

Colossians, Chapter Three, Lesson One

PUTTING ASIDE SIN Colossians 3:1-11

STIMULATE

** At the conclusion of last week's study we learned the three areas in which all man centered religion will fail. Do you recall what they were according to chapter two, verse 23?

1) It is self-made religion. cf. Acts 17:23

2) It is self-abasement. We saw this before as a false humility we force upon ourselves for the purpose of being seen by others. cf. Matthew 6:5

3) It involves severe treatment of the body. Taking man made religion to a painful level, it is still exulting the creature rather than the Creator. cf. 1Kings 18:27-28

** How valuable is all of this man made effort to be religious, when applied to the war against fleshly indulgence?

It has "no value", in fact it actually makes matters worse by indulging the flesh with spiritual pride.

MOTIVATE

** Today we have the joy of moving on into chapter three of this wonderful epistle. As we do, we are going to observe the apostle Paul taking his instruction to the Colossians to a level of intense application. From here on, his letter will call the children of God to apply all that he has been teaching them. For us as well, Paul's instruction over the next three weeks is going to be extremely practical. He is going to show us the importance of:

PUTTING ASIDE SIN - Colossians 3:1-11

PUTTING ON LOVE - Colossians 3:12-17

SERVING THE LORD - Colossians 3:18-25

Please join me now in chapter three of Colossians, verses 1-11, as Paul gives us the reasons for every Christian to live their life each day by "**Putting Aside Sin**" for the glory of Christ!

Read passage (V.1-4) (V.5-7) (V.8-11)

Opening Prayer

Putting Aside Sin

INVESTIGATE

Before instructing us on the importance of "**Putting Aside Sin**" everyday of our lives, Paul give us three reasons for which we should want to live this way. Let's try to find them here in verses 1-4.

V. 1 ** As Paul begins our passage, is he questioning the reality of the Colossians' salvation or standing with Jesus Christ?

No - when he uses the word "if" here, it is in the first class condition in the Greek. It is referring to an established, well known reality and would be better translated as "since".
cf. Philippians 2:1

** So what is the reality of the Colossians' spiritual standing before God?

They "have been raised up with Christ"! Here is reason number one for us wanting to spend each day "**Putting Aside Sin**". We have been included in the resurrection of Christ. His victory on the cross has a direct impact on our ability to walk in righteousness.
cf. Romans 6:3-4

** "Since" that is true (even for all Christians), where should we keep our hearts focused? What should we be seeking?

"...keep seeking the things above..."

V. 2 ** That is a noble calling. According to verse two, what are we going to have to control if we wish to be successful in our endeavors of "seeking the things above"?

We must control our minds. Remember what A.W.Tozer said, "What we believe about God is the most important thing about us".

** Paul gives us two options for our thinking, one which is acceptable and one which is not. What are they?

Acceptable - "Set your mind on the things above..."

Not acceptable - "...not on the things that are on earth", Paul is describing a type of control which will impact our obedience to Christ. cf. 2Corinthians 10:5

V. 3 ** In verse three, Paul gives us the second reason for us to be "**Putting Aside Sin**" everyday of our lives, what is it?

We "...have died and [our] life is hidden with Christ in God." There is no greater security for the soul of a believer than this marvelous truth. We are as secure as Christ Himself! Having died to our old manner of life, we now live obediently to Him who gave His all for us.
cf. Galatians 2:20

V. 4 ** Our third and final reason for "**Putting Aside Sin**" everyday, comes from verse four. Do you see it?

When Jesus Christ is revealed in glory, we will be also! Our life is defined by living for the glory of Jesus Christ (He is our life), when He comes in glory, we will be with Him!
All see - Revelation 19:11-16

Alright then, the three reasons given to us by Paul for "**Putting Aside Sin**" everyday are:

- 1) We have been raised up with Christ.
- 2) We have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God. (We are eternally secure)
- 3) When Jesus Christ comes again in glory, we will be with Him!

V. 5 ** Those are very compelling reasons for us to live each day avoiding sin, what does Paul want us to do in consideration of those three reasons?

"Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to..." Since everything he has been saying is true, we should consider our body as dead to the sinful impulses or wooing power which sin has over the fallen creation. cf. Romans 7:8,11,13

** Why does Paul tell us to consider our bodies "as dead" to sin? What does that term bring to mind?

Dead is speaking of incapable to respond. A corpse cannot be seduced into rising up and doing evil, neither should we be seduced by sin to disobey our gracious Lord.

