

- A. Scripture text: **Col. 3:12-17.**
*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**
- B. **Show the grace of Christ** (3:12-14).
 Paul mentions 8 things we are to “put on” in response to God’s grace (election):
1. Heart (bowels) of compassion.
 2. Kindness to one another.
 3. Humbleness of mind.
 4. Meekness (power under control).
 5. Long-suffering (hold back anger).
 6. Forbearance (holding up).
 7. Forgiveness (send away a debt).
 8. Love (tying all 7 together).
- C. **Show the peace of Christ** (3:15).
 1. Peace is to be the umpire that presides in your life.
 2. Allow Jesus to call the “balls and strikes” or the “good and bad” in your life.

D. **Show the word of Christ** (3:16).
 1. The word of X will transform our lives if we will permit it to dwell in us.
 2. To dwell means to “feel at home” and the word should find a home in our hearts.

E. **Show the name of Christ** (3:17).
 As Xians we are to bear the name of X:

1. As identification of whom we belong to.
2. As the authority of whom we work under.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The message of the book of Colossians is as timely as our newspapers.
- B. The power of X is just as fresh today as it was in the first century.
- C. X is the preeminent One, give your life to Him!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.