



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:5-17

LESSON: PRACTICING GODLY VIRTUES—August 26, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. There has to be a death, if we are raised with Christ. It's a resurrection with Christ. Death is the process of change in our lives. So, Paul is telling the Colossians, if you have been raised with Christ, then seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. ¹If the Colossians have died to self and been resurrected with the life of Christ, then they were to do something— seek those things that pertain to the kingdom of heaven, and not things down here on the earth. In Colossians 2, he had been telling them that man-made religion appears to be wise, but has no value against fleshly indulgence. Their dependence should be on a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The believer's life is a life risen with Christ. If we are risen with Christ...

1. First, seek those things above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

We are a product of dual citizenship. The things on earth will fade away, but the things above are eternal. Now is the time to seek, pursue, search for, and desire those things which are not earthly, but are above. Christ sits in the seat of authority on the right hand of God, so the next verse continues to tell them what to do. Being raised from the dead, we conquered death, and are raised to new life because of being in Him.

3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. If the position of worldly authority is more important than the spiritual authority, we have set our affections upon the wrong things. That's why we are to set our affections on heavenly things and not earthly things. If we are risen with Christ...

2. Second, set your "affection" (phroneme), your mind on things above and not on things on the earth.

3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Our change our behavior comes when we choose Christ to live within us, so that He can shape us into what we should be rather than merely what we might want to be in ourselves. Paul says that we have already died with Christ; that is, co-crucifixion, and co-resurrection, with Christ, spiritually, therefore we are securely locked (hidden) together with Christ. Our real life is in heaven with Christ in God, and is therefore hidden from the world where Satan can't even break the lock. Three things to consider:

1. Believers have a common spiritual life with the Father and the Son.
2. The world cannot understand the full importance of the believer's new life.
3. Believers are eternally secure; protected from all spiritual enemies, and have access to all God's blessings.

3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Christ is

¹ <http://www.ffruits.org/firstfruits02/bookofcolossians.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

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now our life, and He gives us power to help us live; and He gives us hope for the future. This is where our real lives are lived—through Him. And one day, Christ will be returning to earth. And if you are a Christian, whether your body died or was "Raptured", you will return with Him. You will be revealed in glory, even as He is.

LESSON: I. RESCUED FROM THE OLD LIFE COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

Put Away: Destroy

3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

TERMS: (sins of the body and its members).

- **Mortify:** put to death quickly.
- **Fornication:** illicit sexual intercourse between unmarried partners; similar to, but not identical with adultery.
- **Uncleanness:** impurity in thought and speech, dirty mindedness, indecency.
- **Inordinate affection:** depraved passion, uncontrolled lust, an evil desire.
- **Evil concupiscence:** wicked craving and sensualness beyond natural expression.
- **Covetousness:** greedy desire to have more; entire disregard for the right of others.
- **Idolatry:** the worship of false gods, putting things in place of God.

Since we have died with Christ, we need to consider our bodies as unresponsive and dead to the idolatrous pursuit of evil (the things listed above). The flesh must be kept in the place of death. It must be kept nailed to the cross. This is never easy, so we must make a conscious, daily decision to live according to God's values and to rely on the Holy Spirit's power. Paul tells the Colossians to "*mortify*" or put to death the "*members*" (those animal impulses that are earthly) in you; the old flesh nature. Therefore consider the members as alive to God and dead to sin. The point is: There is the fleshly nature, and there is the spiritual nature. The contrast is easy to understand. The *fleshly nature* causes sin to rise. God does not regard sin with indifference. Sin is sin whether we call it "*little*" or "*big*" sin. The *spiritual nature* is where the Spirit urges us to put to death, "*sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*"

3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:— Paul is talking about those things described in verse 5 that are not to just be looked over. They are to take notice that the wrath of God is coming upon those unbelieving disobedient children (unbelievers) that don't want to listen. It is because of these things that come from the old flesh nature that the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience (unbelievers). The Greek word for "*wrath*" means anger associated with punishment. The verse is clear that God will punish the children of disobedience.

3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. Yes, they once walked in and practiced being immoral and greedy, lustful and impure. But now as Christians, they are not to be present in their lives. Does this mean that you are not tempted? That your body doesn't have immoral desires? That your mind isn't tempted by money? Not at all! However, your response to those temptations should be very different than they used to be. Choose to put them to death (cut away).

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They are to be destroyed and do not entertain them!

Put Off: Give up

3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

TERMS: (sins of emotions and tongue).

