

Colossians 3:1–11

“Saved by the Risen Christ, in the Risen Christ, for the Risen Christ”

***How high is our confidence and our calling?** Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these eleven verses, we find that as those whose hope is as unassailable as the throne of glory, that throne is how high we should be aiming with the love, obedience, and service of all of our thoughts, feelings, words, and actions.*

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Colossians.

Three one through eleven.

Colossians three one through eleven, these are God's words. If then you were raised with Christ. Seek those things which are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above not on things on the earth. For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth. Fornication uncleanness passion, leave a desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

In which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these anger wrath malice blasphemy filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man.

Who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him. Where there is neither. Greek nor Jew. Circumcised nor uncircumcised barbarian cythian slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

So far the reading of God's inspired and Eric worked. So he begins if then you were raised with Christ we are all saved if we are saved the only way to be saved is by trusting in the Lord Jesus. So that Jesus becomes yours and you become his and his righteousness becomes yours because it's part of who he is his sacrifice which he has offered on the cross becomes yours.

If his righteousness is yours then Jesus is your worthiness and your righteousness and you are right with God as right with God as Jesus is if his sacrifice becomes yours, then your sin is wiped out. Because his sacrifice was for all of your sin. And so the Lord has saved us by Christ.

But his saving us by Christ is becomes ours in Christ by your believing into Jesus and often there there's a little Greek word pronounced ace that means into and it's often used in the Bible in the phrase believing into Jesus or believing into Christ or believing in to that Christ.

So you don't you don't just believe in him you believe into him you become joined to him. And so we're not just saved by Christ but we're saved in Christ and so the apostle can say if you were raised with Christ Jesus rose again from the dead. But he didn't stay on earth did he he ascended into the third heaven he sits on the right hand of glory on the throne of glory which elsewhere and Hebrews 4, we learned to call a throne of grace because that's where our savior says.

Now if believing in Jesus means you are joined to him then you haven't just been raised with him you've also ascended with him and you haven't just ascended with him you've also been seated with him so Ephesians tells us that we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places, yes Victoria.

Okay third heaven is language we get from the Bible and places like second Corinthians 12, the Bible uses the word heaven to talk about three different things one what we would call the sky or the atmosphere on the earth the second what we would call outer space where the planets are and the third that place and it is a place because Jesus is their bodily that place where in the holy angels are gathered and to which the souls of the righteous Department, At death.

That place where God has made his glory, especially to be known because God is everywhere the same amount. He just is not like he has dimensions and that his dimensions are quote unquote big enough to fill up areas. So he is everywhere the same amount but he makes his presence known or he displays his presence or he displays especially the glory of his presence differently in different places.

So when he accepted the tabernacle he caused a cloud of glory to fill the tabernacle and when he accepted the temple he caused a cloud of glory to fill the temple and when he owned Sinai as his throne and temple and sanctuary even before the tabernacle was made he remember there was a cloud of glory at the top of the mountain and the whole mountain shook and it looked like it was on fire and it smoked.

Well, the Bible describes the third heaven as the place where God displays his glory most of all. And that is the place to which Jesus has bodily gone after he ascended he passed through the clouds into the heavens and then didn't remain in the first heaven the atmosphere or the second evident out of space but passed all the way to the third heaven.

And if that's where Jesus is then there's a real sense that in which if you believe in him you are seated with him there. That's what Ephesians says, that's what Colossians says now imagine you have given been given such a high privilege that you sit and thrown in glory.

What can possibly ultimately harm you? Nothing, of course. There's nothing that can reach to Jesus' throne or have any effect there. Take him off of it or breach through the defenses of glory. That's why it's insane to think that there's any created thing that can separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ.

Jesus. And so, The the logic of this passage is you were saved by Jesus and you were saved in Jesus so you were saved for Jesus. If none of this stuff can touch you and none of this stuff can come close to being as good as what you have in glory with Jesus, then you should really be serving Christ in your time on earth don't serve anything earthly.

Earthly things and he's using the word earthly here, especially to mean things that are outside of Christ who you were outside of Christ. So there's the who you used to be that is dead at Jesus' cross and there's who you are that is alive and joined to Jesus. He says now don't think in the who you used to be way don't feel in the who you used to be way don't live in the who you used to be away.

Think in the who you are in Christ now and for Christ now way think in the way of who her feel in the way of who you are in Christ and who you are for Christ live in the way of who you are in Christ and who you are for Christ similar to what we've been hearing about and thinking about in Luke living for our master who has gone away in the way that pleases him and not letting his being out of sight make him be out of mind.

