

COLOSSIANS 3 - “Not Carnality but Christ; Character of the New Man; The Christian Home!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

BE REMINDED OF WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW!

2Pe 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

2Pe 1:11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

2Pe 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

COLOSSIANS 3 - “Not Carnality but Christ;

Col 3:1 If (Not if, but since) you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Outline of Colossians 3: 1-25 – Not Carnality but Christ; Character of the New Man; The Christian Home!!

It is not enough for Christ to be preeminent in the Gospel, the cross, creation, and the church; He must also be preeminent in our lives. Paul states very specifically how we should “practice the preeminence of Christ.”

I. In Personal Purity (Col_3:1-11)

II. In Christian Fellowship (Col_3:12-17)

III. In the Home (Col_3:18-21)

IV. In Daily Work (3:22-4:16)

Too many Christians rejoice at the great doctrines of chapters 1-2 but ignore the duties of chapters 3-4. The believer who lives a shallow, disobedient life does not really believe in the all-sufficiency of Christ. Once the Christian depends on the Head — his risen, glorified Savior — for nutrition, guidance, and wisdom, he will discover mature Christian living in its fullness.

v. 1 *Since then you were raised with Christ:* Paul begins focusing on practical Christian living, which is built on the foundation of theological truth. Because we know that Jesus is really raised from the dead, then our identification with Him becomes real. Only because we *were raised with Christ*, introduced back in Col 2:12, that we can *seek those things which are above*. Because we *were raised with Christ*, we should act just as Jesus did when He was resurrected. As Jesus looked forward to heaven, knowing He would soon enough ascend there. So should we - recognizing that our citizenship is in heaven.

v. 2 *Set your mind on things above:* Christlike living comes from minds that are fixed on *heaven*. They realize that their lives are now *hidden with Christ in God*, and since Jesus is enthroned in heaven, their thoughts and hearts are connected to heaven also.

v. 3 *As Christ became literally dead in the tomb, so we, connected with him, have become dead to sin, to worldly influences, pleasures, and ambition.*

Rom 6:11 *Likewise you also, reckon (take inventory, conclude, count) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

v. 1 *Do you fully acknowledge that you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (Col 2:12)? So now we are commanded to seek (and keep seeking!), which is unnatural and therefore up to us to do, the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God!*

v. 2 *Also, we are to set and keep setting our mind on things above, not earthly things! We have been given the choice of what we think of. It's natural to think of earthly things, here we given the active imperative of thinking on heavenly things!*

v. 3 *We are to be to sin and worldly influences as if we were dead, and they had no more influence over us than the things of earth had over him in the grave.*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

