

Colossians 3: 1 - 11

It's been a long while since we met. So, I want to spend a few moments reviewing some key passages from chapter 2 that will help set the tone for chapter 3.

Colossians 2:18-23 NKJV (18) Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, (19) and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God. (20) Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— (21) "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," (22) which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? (23) These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, **but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

The KJV begins verse 18:

Colossians 2:18 Let no man **beguile** you of your reward...

Beguile means to captivate, lure, and entice. It means to draw your attention away from the truth of God and into a place where lies and deceptions that sound good are deemed the "true truth". All this leads you to a life of worthless works of regulations and rules that add absolutely no value to your relationship with God and "...are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh", that is, they will not keep you from sin.

Now the basis of this warning is what Paul said before these verses:

Colossians 2:12-15 NKJV (12) *{you were}* buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (13) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

There is a spiritual reality in which we are to live. This is difficult because of our flesh which wars against the Spirit. But that doesn't mean we give into our selfishly motivated desires. We must grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD. We must realize that as a follower of the Anointed One, we too were crucified unto death, buried and raised up to "newness of life". And not only raised up to a life in Him but we were given His Spirit to enable us to resist everything that comes against us, trying, as it were, to steal our souls. We resist all things by Truth. Here's some Truth to keep you grounded:

John 10:27-30 NKJV My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (28) And I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish**; neither shall anyone

snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.** (30) I and My Father are one."

And one other hard Truth that will help transform your life:

Matthew 16:24 NKJV Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

And that word "deny" is stronger than just refusing to do something or eat sweets; it means "renounce, forsake or abandon" yourself! And that can only be done by the Cross of Christ. **But Pastor**, what will I have if I do that? Wrong question! It should be "who will I be like if I do that?". You will be like Jesus and one-step closer to being conformed to His image which is infinitely better than who you are. But, in order not to side-step the original question, the answer is, "you will have everything you need!".

Matthew 6:33 NKJV But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

That's a lot to absorb. In chapter 3, Paul offers practical advice based on the Truth of Christ:

Colossians 3:1-4 NKJV If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

"If you were raised with Christ", in other words, if you are born-again then value the things you cannot see, that is, heavenly or eternal things, more than what you can have in the here-now. Jesus taught this first:

Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

It is no coincidence that both Jesus then Paul used the same word in the Greek for "seek". It is often used for mere "looking" or "inquiring" but it is often used to express the worship of God.

Matthew 6:21 is the key: IS your heart attached to stuff or to the Person of Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus always turned our minds from the "doings" of life towards of "being" of life in Him. I ask this of myself because I love stuff, especially books and pens. I know that earthly stuff isn't all harmful unless it consumes the mind and heart of the one who has it (or covets it), but there are some things that I seem to have to have! I mean, who doesn't love when those boxes with the smiley arrow on it come in the mail.

So, we set our minds on the eternal things because “in Christ”, we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to do so. We learn that He satisfies the souls’ longings more than Amazon Prime ever could. How can we set our minds on things above? Two keys to two doors. Each lead to the Throne room where the Son is seated next to our Father. One door is His Holy Scriptures and the other is prayer.

Our lives are hidden with Christ in God:

Hidden: something concealed that will be revealed. A couple of from Romans might make it clearer:

Romans 8:18-19 NKJV For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.** (19) For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God.**

(Colossians 3:5 NKJV) Therefore **put to death** your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **(Colossians 3:6 NKJV)** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **(Colossians 3:7 NKJV)** in which you yourselves **once walked** when you lived in them.

“The verb *nekrosate*, meaning literally ‘to make dead,’ is very strong. It suggests that we are not simply to suppress or control evil acts and attitudes. We are to wipe them out, completely exterminate the old way of life.” (Vaughan)

Passion: inordinate (excessive) affection

Evil desire: worthless desires or lust

Why is covetousness equated with idolatry???

Paul wants the church to know that God will deal with the “sons or children of disobedience”. Those are all unbelievers who live in disobedience. Paul reminds them that this was their nature before being born-again. We were sinners who followed our evil nature, freely walking in them without a concern for the divine consequences that would certainly come!

Who will I identify with, the world or with Jesus?

(Colossians 3:8 NKJV) But now you yourselves **are to put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

In addition to those things he just mentioned, Paul adds to the list the attitudes, thoughts and actions in which we are no longer to engage . All true believers will occasionally sin. But now, as believers, since has no power over them so they need to get on board with the new life they’ve been given; So, scripture clearly says:

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was **crucified** with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Galatians 2:20 I have been **crucified** with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and

gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 And those *who are* Christ's have **crucified** the flesh with its passions and desires.

Why is it important to **list and name** these sins as Paul does in this section?

(Colossians 3:9 NKJV) Do not lie to one another, since you **have put off** the old man with his deeds, **(Colossians 3:10 NKJV)** and have **put on** the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **(Colossians 3:11 NKJV)** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Putting off is to completely separate oneself from an attitude or a behavior.

Putting on appears to be more passive in that you allow yourself to be provided or equipped or graced with a quality or ability. We said before that the image is putting on a garment. So, allow yourself to be clothed in these things. Your new man is a gift from God. The new man is created according to the One doing the creating (that is, Jesus). It harkens back to **Genesis 1:27 NKJV** **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

So, there is a difference between putting off and putting on. What is the difference and what does this mean for our walks as believers?

And who is this for? (Scythian = savage; barbarians=foreigners). And why did Paul include foreigners, savages and slaves?

What does “but Christ *is* all and in all” mean?

“In the arena of Carthage in A.D. 202 a profound impression was made on the spectators when the Roman matron Perpetua stood hand-in-hand with her slave Felicitas, as both women faced a common death for a common faith.” (Bruce)

Tonight we dealt with the putting off of the OLD MAN. And we began to discuss the putting on of the NEW MAN. Next week, I want to do a deeper study on these two concepts that I believe will help us manifest the NEW MAN and completely shackle the OLD MAN.