And start serving the flesh just because our master isn't here, he's a no I think about my master all the time. I trust in my master the Lord Jesus all the time. I delight in my master the Lord Jesus all the time and so I'm gonna live on earth as pleases my master who is in heaven Colossians 3 now takes it one step further he says because really, If you have believed in Jesus you are together with him in heaven he is all your hope forever and ever and he is as sure hope because he sits on the throne of glory so this is if you were raised with Christ seek those things which are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, he doesn't mean spend all of your time only thinking about disembodied righteous souls and angels.

He means be as holy. As those people and those angels be as holy as your savior. Think and feel and speak and live like Jesus would if he were here at least with the holiness with which Jesus would if he were here set your mind on things above not on things in the earth for you died that that fleshly you that sinful you he's been executed at the cross and Jesus has crossed so count him dead, haha old me no longer me you are dead stop bothering me, well not think the way you want to think I will not feel the way you want to go well not speak the way you want to speak.

For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God, nothing can get you there get it you all when you have your airsoft skirmishes or trying to find the most invulnerable position, well what if you could ascend into the third evidence sit on the throat of glory what could get you there nothing?

And when Christ who is your life appears our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory the guarantee of our perfect happiness and our perfect holiness forever and the impossibility that anything could ever take away what Christ himself has secured and locked up in heaven guarded in guards now in heaven for us frees us to serve you.

And so that lists some of the things that come from our old self some of the things that deserve wrath which is coming upon sons of disobedience and in which we ourselves once walked and look at verse six and verse seven but we are to put to death those things why because the person to whom those things belong to died in Christ the old you died at his cross and so all the things that belonged to the old you you are to kill.

And all those things that belong to Christ you are to focus on and make alive so what kinds of things fornication wrong thinking about and desire for that which should only be a husband and a wife and the marriage bed uncleanness passion being controlled by our feelings evil desire wrong motivations covetousness wishing that God's providence was different.

Well if God is God then God's providence is his providence if you want this providence to be different that means you wish that someone else was God and what's it called when you want another God to be God idolatry covetousness, which is idolatry. And then he picks up the list again and starts adding to it in verse eight anger, this is hasty anger that you are controlled by instead of considered anger in which you imitate God.

In the way he thinks and responds to certain things wrath malice malice means hatefulness either desiring or delighting in arm coming to others blasphemy. Speaking of God unworthy. Filthy language out of your mouth. To be careful not to use any filthy words. Do not lie to one another that also something that belongs to who you are he says you put off the old man with his deeds and you put on the man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him, so he says you have a new race.

You are no longer Greek if they were Greek so you can't say well, you know, the Greeks really do have this failing they're really like that and excuse yourself as being Greek no. You're your race is now the race of Christ you are to be like he is your dad he is no your spiritual daddy or the origin of your new self is not a Jew is not uncircumcised or circumcised is not barbarian or say the nor slave nor free.

This is not saying by the way that there are no differences between the races or the ethnicities it's saying you can't use that as an excuse anymore because who you were before died with Christ? Not that you're no longer half Egyptian and then one million familiar other things. Okay or a half million other things you get the fractions, right?

I know of a man once he was charged and at his discipline trial he said well I'm a Middle Easterner and we're just we're just hot-blooded that way, so that's just how we respond it's my personality. And someone asked very wisely and in keeping with these verses. Was Jesus and

Middle Easterner?

And was that his personality. But we could all say that what is Jesus's personality what is he like what are the tendencies of his character because those are the things that shape who we are now not the tendencies of someone from Michigan or Iowa or Mississippi or Tennessee or with Western European blood or with Egyptian blood.

All those tendencies were a huge part of who you were outside of Christ and whatever does not is not consistent with Christ and what he is, like from those things were to kill. Now are there are there different aspects of who we were that are consistent with Christ that were not sinful, they're all.

And Christ uses and transforms those things that diligence and zeal and particular interests in created things all of the sin can be put to death and that's what he's saying what did death all the sin but now he says at the end Christ is all and in all in other words Christ who he is and what he is like should shape.

Who we are and what we are like.

So let's pray our father in heaven we thank you for this glorious and unshakable hope that you have given us by saving us by Jesus and in Jesus and for Jesus and we pray that you'd make us to live with joy and confidence and diligence devotion and zeal and love unto him by him and in him and for whom we were saved in whose name we ask it even the name of Jesus.

Amen.