

# Let's Worship God

18th-23rd March 2019  
Colossians



# Colossians

## Monday - Colossians 2:16-23 - The Appearance of Wisdom

Paul encouraged the believers to rejoice in the liberty that they had in the Lord Jesus Christ, but, at the same time he warned them about certain dangers to that liberty. There was the danger of submitting themselves to merely human regulations that we have already considered, and then there was the danger of 'angel worship'.

Those who were promoting heretical teaching in the church in Colossae not only wanted the Christians to submit to Jewish ceremonialism, they also insisted upon the role of angels and spirits to supplement the work of Christ. It is a very serious matter indeed to seek to add anything to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and Paul highlights this when he tells the Colossians that those who were promoting this teaching were 'not holding fast to the head' v.19. There is a fourfold description given of these heretics:

a. They had a false humility. They were 'proud to be humble'! They would not go to God through the mediator that God appointed, the Lord Jesus Christ, but through angel or spirit mediators.

b. They boasted of their visions and their extra-biblical revelations.

c. They were full of intellectual arrogance.

d. They had no proper relationship with Christ.

It is clear from the way that Paul speaks of these people that he saw them as being a very real danger to the believers. Their danger lay in the fact that they were turning people's attention away from Christ to other things which may have had 'the appearance of wisdom' but were, in reality, destructive to the welfare of the soul. Anything that seeks to get between the believer and Jesus Christ is not of God, for it is the Lord Jesus Christ who must have pre-eminence in all things.

## Questions

1. What sort of things can get between a believer and Christ today?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for your Session as they guard the flock of Christ.

2. Use prayer points from your congregation.

3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 63 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Colossians

## **Tuesday - Colossians 2:16-23; Matthew 15:1-20 - Gifts from a Loving Father**

Right from the earliest times in the New Testament Church there were those who wanted to impose upon the people of God a rigid system of abstinence, even in things that were entirely permissible. Even such things as food and drink were seen by some, not as gifts from a loving father, but as something that could be injurious to spiritual growth and therefore to be despised.

This was not a biblical doctrine of moderation in all things (Phil. 4:5) but rather a doctrine that taught that spiritual life could be enhanced by treating the body harshly and by abstaining from even the most basic human pleasures. This teaching was taken to ridiculous extremes later on in the history of the Church by the more extreme people in the monastic movement who not only shut themselves away from society, but flogged their own bodies and deprived themselves of food and company for years on end.

This kind of teaching may have seemed attractive and pious to some but, in reality, it was foolish for as Jesus pointed out in Matthew 15:11 & 17, defilement did not come from what a person put into their mouth but rather what was in their heart. The truth is that those who practiced such things were self-centred and proud and the teaching itself was destructive of true spirituality, Matt. 6:1,2; Luke 18:10 - 14.

There is always danger when the child of God moves away from the clear teaching of Scripture and attempts to add to the Word of God. Everything that we need for salvation and for growth in grace is to be found in the revealed Scriptures of truth. The believer is to 'put to death the deeds of the body', but that is done by obedience to the Scriptures, prayer, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and not by physical abuse of the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

### **Questions**

1. What are the kinds of restrictions that some believers want to place on all other believers?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God has given us good things to enjoy.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 64 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Colossians

## Wednesday - Colossians 3:1-17 - Resurrection Life

There was a real danger that some in the Colossian church could be tempted to fall back into pagan practices ch.2:23, 3:5-9. Paul had been dealing with the wrong solution to this problem in the first two chapters. He showed them that there is no material or physical cure for what is essentially a spiritual problem. Abuse of the body will not heal the sickness of the soul but will merely aggravate it. Paul has already pointed out in both chapters one and two that Christ, in all the fullness of His love alone is the answer, and here in chapter three he sets it out with even greater clarity.

In this section Paul reminds the believers what their present condition really is, points them forward to the great hope that is theirs, and instructs them as to how they should live in the here and now. As far as the present condition of the believer is concerned, Paul had already told them that they had died with Christ and had been raised with him:

a. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ for his people was the climax of the work of redemption that began in eternity with God's choice Eph. 1:4 (even then the believers were 'in Christ') - and was made real in their experience through faith Gal.2:20. From the God-ward perspective, the Christian is hidden in Christ. Through the death of Christ he died to his old self - he is a 'new creature in Christ'.

b. Death to sin is necessarily linked to the resurrection life of godliness. Even now the believer has the life of Christ within as the motivating force for their lives. It is this resurrection life that is to transform their lives and enable them to live lives that will be more and more conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Questions

1. What evidences of resurrection should be seen in our lives?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would put sin to death in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 65 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Colossians

## Thursday - Colossians 3:1-4; 1 John 2:25-3:3 - A Glorious Future

The one who has died with Christ and has been raised to a new life in Christ, has a glorious future to look forward to. The New Testament makes it very clear indeed that Jesus will come again in great power and glory, Acts 1:9 - 11, Matt.24:30. Those who are 'in Christ will share in that great glory, for he will come to gather his elect people Matt. 24:31; they will be 'caught up' with Christ or will be the very first to be raised from the dead 1 Thess. 4:16,17, to be with their Saviour for ever.

