

COLOSSIANS: RUTHLESSLY ROOTED IN SPIRITUAL REALITY

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. 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 3:1-11 NASB

...“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.

From John's journal – 10/29/06

Mis-perceived treasure results in misplaced pleasure.

The fear of the Lord is born from forgiveness...He doesn't cause you to walk in reverence, respect and righteousness to be forgiven. He says come as you are, even in your failure, frustration, and futility and I will give you the forgiveness that brings the reverential approach to your life. The result He is looking for from us flows from the result of us turning to Him...He releases just what He requires from us.

-JEB

- ***Remember!***
- ***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.***

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 3:8-11 NASB

- ***Our goal is to conquer the 'inner' impulses we are going after the root not just the current crop of 'rotting fruit.'***
 - ***V6 – anger and wrath – a spontaneous outburst, not a settled, seething, brooding.***
 - ***V6 – malice – a conscious desire to harm someone that is expressed in evil or abusive speech or slander.***
 - ***But we have laid that old self aside....***

“The gospel is, first and foremost, news about what God has done in Christ. It is not law [or] an ethical system...it is news about what God has done in Christ...on the other hand, the gospel has both purposes and entailments in human conduct. The entailments must be preached. But if you preach the entailments as if they were the gospel itself, pretty soon you lose sight of the reality of the gospel...pretty soon the gospel descends to mere moralism. One cannot too forcefully insist on the distinction between the gospel and its entailments.” – D. A. Carson

As Garland points out, "Paul does not urge the Colossians to amend their lives for the better, to reform their ways, or to make minor modifications in the direction of their lives...[rather] it is a matter of a new creation (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), not just giving up a few vices and accepting a few virtues. One's whole nature must be exchanged, not just revamped." Paradoxically, this experience, says Moule, requires "a continual 'mortification' of what is, in fact, already dead, a continual actualization of an already existing new creation."

"The taproot of our entire salvation...is our union with Christ Himself by the Holy Spirit...in this union we have a salvation that is not only positional through the cross...and relational through our sustained faith-communion with our Lord, but is also transformational through the regenerating and indwelling Spirit, who stirs and motivates and empowers us to express our new hearts' desires in new habits of action and reaction constituting Christlike character." – J. I. Packer

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:12-17 NASB

- Paul refers to the church as people who have been chosen of God, holy purified, and well beloved by God Himself. (v12 AMPC)***

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His

blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:1-5 NASB

- **We have been chosen, sanctified....to obey and be cleaned (sprinkled by His blood)**
- **Since we have been chosen, cleansed and loved, we can put on a heart of compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.**

¹² Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. Colossians 3:12 AMPC

- **Since these things are true, we can be empowered to forgive like Jesus forgives. (Colossians 3:13)**

¹⁴ And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]. Colossians 3:14 AMPC

- **"Put on love, the bond of perfection (maturity)." V14 Transline NT**
- **"...and let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts....ruling, deciding, umpiring." V15**

¹⁵ And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. Colossians 3:15 AMPC

- **See Ephesians 5:19 NASB**

- ***“Let the teaching concerning Christ remain as a rich treasure in your hearts.”***

¹⁷ And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17 AMPC

- ***Do everything as a chosen representative of God.***