

COLOSSIANS: HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD

Colossians 2:20-23, 3:1-11

Today we will look intently at what it means to find our life 'hidden with Christ in God.' This new life in God is the 'prize' Paul wrote about in Colossians 2:18..." let no one defraud you of your prize"... Jesus in us and us in Him experientially is the prize!

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. Colossians 2:20-23 ESV

3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Colossians 3:1-5 NASB

- **Nothing conceived in the flesh will help you fight and overcome the fight against our own human indulgence.**
- **What will help us as we fight fleshly indulgence?**
 - **Why do we fail to resist temptation successfully?**
 - **For that matter, why do we sin?**
 - **What is the strong sense of sin's allure?**
 - **Simply put...pleasure!**
 - **.... the passing pleasure of sin...Hebrews 11:25**
 - **...the temporary enjoyment of sin... Transline NT**
 - **...the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life... New English Bible**

- *...the pressures of sin for a season...KJV*
- *We fight pleasure with pleasure. Colossians 3:1-5*
 - *Yielding to fleshly urges is overcome by seeking the things above. (The idea here is to 'seek and keep on seeking.'*
 - *The quest to keep on seeking and the deliberate choice to set your mind on the things above as opposed to the transitory things of this age will help you defeat temptation.*
- *We must encounter the beauty of spiritual readiness that captures our hearts and captivates our attention and affections.*

You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever. Psalm 16:11 NASB

⁷ How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! and the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. ⁸ They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. ⁹ For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Psalm 36:7-9 NASB

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High. Psalm 46:4 NASB

- *Look at what the Word says about us:*
 - *We have been rescued from darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God. (Colossians 1:13)*
 - *We have the forgiveness of all our sins. (Colossians 1:14)*
 - *We are alive from the dead...alive together with Him. (Colossians 2:13)*
 - *All of the decrees against us and the certificate of debt that we owed was nailed to the cross. (Colossians 2:14)*
 - *We are growing with a growth that God produces. (Colossians 2:19)*
 - *We have died to the elementary principles of the world. (Colossians 2:20) God is our source.*
 - *We have been raised up with Jesus (seated at the right hand of God). (Colossians 3:1)*

- *We were set free from the principles and spirit of this age and set free for a new life in Christ Jesus.*
- *We have a new source, new values, new ways, new pleasures and new power.*
- *Therefore, seek the things above; set your mind on things above, "for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-4)*
 - *Our life is hidden in Him...safe and secure in Him.*
 - *See Galatians 2:20*
 - *See 1 John 3:1-3*
 - *See John 10:28-29*
 - *See Romans 12:1-2*
 - *See 2 Corinthians 5:14-16*
 - *We have died and our new life is in union with Him. (Colossians 3:3-4)*
 - *He is our life; our life is hidden in Him in this present age.*
 - *We will be revealed with Jesus in the age to come. (Colossians 3:4)*
 - *We will be revealed with Him in glory; this does not mean 'glory' as a place but rather as an experience.*
 - *Paul says that Jesus will come to be..."Glorified in His saints on that day."*
- *The 'imperative/indicative dynamic.*

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Colossians 3:5 NASB

- *The 'therefore' in v5 links all the moral and ethical injunctions linked in this verse to the wonderful truths concerning our identity as believers and our union with Jesus.*
- *This is often referred to as the indicative/imperative dynamic.*
- *The commands or imperative admonitions involving our behavior in v5 hinge upon the theological realities of v1-4.*
- *The declarations that explain what we are to do or refrain from doing are all based upon the accomplished facts, the indicative truths of our salvation.*

- ***It is because we have died with Christ Jesus our Lord, we have been raised together with Him and have our true life hidden with Him in God that we can be exhorted and empowered to obey the admonitions found in Colossians 3:1-11. – D.A. Carson***

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. Colossians 3:3-11 NASB

- ***The reality of Jesus and our ruthless opposition to sin. Colossians 3:3-11***
 - ***The things listed in v5; immorality, passion, evil desire and greed which amounts to idolatry. These things bring the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience.***

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. Ephesians 2:1-3 NASB

- ***All of us walked in these things and things like them before we came to know Jesus.***
- ***Look at the list we are told to put aside in v8-9: anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lies, evil practices.***

Note: v8 says put these aside...v9 says don't lie to yourself and to others...you have already done this...

Not only have you put these evil practices aside, you have put on the 'new self' who is being renewed to become like Jesus.

...“put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its creator, is constantly renewing to His own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of Himself.” Colossians 3:10 Today's English Version

Therefore we do not lose heart, but through our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16 NASB

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 NASB

- **The 'true self', the one you are born with, and the 'new self' that you get when you are born again.**
 - **Have you compared your 'new self' (2 Corinthians 5:17) to your 'true self?'**
 - **There are attributes of the 'new self' I really want to develop and attributes of the 'true self' I'd like to unload.**
 - **This forceful image means that Christian renewal is not some cosmetic overhaul of our sinful propensities. We do not simply add on a veneer of Christian values that only laminates our old nature and its value system. Paul does not tell us to put on new clothes over the old; the old must be stripped off and thrown away. We need more than a few minor adjustments and cannot skip over the key element of dying with Christ. – David Garland – The NIV Application Commentary**
 - **“And where do the energy and incentive come from for such a life? From meditating on the majesty of being raised with Christ. (Colossians 3:1) From fixing our souls on the splendor of his exaltation (Colossians 3:2) From celebrating our 'concealment' in Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)**

From the joyful expectation of experiencing His glory when He comes. (Colossians 3:4) In sum: enjoyment empowers effort.

Pleasure in God is the power for purity. – Sam Storms

- ***And we have much to look forward to as well.***
- ***When he comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed – for our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thessalonians 1:10 NASB***
- ***John Stott explains 2 Thessalonians 1:10 like this:***

So how will the coming Lord Jesus be glorified in relation to His people? Not 'among' them, as if they will be the theatre or stadium in which He appears, nor 'by' them, as if they will be the spectators, the audience who watch and worship; nor 'through' or 'by means of' them, as if they will be mirrors which reflect His image and glory [although, in a sense all those are true]; but rather 'in' them, as if they will be a filament, which itself glows with light and heat when the electric current passes through it.

Stott's point is that we will not only witness Christ's glory, but we will be enveloped within it, engulfed by surging splendor and made experiential participants of it. One day, oh glorious day, our lives will no longer be hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3), but fully and finally and forever seen as we glow with the brightness of His glory, for His glory. – Sam Storms

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Colossians 3:3-5 NASB

My old man (sin nature) has been done away with and my complete 'new life' won't be totally manifest until Jesus returns. So, my life here and now is a progressive series of discoveries of what is hidden in God for me.

You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. The world, the flesh, and the devil will cause you to look everywhere else for your life...everywhere but where it can be found...hidden with Christ in God.

I am dead to the things listed in Colossians 3:5 but the enemy has tried to hide this truth from me. Satan knows that I am truly dead to these things because I am alive in Christ. But if I truly discover it, I will put an end to his interference in my life and this is what he fears most. What Satan tries to hide from me, the Holy Spirit has hidden for me with Christ in God.