Just as the Lord Jesus Christ will be manifested for all men to see, so the inner life of the believer 'hidden in Christ', will be manifested in the sight of all. During his life on earth the child of God has often found that his life does not match up to his profession, because of his daily struggles with indwelling sin and the temptations of the devil. As the apostle Paul said in Romans 7:19 'For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want'.

However, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the true believer will not only be clearly shown to be what he has professed to be on earth, but will also enter into 'joy of his Lord'. Jesus promised that there would be a place prepared for His people in heaven and that in due time He would return to take them to it, so that they would be for ever with Him in glory John 14:2,3.

What a glorious future awaits the faithful child of God, when sin and suffering, pain and temptation will be no more and he will bask in the fullness of the presence of God for ever.

## Questions

1. How much do you think about heaven?

## Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that in Christ you have a glorious future.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 66 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Colossians

## Friday - Colossians 3:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10 - Seeking and Striving

For the one who knows the present reality of having died with Christ and being raised to newness of life and has the glorious future hope of eternal life in the presence of God, there are certain responsibilities that follow. The two phrases that the apostle Paul uses are 'to seek' and 'set his mind on'. These phrases suggest two very important duties:

a. A Concerted Effort. The word translated 'seek' indicates a persevering effort such as that of somebody who is desperately searching for the greatest of treasures Matt. 6:33; 13:45. The 'things above' for which the child of God is to constantly be striving are all those spiritual qualities and gifts promised to the people of God in Christ vs 12ff. In other words, it is to strive to be more and more like Christ.

b. A Concentrated Mind. If the believer is to 'seek' the things above, he will need to concentrate his heart and mind to understand what 'the things above, really are. They are to be the chief desire of the believer, to occupy his thoughts and fill his mind.

A person who is outside of Christ will quite obviously seek after worldly things and will have his heart set on things of sense and time - he may well expend great energy in seeking fame, fortune or position. The Christian, however, has a different nature, a different goal and a different master. The Scripture urges him to positive action, he must 'overcome evil with good' Rom.12:21, 'Put on the Lord Jesus' Rom. 13:14, 'walk by the spirit' Gal.5:16. He must always be thinking of those things that are true, honourable, just pure, lovely, and of good report Phil. 4:8,9. He must never become so attached to the things of this world that he loses sight of and desire for 'the things above'.

### Questions

1. How can we balance our earthly ambitions - in our jobs, family etc. with the command to 'seek those things that are above'?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would seek after the things above.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 67 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# Colossians

## **Saturday - Colossians 3:5-11 - Rooting Out Sin**

The believer in Jesus is said to have died with Christ and yet in this passage he is urged to 'put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature'. This seeming contradiction is more apparent than real, for although the Christian has died to sin with regard to his state and standing before God, his actual condition does not fully correspond to his standing. He not only has the new nature from Christ, he has the remnants of the old nature which manifests itself in the ways that the apostle now goes on to mention.

There is a specific action that is required. The Christian is to 'put to death' or 'to kill' those desires and actions that belong to the earthly nature. This is very much like the injunctions of the Lord Jesus Christ when he told his disciples 'pluck out' the eye that offended or 'cut off' the hand that caused to sin. It is a strenuous and painful process that continues for the whole of the earthly existence.

It must always be remembered that these instructions are not a way for a person to gain acceptance with God, these verses do not speak of justification for that is accomplished freely and fully by God in sending His Son to bear the sins of His people. What is in view here is the ongoing work of sanctification in which the active and vigorous participation of the believer is required.

There is a need to constantly look at our lives to see the attitudes and actions that do not please God and then to seek to root them out. We need to have a constant process of self-examination as we hold up our lives to the mirror of the word of God.

## **Questions**

1. 'To put to death' sounds very drastic: how can we put that into practice in our own particular circumstances?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3:2

**Praise: Psalm 68 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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