- **Anger:** uncontrolled temper, a deep seated emotion of ill-will, a settled feeling of habitual hate, revengeful resentment.
- **Wrath:** boiling agitation, fiery outburst of temper, violent fit of rage, passionate outbreak of exasperation.
- **Malice:** vicious disposition, depraved spite, willful desire to injure, cruel malignity which rejoices in evil to others.
- **Blasphemy:** slanderous talk, reviling, evil speaking, railing insults, reckless and bitter abuse.
- **Filthy communication:** obscene speech, shameful speaking, foul-mouthed abuse, dirty epithets, unclean stories.

The sins we had to put to death in verse 5 were of the body. Now, we have the sins that are done with spiteful actions toward others. Paul urges them to *"put off, lay aside, and rid themselves of"* the sins that they now practice and he lists these sins as follows: temper, angry outbursts, ill-will toward fellow Christians, malicious gossip, and vulgar speech coming out of their mouths. This list is a bit different from the one Paul gave directly before it. Paul was appealing to the commitment the believers had made in their baptism and urging them to remain true to their confession of faith. The point is: these Christians had already put away many sins in their lives, but they still had many sins in their lives that they still needed to give up. The picture is that of putting off or stripping off clothes; taking off dirty clothes and throwing them aside. Paul's point is that we are in the new man of the last Adam, which is Christ. We have already put off the old man, which of course is the old self, which represents the body of the first fallen Adam. In salvation, we are in the one new man which is the body of Christ, that Christ established in Himself. Paul explains that Christ *"in Himself"* makes all groups of people whom He saves, *"... into one new man,"* Ephesians 2:15. We are different because of the Spirit of God within us to rely on! This is working out the salvation that you already have in the Spirit, with awe and reverence.

Don't Lie: 1. We Have Put Off the Old Man

3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;— One temptation that we find is so easy to give into is to lie to one another. We lie for many reasons: to protect our reputation, to make things easier for ourselves, or to stay out of trouble. Paul is calling this to the attention of the Colossians, telling these Christians to stop lying to each other, since they had put off the old man or the old nature. The Colossian Christians were to tell the truth in every situation. If we slip and tell a lie, we are convicted by it; we are to repent and get cleansed by the Holy Spirit. Many Christians today will tell a lie without the slightest feeling of guilt. Many Christians do not even comprehend that lying is a grave sin. Because, the truth of the matter is, when we lie to one another, we're really lying to God. There is no difference in a little lie or big lie, a lie is a lie.

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2. We Have Put On The New Man

3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:— In addition to "*putting off the old man*", the Colossians had also "*put on the new man*", which is a reference to the new life in Christ. The new man is the person you are, after being saved. The new man is received, from Christ, at the time of the second birth, and is the regenerated man, the new nature. The new man is the nature of Christ and must be renewed in knowledge in the believers who have decided to follow Christ. "*Renewed*" speaks of a continuous action. Salvation leads to the process of sanctification. It affects both character and conduct to be fashioned after the image of Jesus Christ. It requires perseverance and tenacity to realize the salvation of the soul, and it is not complete until the point of death or rapture. The battle of the new man occurs in our minds. That is why your mind must be renewed in the full knowledge of the New Covenant in Christ. When we renew our minds with God's revealed knowledge, we hold our heads up high and dwell on heavenly things; we practice, review over and over His Word; and we learn and obey His Will. The "*new man*" does not lie but speak the truth. It is the old man or the old flesh nature that causes us to lie. The new man that is being conformed to the image of Christ is trustworthy. You can count on Him to speak the truth. Becoming more like Christ will take a lifetime.

No Distinctions: 3. We Are All One Body in Christ

3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. As a Christian becomes conformed to the image of Christ, all distinctions (differences) disappear.

- Race and birth neither (*Greek nor Jew*) — No National distinctions.
- Religion and ritual (*circumcised or uncircumcised*) — No Religious distinctions.
- Education and culture neither (*Barbarian nor Scythian*) — No Culture distinctions.
- Social class and wealth and property (*bond and free*) — No Economic or social distinctions.

Jews referred to all people outside the nation of Israel as Greeks. We are all one when we walk in Christ. National, religious, cultures, economic and social distinctions disappear when Christians become conformed to the image of Christ. It is important to understand that Christ is absolutely everything.

II. CALLED TO THE NEW LIFE COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Put On Garments of the New Man: mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, long-suffering.

3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;— These are the attire; the garments of the new man.

TERMS:

- **Bowels of mercies:** a heart of compassion, mercy in action, and heartfelt sympathy for the less fortunate.
- **Kindness:** thoughtfulness of others, unselfishness, sweetness of disposition, gentleness, and graciousness. This fruit of the Holy Spirit and refers to the inner attitude.
- **Humbleness of mind:** This refers to the outward expression of that inner attitude. Humbleness is modesty, it places self last, and regards self as least (Eph.2:8).
- **Meekness:** not weakness, but lowliness; delicate consideration for others. It is the opposite

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of arrogance and self-assertion. Pride has no place in the Christian life.

