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# Sermon Notes

February 15, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## Hidden With Christ

Colossians 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Perspective

- ❖ To grow in our faith, we must develop a proper perspective on ourselves and how we relate to the world
  - we must set our minds on things above, not on things that are on earth
  - we must see things as they really are
- ❖ How do we cultivate this sort of heavenly perspective?
  - filter and flush the effects of our old identity out of our systems
  - keep orienting ourselves toward the new identity we have already been given in Christ

## A New Orientation

- ❖ Keep the compass of your life pointing toward heaven
  - a continuous, ongoing action
  - this transforms how we think and how we live
  - Lightfoot: “You must not only *seek* heaven, you must also *think* heaven.”
- ❖ Why do we do this?
  - we died! (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - our lives are hidden with Christ in God
  - we are eternally secure (John 10:28, Rom 8:35, 37-39)

## A New Identity

- ❖ Because our lives are hidden with Christ in God we have the calling and the power to throw away the old clothes of our sinful past and joyfully display the new clothes of our new nature
  - though sin is no longer our master, it can still overpower us if we do not continually present ourselves to God as servants of righteousness
  - all of our sinful habits are meant to be shed and discarded like an old, tattered garment
    - they are thrown away, NOT put in the washing machine
    - in Christ we exchange the rags of our old self for the robe of Christ's righteousness
    - off with the old... on with the new
  - this is not optional or reserved for "advanced" Christians... it is for everyone who is in Christ
- ❖ God gives us new clothes because He wants us to wear them
  - openly wear the new clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience that God gives us in Christ
  - dress for success in God's kingdom
  - our new clothes reveal our team identity
- ❖ our new clothes promote love, unity, and harmony within the body (vv. 12-14)

## How To's

- ❖ Paul doesn't give us a "what to do" list without giving us a strategy for "how we are to do it"
- ❖ Christianity involves living a life where our chief desire is to please God and to bring Him glory
- ❖ How to please God
  - *let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts* (3:15)
  - *be thankful* (3:15)
  - *let the word of Christ dwell in you richly* (3:16)
    - *teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom*
    - *singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*
  - *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (3:17)

## Personal Application

1. Is your mind more likely to be set "on things that are above" or set "on things that are on the earth"? Why?
2. What will you do to keep the compass of your life pointing toward heaven?
3. What clothes of your old, "dead self" are you wearing? What new clothes do you need to put on instead?
4. Using Colossians 3:15-17 as a guide, what are some things you will do to make your life more pleasing to God?