** Paul now gives us five general categories of sin that we should be non-responsive to, what are they?

- 1) Immorality - porneia, refers to sexual sin. cf. 1Thessalonians 4:3
- 2) Impurity - akatharsia, filthiness or uncleanness cf. 1Thessalonians 4:7
- 3) Passion - pathos, the physical expression of sexual desire cf. Romans 1:26
- 4) Evil desire - sexual lust created in the mind cf. James 1:14-15, 1Thessalonians 4:5
- 5) Greed - pleonexia, pleon meaning "more" and exo meaning "to have". It is the insatiable desire to have more of what is forbidden. cf. James 4:1-2

** This last area of sin "greed", is at the heart of all that has gone before in Paul's list. Because it places selfish desire above obedience to God, to what is it equal?

"...which amounts to idolatry." cf. Ephesians 5:3-5

V. 6 ** What impact do these categories of sin have upon the future of mankind?

"For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come..."

** We know that God's wrath and fiery judgment is coming to deal with sin, but are we subject to that wrath?

No - Jesus took God's wrath on the cross for us, we have been delivered from it!
cf. Romans 5:9, 1Thessalonians 1:10

V. 7 ** Are these kinds of sin foreign to us or should we be able to recognize them at the moment of temptation?

We should know them well! "...and in them you also once walked..."

** Prior to our salvation, we walked in sin. Was that just an occasional straying from the path?

No - we were "living in them" and loving it!. cf. Psalm 10:4, 14:1, by contrast - Romans 6:1-2

V. 8 ** Paul now moves us on from personal areas of sin to the more social areas of sin which impact the lives of others around us. What does he want us to do with the list he is about to give us?

"...put them all aside..." We have the ability, as children of God, to make the decision to not sin!

We can become aggressive in our daily endeavor to be "**Putting Aside Sin**" by the power of the Holy Spirit which lives within us.

** In verse eight alone, Paul again gives us five areas of social sin that we need to put aside. What are they?

1) anger - orge lit. "a deep, smoldering, resentful bitterness. An angry person.

cf. Ephesians 4:31

2) wrath - thumos, refers to a sudden outburst of anger. cf. James 1:20

3) malice - kakia, "a vicious nature which is bent on doing harm to others"

4) slander - blasphemia, when this term is used in relation to God it is translated "blasphemy", but when used in relation to people we it is translated slander. cf. James 3:9-10

5) abusive speech - this term refers to obscene and derogatory speech intended to hurt or wound someone else.

V. 9 ** In verse nine Paul adds one more social sin to the list, what is it?

"Do not lie to one another..." cf. John 8:44, Proverbs 12:22

** What reason does Paul add for us to be "**Putting Aside Sin**"?

"...since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices..." It only makes sense, if we gave up our old life to now live for Christ, we should be willing to give up the old practices as well.

V.10 ** We didn't just lay aside the filthy old garment of our life before knowing Jesus Christ, what else did we do according to verse ten?

We "...put on the new self..."! cf. 2Corinthians 5:17

** From a practical point of view, is this new man completed yet?

No - Our faith in Jesus Christ merely began the process. We are "being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him".

cf. Romans 12:2, 2Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 1:6

V.11 ** In this renewal, does the Lord have favorites among His children? If you are really spiritual, does He like you best?

No - "...there is no distinction between..." Greek and Jew (circumcised or uncircumcised)

cf. Ephesians 2:13-16

Barbarian - people who spoke an inarticulate or stammering speech.

Scythian - a nomadic, warlike people noted for their savagery.

Slave and Freeman - (a living tool vs. the tool owner) cf. Philemon 1:15-16

** How is all of this equality accomplished?

In and through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He "...is all, and in all" the Father sees us all as one and the same. cf. Romans 2:11, Galatians 2:6, Ephesians 6:9

EXTRICATE

** What were the three reasons given to us by Paul that are to compel us to live our lives each day "**Putting Aside Sin**"?

- 1) We have been raised up with Christ.
- 2) We have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God. (We are eternally secure)
- 3) When Jesus Christ comes again in glory, we will be with Him!

DELINEATE

** In verses five, eight and nine of this passage, Paul got very specific in listing sinful areas that we are to set aside. They were:

- 1) Immorality 2) Impurity 3) Passion 4) Evil desire 5) Greed 6) Anger 7) Wrath 8) Malice
- 9) Slander 10) Abusive speech and 11) Lying to one another.

EVALUATE

** Do you find yourself caught up in anyone of these sinful patterns? Would you be willing to agree with Scripture, in that it is time to "put them all aside"?

ACTIVATE

** Father help us to live each day "**Putting Aside Sin**" for the sake of Jesus Christ and for Your glory!

Closing prayer