

Colossians

Lesson 5 - Colossians 3:1-11

In the first two chapters, Paul has been laying a foundation of spiritual truth. These truths are essential in recognizing false teaching, and it is also true that they are the basis for a walk that pleases the Lord. This week we will see that Paul gives very practical instructions for Christian living. You see, it is not only important to know the truths, and to declare them, but we also need to demonstrate them in our lives.

Begin your study with prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and asking for understanding of it and wisdom in applying it to your life.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse:

*“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
Colossians 3:2-3 NKJV*

Read Colossians 3:1- 3.

1. Colossians 3 begins in verse 1 with a statement that makes it clear Paul was writing to believers. *“If then you were raised with Christ...”* or it could be translated *“Since then you were raised with Christ...”* It is important that you know this truth! Looking back to Colossians 2:12, write this verse below as a reminder of how this was accomplished.

2. Because we have died with Christ and been raised with Him, there should be a change in our lives. What do the following scriptures say about this?

a. Romans 6:4

b. Galatians 2:20

3. Let’s skip for a minute to the last phrase in Colossians 3:1.

a. Where does it say Christ is sitting?

b. Where does Ephesians 2:5-6 say we are sitting?

c. How should these truths affect our thoughts and actions?

4. Paul goes on to give some practical instruction. Since we are risen with Christ, what does Colossians 3:2 say we are to do?

a. What does this mean?

b. Stop and ask yourself where most of your thoughts are during the day. The word *set* tells us that it is something we must choose to do. How can we *set* our thoughts to *things above*?

5. In the KJV, this phrase is, “...*set your affections on things above...*” When we think of our *mind*, we think of our thoughts.

a. What more does the word *affections* add to the meaning?

b. What does Mark 12:30 add to this thought?

6. Knowing we are to set our minds on things above, what reason does Colossians 3:3 give for this? As you write this answer, really think about what this means and how truly believing it will affect your life.

7. Before we move on to the next verse, pause and think about the following paraphrase of Colossians 3:2-3: *Let heaven fill your thoughts; Don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this earth as a dead person does. Your real life is in heaven with Christ and God. TLB*

Now ask yourself, what fills your thoughts and where is your real life?

Read Colossians 3:3-4.

We will look again at Colossians 3:3 to see how it follows on to verse 4.

1. We died with Christ, died to the flesh, so then where do Colossians 3:3-4 say we now have life?
2. What do the following scriptures say about the source of your new life?
 - a. Romans 6:11
 - b. Galatians 2:20
 - c. 1 John 5:12
3. According to Colossians 3:4, what will happen when Christ appears?
 - a. This is not a new thought. What did Jesus say about this in John 17:22?
 - b. What more do you find in 1 John 3:2-3?

Read Colossians 3:5-11

We have seen that through the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, we have been separated from the old life, died to the flesh and this world, and we now belong to a new life in Christ, a heavenly life. What does this mean for us?

Wiersbe: It means that the practical everyday affairs of life get their direction from Christ in heaven. It means further that we look at earth from heavens point of view.

In the next section of this letter, Paul gave practical instructions for this new life, with choices we must make in putting off the old man and putting on the new.

1. Instead of saying “*put off*”, how does Colossians 3:5 describe what we must do?

Therefore, _____ your members.

- a. What is meant here by *your members*?
 - b. In Matthew 5:29-30, how does Jesus express a similar thing?
 - c. Clearly both Jesus and Paul refer to a *spiritual surgery* here. How can you do this?
(Remember Colossians 3:3)
2. Next, Colossians 3:5 gives us the first list of things to *put off* in order to walk in the new man.
- a. The first two things listed are physical acts: *fornication* and *uncleanness* or *impurity*.
 1. Define *fornication*.
 2. What is *uncleanness* or *impurity* in the Bible?
 - b. Next, consider *passion* and *evil desire*. How are these different than the first two?
 - c. The last one in this verse is *covetousness*. You might be familiar with this one from the commandment in Exodus 20:17.
 1. Write a definition for *covetousness* below.
 2. Define *idolatry*.
 3. Why does Paul say that *covetousness* is *idolatry*?
3. What does Colossians 3:6 say will come because of these things?
- a. What reminder is given in verse 7?
 - b. Why is it good for us to remember this?

4. Colossians 3:8 begins “*But now...*” This points us back to remember Colossians 3:1, *you were raised with Christ* and verse 4, *Christ who is your life...* Because of this you are to walk in this newness of life. So, in verse 8 we find the second list of things you are to *put off*. List them below.

a. In order to *put off* the sins above, we need to understand them. First the sins of attitude toward others. Define or explain each of these, showing how they are different.

1. Anger

2. Wrath

3. Malice

b. Next, we have sins from your mouth. What is the difference between *blasphemy* and *filthy language*?

5. The *put off* in Colossians 3:9 is, “*Do not lie to one another.*”

a. What does Paul add to this in Ephesians 4:25

b. What is a lie?

c. Is there such a thing as a “little white lie”? Why or why not?

d. What does Proverbs 12:22 say about lying?

6. From Colossians 3:9-10, describe what we have *put off* and are to *put on* below.

a. ...*you have put off*...

b. ...*and have put on*...

7. Colossians 3:11 describes what the body of Christ should be like, and what the world should see when they look on our lives. Each of the descriptions is of a position one holds in the flesh on this earth.

a. What does Galatians 3:26-28 say about this?

b. Clearly, there is no room for any prejudice when we walk in Christ. So, instead of these fleshly differences and positions, how does Colossians 3:11 say it in the last line?

...but _____.

In closing...

1. We have seen specific instructions for putting off sins in Colossians 3:1-11. Paul also gave instructions in Ephesians 4:25-32. From these verses, complete the table below with things we not to do (put off) and things we are to do (put on).

Don't	Do
Vs. 25	
Vs. 26-27	
Vs. 28	
Vs. 29	
Vs. 30	
Vs. 31-32	

2. The putting off and putting on we have talked about in this lesson is so important to our walk in Christ, but it is not a one-time thing. As long as we are on this earth and in this flesh, we will have to choose this walk, to die daily, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to walk it out.

What do you think you can do to help in making these choices each day?

Warren Wiersbe summed up this section of scripture like this: Because we are alive in Christ, we must seek the things that are above. And, because we died with Christ, we must put off the things that belong to the earthly life of past sin. The result is that we can become like Jesus Christ! God wants to renew us and make us into the image of His Son!

Memory Verse

*"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
Colossians 3:2-3 NKJV*

NOTES