<p><i>Col 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:8 But now you yourselves <u>are to put off</u> all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.</i> <i>Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:10 and have <u>put on the new man</u> who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,</i></p>	<p><u>v. 4</u> When <i>Christ who is our life appears</i>, then you also will (shall, not “if”!) <i>appear with</i> (not “for”!) <i>Him in glory</i>: The promise of the return of Jesus is not only that we will see His glory, but so that we also <i>will appear with Him in glory</i>, the revealing of the sons of God mentioned in <u>Rom 8:19</u>. Also <i>for me to live is Christ (Php 1:21)</i>. Here he shows that this idea was not just for special apostles, but for all believers. Of the Christian it should be said, “Jesus Christ is my life.” (<u>1 Jn. 3:1-4</u>)</p> <p><u>v. 5</u> <i>Therefore put to death</i> (entirely subdue) <i>your member</i> (physical frame) <i>s</i>: Pointing back to our identification with the risen and enthroned Lord Jesus <u>Col 3:1-4</u>. Because of this, we can <i>put to death</i> the things in our life that are contrary to our identity with Jesus, denying these things and considering them dead to us and us dead to them. <i>Fornication, uncleanness, passion</i> and <i>evil desire</i>: These terms refers to sexual sins. <i>Covetousness</i> is simple, insidious greed, nothing less than <i>idolatry</i>. <i>Fornication</i>: This means any sexual activity outside marriage. <i>Uncleanness (akatharsia)</i>: “A wider range of meaning than fornication, including misuse of sex. Also, it is applicable to various forms of moral evil.</p> <p><u>v. 6</u> <i>Because of these things</i>: Previously mentioned sins mentioned previously are of the world, not the way Jesus lives. So, “Who will I identify with, the world or with Jesus?” <i>...wrath of God is coming upon the sons... disobedience</i>: These sins invite <i>the wrath of God</i>, which in part, comes as God allows men to continue in sinful - and therefore self-destructive - behavior (<u>Rom 1:24-32</u>).</p> <p><u>v. 7</u> <i>In which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them</i>: These sins may mark a world in rebellion against God, but they are in the <i>past tense</i> for the Christian. Believers should not live like the sons of disobedience. A true Christian cannot be comfortable in habitual sin.</p> <p><u>vs. 8-9</u> <i>...put off all these</i> (imperative middle voice, it is partially up to us to do this!): Some may say this next lists (<i>anger</i> (slow, simmering emotion), <i>wrath</i> (hot, explosive), and so forth) are “little” sins that believers may overlook, but we are to put off the old man in every area of our lives. Discard all those old habits, just as you would discard clothes which no longer fit! <i>Anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy</i> (slander), <i>filthy language out of your mouth</i>. <i>Do not lie</i>: These sins are primarily committed by what we say. We are to control our tongue (<u>Jas 1:26; 3:1-9</u>). <i>...have put off the old man with his deeds</i>: All of these sins are incompatible with the nature of Jesus. They are to be put off also.</p> <p><u>v. 10</u> <i>Put on the new man</i>: A commonly used phrase for changing a set of clothes. Picture yourself taking off the old and putting on the <i>new man</i> in Jesus, <i>who is renewed in knowledge</i>: Because the new man is <i>renewed in knowledge</i>, he wants to know what God says in His Word...<i>According to the image of Him who created him</i>: An allusion to <u>Gen 1:27</u>, where God said, let Us create man in Our own image. But now we see that first Adam as fallen and being referred to as the <i>old man</i> who should be put off and discarded, for now we are created after the image of the second Adam, Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!</p>	<p><u>v. 4</u> <i>Christ is our life!</i> The one thing that is for certain is that <i>Christ, who is our life, shall appear!!!</i> And that <i>we will appear with Him in glory!</i> Is there anything more awesome to comprehend and to be thankful for than this? His second coming will be <u>with the church</u>. Are we living in that expectancy?</p> <p><u>v. 5</u> There is no way that Jesus would walk in any of these sins, so neither should we!</p> <p><u>v. 6</u> The sins cited here invite the wrath of God, which partly comes as He allows men to continue in sinful, self-destructive behavior.</p> <p><u>v. 7</u> Although we all once walked these sins, but now being dead to sin, we are to live in them no longer, but are to put them to death by denying them, abstaining from them, living soberly, righteously, and godly.</p> <p><u>vs. 8-9</u> “<i>put off</i>”; “<i>do not lie</i>” – in the middle (we are a participant) imperative. It’s something that we must do! We are a participant in it but need help from the Lord to do it! To enable us to <i>put off</i> these fleshly characteristics!</p> <p><u>v. 10</u> When we are going through painful experiences, we often wonder why and what is the Lord doing? Why did You allow this? Did You have to do that? He is conforming us into the image of Jesus, bringing us to that full commitment of our life to the Lord. Do you agree?</p>
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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