- **Long-suffering:** patient under provocation. This denotes the restraint which enables one to bear injury and insult without resorting to retaliation. It accepts the wrong without complaint. Long-suffering is an attribute of God (Rom.2:4) and a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22).

The new man must not be left naked. He must be clothed, so, he puts on his spiritual wardrobe of practical righteousness. There were eight commands (vv.12-13): *mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and love*. These garments are now true of all who come to faith in Christ under the New Covenant. They are believers called are the elect of God, holy, and beloved.

1. **Elect** * of God, i.e., chosen of God.
2. **Holy**, i.e., set apart by God and for God.
3. **Beloved**, i.e., loved by God.

NOTE:

* ²Notice that in this trinity of favor (that God gives us in His Son) the first thing that Paul calls us is "the elect." This is the translation of the Greek word "eklektoi". The word is derived from the preposition, "ek," and the verb, "lego." These two words combine in the Greek to mean "pick out." The noun form is, "eklektos." It refers to people who have been picked out. So, when you hear the statement, "I elected you" The equivalent is, "I picked you out" To say, "You are 'the' elect," is to say, "You are 'the' picked out." This is important, so stay with me. This word does not mean that God merely identified you. It means God selected you, and so your identity is that you are elect. But there is more: To be elect always means to be selected unto something. Whenever you elect someone, you are electing them unto, or "to be," something. It is like in Deuteronomy, "Yahweh your God has elected you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" Deuteronomy 7:6.

Notice that the same way we're to put off those negative things, we are to put on the positive ones. Paul urges the Colossians as born-again believers who have been set apart and loved by God, to "put on" the "*bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.*" The bowels are the intestines, the heart, the lungs and the liver, and the Hebrews considered the "*bowels*" as the seat of the more tender affections of kindness, benevolence and compassion. These affections are not automatic upon spiritual rebirth, but they must be "*put on*" as a Christian would put on new clothes that are fresh and clean. When you clean the inside, the outside will match, because what's on the inside will come outwardly in your speech and behavior. The putting off of the old man is likened to the removal of old, dirty clothing, and the putting on of the new man is likened to putting on clean, fresh clothing. We need to make a conscious effort to make changes in our character: being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another, forgiving, loving, and thankful.

Put On Garments of: Forbear and Forgive.

3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

TERMS:

- **Forbearing one another:** put up with things we dislike and get along with those who

² <http://www.bridgewaybiblechurch.com/index.php/sermons/79-colossians-verse-by-verse-expository-sermons>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

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disagree. Christians can disagree without being disagreeable.

- **Forgiving one another:** the word forgiving (*Gr. charizoman*) is built on the same root as the word grace and means to bestow favor unconditionally. This means that the Christian will always treat the offending party graciously. The Christian not only forgives, he forgets.
- **Quarrel:** a cause of blame, a ground for complaint. He thinks himself angry.

The key to forbearing, forgiving others is remembering how much God has forgiven you. Realizing God's infinite love and forgiveness can help us love and forgive others. With these two garments upon us, there would be no room for quarreling, instead we hold back under His control. We are to imitate Christ's merciful, forgiving spirit.

Put On Garment of: Love.

3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. If these are merely things that we are trying to follow without being saved, then they are just outward expressions of a written commandment, and so Colossians 3:12-14 just become another law list to follow in the lost flesh. They appear like the real clothing, but they are fakes. But, for us who have put on the new man in the Spirit, to put these things on in Christ is to put on Him, and so the key to what Paul is saying is that what ties all this together is the main outer robe, that is, like the layers of clothing that people would wear in the time of Paul. You would have your undergarments, and over them you would have your tunic; and you would have your main outer robe that brings it all together and covers it all. On top of these things, like an outer garment, *put on charity, love*. Love is the basis and cloak of all the graces. Love is the bond that binds the others together; the bond of perfection, meaning completeness; full grown and mature. The love of Christ is that beautiful outer robe that covers all the other manifestations, and brings it all together. This kind of love is not an emotion. **This is action love** of commitment, and caring that is stronger than emotions. In fact, it keeps on going even when emotions die or change.

³The Law of Christ of the New Covenant is love. So, the point is that though we can do all the other things, the outer love garment must be there as part of the complete outfit. We can even piously speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if we do so, and do not have love, we are just noisy instruments making loud sounds. Even if we have the gift of prophecy, without love, we are nothing. Even if we have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, we are nothing. Even if you give all your possessions to feed the poor in a religious act, and if you surrender your body to be burned in a religious act, but do not have love, it profits you nothing (*1 Corinthians 13*). Listen, being able to do a list of religious or nice looking things does not make you noticeable to the King. Doing things that look like love, does not mean you are doing the love itself. It looks like you are on the throne. You think you look good, but the reality is that the emperor has no clothes. The big point with this principle is that without real, Holy Spirit love, then, you are just an actor, and acting is what anyone can do.

