

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
THE BELIEVER'S NEW LIFE-PART 1
COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Introduction:

Anytime is a good time for us as God's people to **take inventory of our walk with the Lord**. We should take a very close look at where we are in our relationship with Him. We need to examine ourselves and **see where we have been, where we are, and where the Lord wants us to be**. This passage gives us **both the opportunity and the challenge** to do just that!

I want us to look at these verses and see the **challenges** that they contain. **We need to understand that God has a plan for our lives!** (i.e. He wants certain things from our lives as His children.) Not only that, but **He has the right to demand these things from our lives!**

We saw in our last message how that:

I. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE ARE TO SEEK AND SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON!

“Those Things Which Are Above”

1. Heavenly Things. (Not earthly things)
2. Spiritual Things. (Not physical things)
3. Eternal Things. (Not temporal things)
4. Things That Are Of God. (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit)
 - a. Holy Things.
 - b. Things Pertaining To The Will Of God.
 - c. Things Pertaining To The Worship Of God.
 - d. Things Pertaining To The Glory Of God.

A quick look at some of the verses following this verse give a little insight into what Paul is talking about here.

- We are to pursue a deeper knowledge of Jesus, 3:10
- We are to pursue a clean, holy life, 3:5-9
- We are to pursue Godly virtues, 3:12-17
- We are to pursue Holiness in our domestic life, 3:18-21
- We are to pursue Holiness in our social life, 3:22-4:1
- We are to pursue an effective prayer life – 4:2
- We are to pursue a fruitful witness – 4:3-6

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In other words, we are to live like Jesus lived! (He lived a life of love in humble submission to the Heavenly Father!)

1 John 2:6–“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

In fact we are to allow Christ to live His life through our lives!

(Galatians 2:20–“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.)

We are to walk in the Spirit so that we don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh! *(Galatians 5:16)*

We are to live our lives FILLED with the Holy Spirit that dwells within us so that the fruit of the Spirit is evident in our lives!

(Galatians 5:22-23) Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Here in this Chapter, the Apostle Paul challenged the Colossians and us to **live out our lives with genuine spiritual values**, and not the values of a fallen world. As we give our attention to these spiritual, heavenly things, we are enabled to live a heavenly and a holy God-honoring life in this world! *(e.g. An Olympic athlete...must have a proper focus on the goal...must discipline the life and train)*

We are to allow a **heavenly perspective to govern our earthly walk!** Every **decision**, every **activity**, every **plan and purpose** is to be **considered in the light of eternity**. Everything is to be laid out before the Lord and considered **not** from an **earthly, sensual perspective**, but from **the viewpoint of Heaven!**

As God's people, we are called upon to become heavenly minded!

This is possible because of our Lord's presence in Heaven. From His place at the Father's right hand, **Jesus makes intercession for us and He gives us all that we need to live for Him in this world!**

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Hebrews 7:25—“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.”

Romans 8:31-34

II. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE ARE NOT TO SEEK OR SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON!

i.e. There are some things we are to let go! (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)

There are some things that try to attach themselves to our lives that are just plain sin that need to be trashed by us!

Other things simply don't have a place in our lives and will weight us down! Those things also need to be let go too!

Paul tells us in verse 2 that we are to focus our thoughts on Heavenly things! In doing that, we are to avoid getting caught up in all the things in this world that would fill our minds and weight us down and hinder our walk!

If we allow our minds to focus on this world, then the world will fill our agenda and there will be no time for us to give to the things of God! And the things of God are so much more important!

Here in Colossians, Paul has already mentioned some dangerous distractions that would hinder our walk if they were allowed to.

A. False Doctrine. (2:4-8)

- Philosophies – This refers to wisdom of men.
- Vain Deceit – This phrase means “empty tricks”.
- Traditions of Men – Believer are warned to be careful of long held beliefs that are not biblically based!
- The Rudiments of the World – We are to stay with the Bible!

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B. Foolish Demands. (2:16-17, 21-23)

True spirituality does not consist of our keeping of any man-made, external rules. But rather **true spirituality is found** in our personal, faith relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ! **True spirituality flows to us as we abide in Him!**

What we **do** or **do not do** is **not** what makes us spiritual! Spirituality comes from **knowing Jesus** and **allowing Him to fill our lives and live His life through us!**

Now Paul mentions some other dangerous distractions that can hinder our spiritual walk.