<p><i>Col 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.</i></p> <p><u>Character of the New Man;</u> <i>Col 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.</i> <i>Col 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.</i> <i>Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.</i></p> <p><i>Col 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.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.</i></p>	<p><u>v. 11.... neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free:</u> The new man is part of a family, which favors no race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity. It only favors Jesus Christ, because in this new family, <i>Christ is all and in all!</i> This new creation work not only deals with the old man, giving us the new man patterned after Jesus Christ; it also breaks down the barriers that separate people in society. As believers, it doesn't matter if one is <i>Greek</i> or <i>Jew</i> or <i>circumcised</i> or <i>uncircumcised</i> or a <i>Scythian</i> or a <i>slave</i> or a <i>free</i>! All these barriers are broken down. All of these barriers existed in time of Rome, but the power of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ broke them all down. Especially powerful was the barrier between <i>slave</i> and <i>free</i>, but Christianity broke that barrier as well!</p> <p><u>v. 12</u> The new, born-again, man is <i>elect of God</i>, chosen by God to be something special in His plan. "<i>Elect</i>" in not to frighten, but it should be taken both as a comfort and as a destiny to fulfill. <i>Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility:</i> Each one of the qualities, having to do with personal relationships, mentioned in this passage express a measure of our Christian life, simply found in how we treat people and our relationships with them. <i>Tender mercies</i> Sensitive to touch regarding another's misery, being able to reach out to them. <i>Kindness:</i> It is the word used when Jesus said, 'My yoke is easy.' (<i>Mat 11:30</i>). <i>humility</i> is closely related to both <i>meekness</i> and <i>longsuffering</i>. <i>Meekness</i> shows how <i>humility</i> will affect my actions towards others, not to attempt to guide them for my benefit. <i>Longsuffering</i> shows how <i>humility</i> will affect my reaction towards others, desiring to be patient and understanding.</p> <p><u>v. 13</u> <i>We</i> are told to live <i>forgiving one another...even as Christ forgave you</i>, after the pattern of Jesus' most generous forgiveness towards us. Considering the huge debt, He forgave us and the comparative smallness of our debts toward other, we should readily be willing to forgive others.</p> <p><u>v. 14</u> <i>Love</i> is the summary of all the things described in this passage. Love perfectly fulfills what God requires of us in relationships....<i>above all these things put on love:</i> Let this be as a primary garment that involves all of our person. Other virtues, pursued without love, will be distorted and unbalanced.</p> <p><u>v. 15</u> <i>And let the peace of God rule (arbitrate) in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body:</i> <i>Peace</i> should be a significant characteristic of the body of Christ. <i>Peace</i> is a standard for discerning God's will. When an issue to be decided, always choose the one with which makes for peace, for yourselves or others. God's peace should act as an arbitrator.</p> <p><u>v. 16</u> <i>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs:</i> The new man walks in the word of God and in worship with other believers....<i>Dwell in you:</i> "This may be an allusion to the <i>Shechinah</i>, or symbol of His divine presence, which dwelt in the tabernacle and first temple." The word of Christ is to dwell in them, like His <i>Shechinah</i> glory, so richly that it finds spontaneous expression in <i>Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs</i> in the assemblies in church or at home."</p> <p><u>v. 17</u> <i>...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus:</i> As believers, we want <i>all</i> that we do or <i>all</i> that we are to be living for Jesus. We are to seek to do only those things that may be done <i>in the name of the Lord Jesus</i>, even in difficult situations, knowing that he is doing them <i>all in the name of the Lord Jesus</i>.</p>	<p><u>v. 11</u> As new men, we are part of a family, that favors no race, nationality, class or culture, but favors only Jesus Christ! <i>Christ is all and in all!</i> The new creation breaks down all the barriers that separate society.</p> <p><u>v. 12</u> As born again, <i>elect of God</i>, believers have been chosen by God to be something special in His plan! How closely are we fulfilling His plan for each of us?</p> <p><u>v. 13</u> How willing am I, are we, to forgive, remembering the huge debt that He has forgiven us?</p> <p><u>v. 14</u> A true mark of maturity, the mark of perfection, that of bringing unity!</p> <p><u>v. 15</u> Never go against God's peace in our decision making!</p> <p><u>v. 16</u> Scripture should permeate every aspect of the believer's life and control our every thought, word, and deed.</p> <p><u>v. 17</u> Here is the way to make miserable tasks pleasant. Do them for Jesus! Whatever you do, do it for Him! Do it as unto Him, meaning that I do it as best I can, without murmuring or complaining, because I'm doing it for the Lord! He knows!</p>
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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