Peace Will Rule

3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 1. A heart ruled by love:

- a. It is a choice—let peace rule.
- b. The reason—we are one body.

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c. The response—be thankful.

The Christian who has the love of God ruling in his life also has the peace of God ruling in his heart. The word "*rule*" comes from "*athletics*." Paul tells us to let Christ's peace be "*umpire*" in our hearts. This peace is the peace of Christ. He alone possesses it. And the choice is up to the believer whether he lets the peace of Christ rule or not. He has to be willing to lay aside all the differences and circumstances, and let Christ handle them through the rule of His peace. The reason is that, we are called to be in one body; not two bodies. How is this to happen? - Again, our response is to let the peace of Christ rule in the heart. Relationships with other Christians cause open conflicts or mutual silence. In dealing with these constant conflicts, Paul explains that we must decide which choice will promote peace in our souls, and in our churches. There is so much to thank God for concerning the riches of Christ. God wants us to be just as thankful for the people around us in the body of Christ.

Dwell in God's Word

3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. A heart rich with the Word of Christ:

- a. It's a choice—let the Word of Christ dwell.
- b. The reason—to teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.
- c. The evidence—a singing spirit.

Paul urges the Colossians to allow "*the Word of Christ*" to dwell in them abundantly in teaching everyone (i.e., all individually) wisdom and admonishing each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in their hearts. The "*Word of Christ*" is the manifestation of Christ, the Living Word. The emphasis is Christ; therefore, the "*Word of God*" becomes the "*Word of Christ*." The word "*dwell*" means to feel at home. The Word of Christ is to feel at home in believers. We are to allow it, make room within the heart by making that choice. "**Let**" the Word of Christ saturate us and remain in us as a rich treasure, and by doing so, we teach and admonish one another not in man-made traditions, but in:

- **Psalms** are songs from the book of Psalms.
- **Hymns** are other songs of praise, and
- **Spiritual songs** are other songs that affect your spirit by faith.

We can't teach what we don't know. That's why we have to dwell richly in all wisdom. The Psalms were filled with Messianic prophecies that declared the reality of the Messiah that was to come, and now has arrived, has given His life, raised from the dead, and now sits at the right hand of the Father as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Psalms are repeated in the New Testament at least 116 times. To sing these, is to sing Scripture to one another. They can be personal testimony songs where the body sings about victories, desires, fulfillment, salvation, and hope in Christ. Spiritual songs by implication are not carnal, but they come from the Spirit and the Word in our hearts. Together, we give thanks to our great and glorious God. We do all of this as the one body, operating the way we should—connected—in unity—and focused.

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Do All In The Name Of Jesus Christ

3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. **3. A heart that does all in the name of Christ:**

- a. It's a choice—do all.
- b. The response—give thanks

Paul sums up the point by telling the Colossians that whatever they speak or do, they should do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. This means that every word and act of a Christian should be said or done in the power and authority of Jesus Christ. When a Christian speaks or acts in the name of Jesus Christ, this means that Jesus Christ would have said the same thing or acted in the same manner. The more a Christian speaks and acts in the name of Jesus Christ, the more he is conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This is losing one's soul or life for the sake of or on account of Jesus Christ, and will result in the salvation of one's soul at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **This Christian does not speak and act in accordance with his flesh nature, but he speaks and acts in accordance with the Holy Spirit and the nature of Christ.**

SUMMARY:

⁴With minds set on Christ, they need to "put to death" those sins in which their earthly members engaged, and upon which the wrath of God is coming. This is done by "putting off" the old man with his deeds, and "putting on" the new man who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of Christ. We have been rescued from the old life, and all distinctions (differences) disappear (3:5-11).

As we put away wrong habits, God expects us to look in His Word to find out right habits that give Him glory because we are the elect of God, holy, and beloved. Love is a major garment to put on in this new life, because our character will go through some suffering when the old nature is being torn away, but God's infinite love and forgiveness can help us love and forgive others. The Christian who has the love of God ruling in his life also has the peace of God ruling in his heart. He does the adjusting. We can't teach what we don't know. That's why the Word of God has to dwell and saturate in us richly in all wisdom and by doing so, we teach and admonish one another. Whatever we do in Word or deed, it is to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father (3:12-17).

APPLICATION:

Our example to follow would be in the footsteps of Christ. Our new nature reaches toward God's Spirit. If there's no love or peace, we still have some growing, until its right.

⁴ http://executableoutlines.com/colo/colo_03.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>