C. Fleshly Deeds. (3:5-10)

In these verses, Paul lists several common sins of the flesh and admonishes believers to eliminate them from their lives. Let's take a quick look at these verses and what they forbid.

vs. 5–Fornication – This word is translated from a word that refers to *any type of illicit sexual expression*. Paul is telling us that **any sexual activity that takes place outside the confines of a Biblical marriage relationship is a sin and must be put out of our lives!** The reason is because it will hinder our walk!

vs. 5–Uncleanness – This word means *“impurity”* and it looks beyond the acts of the body into the very **thoughts of the mind** and the **motives of the heart**. Not only is the outward man supposed to be clean, but so is the heart and the mind!

vs. 5–Inordinate Affection – This speaks of *“wicked passions”*. It has the idea of **lusting for forbidden things**. God has marked certain things as being off limits; **this kind of lust seeks out those things and longs for them.**

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vs. 5–Evil Concupiscence – This means “*evil desires*”. It speaks of **a mind that longs for forbidden things**. The person with this kind of mind may never commit evil on a physical level, **but they live in a fantasy world where their most wicked thoughts are acted out in the heart and mind.**

vs. 5–Covetousness – This word is speaking of the desire “*to have more*” of the things of *THIS* world!

It refers to **the insatiable desire to possess more than one has been given by God!**

It is a refusal to accept what we have as the gift of God!

It is the **placing of things ahead of God and of His will for our lives!** That is why it is called “*idolatry*”.

vs. 8–Anger – This word refers to **a deep, smoldering, bitterness**. It is an anger that dwells in the heart and makes the angry person hard to deal with. The angry person will tend to lash out in both words and deeds.

vs. 8–Wrath – This word refers to **anger that boils over**. It speaks of sudden, explosive outbursts of anger.

vs. 8–Malice – This is **anger mixed with a desire to do harm to the focus of the anger**. When malice is involved, the angry person strikes out to do damage to another person.

vs. 8–Blaspheme – The word literally means “*to slander*.” It can refer to slanders directed at God or at other people. We slander others when we insult and belittle others. This happens both in gossip and when we put others down behind their backs.

vs. 8–Filthy Communication – This refers to “*abusive speech*.”

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It speaks of words that are thrown around in an attempt to hurt and wound someone. This usually happens when people say things they should not say in a moment of anger!

vs. 9–Lying – When we lie to one another, we are using the tool and tactic of the devil. (John 8:44) This characteristic has no place in the life of a child of God!

Now, if we find that any of these things are in our life, they need to be done away with in our lives because, if not, they will hinder our walk with God and cripple us spiritually!

Well, how can we be victorious over these things in our lives?

1. We Can Starve The Fleshly Appetites.

Don't feed the anger. Don't feed the lust.

2. We Can Crowd It Out.

We should so fill our lives with positive things that evil has no room to flourish! When we fill ourselves with the things of God (*Philippians 4:8*), and the Word of God (*Colossians 3:16*), sin cannot gain a foothold in our hearts!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE ARE TO SEEK AND SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE ARE NOT TO SEEK OR SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON.

III. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE MUST REMEMBER!

(Vs. 3-4)

A. There Has Been A Death. (vs. 3a)

Here we are reminded again that **in Christ we have died to sin and to the influence of this world.**

One of the surest ways for the child of God to enjoy spiritual victory in his or her life is for that person to understand that they are crucified with Christ! (Galatians 2:20)

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If we can get a grip on that truth and do what *Romans 6:11* tells us to do, we would grow deeper in the things of the Lord.

B. There Has Been A Deposit! (vs. 3b)

When we were saved, we were given new life in Jesus. This new life imparts to us the *“divine nature”* (2 Peter 1:4)

This new life guarantees the believer eternal security!

1 Peter 1:5–“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Hebrews 7:25–“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.”

John 10:28–“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”

Because we are hidden in Jesus, we are in “protective custody” and none of the enemies of the soul can approach us, attack us or take us out of Jesus!

C. There Is A Guaranteed Destiny! (vs. 4)

Paul closes this paragraph by reminding us that this world is not the best there is.

We may have to **deny our flesh down here**, but it will be worth it all over there!

We might have to **battle Satan here**, but we will enjoy eternal victory there!

When Jesus comes, **our faith in Him will be vindicated and we will be glorified with Him!**

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Right now, **every believer in this room battles the world, the flesh and the devil.** Each of these enemies does everything they can to hinder us and to cause us to fail. But, praise God, one day, the battles will all be over!

This flesh will be changed and remade in His image!
(1 Corinthians 15:53-54; 1 John 3:1-3)

We will leave this world with its sin, its evil, its problems, its devil and we will go to land of perfection to bask in the glory of our Saviour forever! (Revelation 21:4)

It is a guaranteed destiny! **“Shall!”**

Conclusion:

That’s a lot to take in, isn’t it? But, we need to take a good, hard look at our lives and at our walk with the Lord!

Are you seeking the right things? Is your affection set in the right place?

Do you need to **put to death** some of the things mentioned in this message? Some things may need to be **starved!** Other things may need to be **crowded out!**

If there are needs and the Lord has spoken to your heart, this altar is open!
You mind Him!

If you need to be saved, you can do that right now. If He is calling you, then you need to come to Him and be saved so that you can be a partaker of His Divine nature and have a guaranteed life in Christ!

Whatever the needs may be, you should listen to the voice of the Lord and do what He us telling you to do!