<p><u>The Christian Home!</u> Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.</p> <p>Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.</p> <p>Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.</p> <p>Col 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.</p>	<p>v. 18 Wives, <i>submit</i> (to be under in rank), speaking of the way that an army is organized among levels of rank. Submission is not related to someone being smarter or better or more talented. It has to do with a God-appointed order. submission means you are part of a team. If the family is a team, then the husband is “captain” of the team. Both the wife and the children have their place in relation to the “captain” and the wife.....to your own husbands: This is the sphere of a wife’s submission - to her <i>own husband</i>. The Bible never commands a general submission of women unto men. ...As is fitting in the Lord, a crucial phrase, which effects everything else we understand about this passage. This does not mean that a wife should submit to her husband as if he were God himself. Also, a wife is not to submit to her husband in the same absolute way. No place does the Scripture teach an unqualified, without exception, submission - except to God and God alone. Wives are to submit to their own husband, simply because it <i>is fitting in the Lord</i> to do it. It honors God’s Word and His order of authority. It is part of their Christian duty and discipleship.</p> <p>v. 19 Husbands love your wives! This safeguards wives, with respect to the previous verses. Though wives are to submit to their husbands, it never excuses husbands acting as tyrants over their wives, rather, a husband must <i>love</i> (<i>agapao</i> – caring, non-changing, without demanding, deliberate attitude for the wife’s well-being, being kind) his wife. This <i>agape</i> love is the kind of love Jesus has for His people and this is the love husbands should imitate towards their wives (Eph 5:25). ...not be bitter toward them, even if the wife has given the husband some reason to be bitter – husbands are not to be bitter toward them.</p> <p>v. 20 Children obey your parents in all things: Children who are still in their parents’ household and under their authority must not only honor their father and mother (Eph 6:2), but they must also <i>obey</i> them, and them <i>in all things</i>. When a child is grown and out of their parents’ household, they are no longer under the same obligation of obedience, but the obligation to honor your father and mother remains. ...well pleasing to the Lord: An important reason for a child’s obedience. When a child respects their parent’s authority, they are respecting God’s order of authority in other areas of life. The Father exercises authority over the Son, and the Son submits to the Father’s authority - and this is in the very nature and being of God!</p> <p>v. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children: Children have a responsibility to obey, but parents have a responsibility to <i>not provoke</i> their <i>children</i>. Parents can <i>provoke</i> their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication. Parents, especially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents. Lest they become discouraged: Children who grow up with parents who provoke them will <i>become discouraged</i>. They will not feel the love and the support from their parents like they should, and may come to believe that the whole world is against them, because they feel their parents are against them. It is important to season our parenting with lots of grace, being as gracious, gentle, forgiving, and longsuffering with our children as God is with us.</p>	<p>v. 18 Husbands have a need to be supported by their wives, even in those times when he may blow it and make the world’s worst decision!</p> <p>v. 19 Husbands are to have loving in all their decisions, having the overall best for the welfare of their marriage. A wife who is truly loved by her husband tends to be very secure in their marriage! The husband should never use his authority to make his wife bitter toward him.</p> <p>v. 20 Children should be an asset to the family. Are yours?</p> <p>v. 21 Fathers, are you exasperating your children? To the point where they are discouraged? Do we make impossible demands on our children? Are we encouraging them?</p>
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<p><i>Col 3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.</i></p> <p><i>Col 3:25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.</i></p>	<p>vs. 22-23. Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh: As Christians put on the new man, they will show a properly submissive attitude towards their <i>masters</i>, or today, towards their employer or supervisor. This is another sphere of God’s order of authority. Employees have a God-ordained role of obedience and submission to their employers or supervisors. <i>Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God:</i> It is always tempting to work just as hard as we have to, thinking we only have to please man. But we need to see that God wants every worker to see that ultimately, they work for <i>Him</i>. Therefore, they should <i>do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men</i>. God promises to <i>reward</i> those who work with that kind of heart.</p> <p>v. 24 The reward of the inheritance: “One should properly read ‘<i>the inheritance</i>’; the reference is clearly to the life of the age to come, ironic, since in earthly terms, considering slaves could not inherit property.” For you serve the Lord Christ: “The force of this unusual phrase, used by Paul anywhere else allows the titles ‘Lord’ and ‘Christ’ to stand together without the name ‘Jesus’, could be brought out by a paraphrase: ‘so work for the true Master - <i>Christ!</i>’</p> <p>v. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done: When a Christian worker does his job poorly, he should not expect special leniency from a Christian boss. Being a Christian should make us more responsible, not less! Will be repaid . . . and there is no partiality: For ancient Christian slaves and for modern Christian workers, there is no guarantee on earth of fairness of treatment from those whom they work for. This world’s <i>partiality</i> often means that bad workers are unfairly rewarded, and good employees are penalized or left unrewarded. We are assured here that there is a final rewarding and punishment, and with this <i>there is no partiality</i>. In <u>Eph. 6:9</u> Paul addressed masters and warned them that there was no partiality with God. Here, he warned <i>servants</i> that there is <i>no partiality</i> with God.</p> <p><u>O TO BE LIKE THEE</u> – Thomas Chisholm; William Kirkpatrick – sung by Steven Anderson</p> <p><i>O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer; This is my constant longing and prayer; Gladly I’ll forfeit all of earth’s treasures, Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.</i></p> <p><i>Refrain - O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art; Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness; Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.</i></p> <p><i>O to be like Thee! full of compassion, Loving, forgiving, tender and kind, Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, Seeking the wand ‘ring sinners to find. (Refrain)</i></p>	<p>v. 22 Workers, we need to be faithful, working hard, to do what I’m being paid to do!</p> <p>v. 23 Does this describe my attitude in the work place – doing it heartily as to the Lord?</p> <p>v. 24 Are you doing twice what others do that are being paid the same as you? Jesus sees! Jesus knows! He will give you the reward of His inheritance!</p> <p>v. 25 If I do it unto the Lord, the Lord is going to reward me. But if you are doing wrong, doing evil, then the Lord also will judge you. He that does wrong shall receive for the wrong, which he has done: and there is no partiality. Because with God, He has no respect of person! He doesn’t esteem anyone higher than another. When we stand before God, we all stand on the same level. He is no respecter of person—we should all be most pleased with that!</p>
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