

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLLOSSIANS

Understanding Jesus



WEEK 6 STUDY GUIDE

BY: PASTOR WALTER DORT

FEBRUARY 13-17, 2023



Monday, February 13, 2023

Read: Colossians 3:1-11

Scripture Verse: *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1*

Today's Thought:

Remember in the previous lesson we told you that we were buried with Christ by baptism into his death. As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too are raised with Christ by baptism into his death. When we were without Christ, we lived in sin, we were enemies of God. So, Christ died for us to reconcile us to God. We who have been baptized into Jesus Christ have been baptized into his death. We read in Romans 6:3, "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Therefore, the death and resurrection of Jesus made us alive. Since Christ made us alive in his resurrection, we should consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Now we belong to Christ, the one who rose from the dead, that we bear fruit for God. So, we serve God with a new spirit because we are resurrected with Christ. The spirit of him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in us. So, we leave one life to enter another life with God. We leave one relationship to enter another relationship with God. In Christ we have a new identity with a new perspective and a new hope that is not that of the earth. It is true that we are still on earth, but we are resurrected with Christ, our life is hidden in Christ, and we belong to Christ. We must seek and gaze on the things above which relate to the new life into which we are entering. What are these things from above?

In his prayers for the Christians in Colossae, Paul mentioned some of them in chapter 1:9. They are: "All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, spiritual intelligence, perseverance and patience, the fruits of all kinds of good works." He who is resurrected with Christ must have affection for things above, having a heart and a mind from above. His love and affection must be for the things above, and not for those which are on the earth. We need to drive out in us all those which are earthly such as: hatred, jealousy, envy, hypocrisy, wickedness, magic, idolatry to replace them with heavenly things such as: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. If we gaze now on things above, life in heaven will not be a foreign life for us as someone

trying to adapt to a new culture and environment. What are you waiting for to adapt now to this new culture?

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Help me to hold fast to your word, to seek the things from above, such as: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Don't let my feelings guide me. May your infallible word lead and guide me; and may it be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- What was our life like while we were without Christ?
- What position has our baptism in Jesus Christ given us?
- Where is our life hidden?
- What are the things should we look for from above?

Further Reading: James 3:12-18

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Read: Colossians 3:1-11

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

Today's Thought:

We have seen that the born-again Christian, or one who is resurrected with Christ, must have his heart focused on the things above. The things above are the fruit of the spirit: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." The mind of the Christian must be renewed. He must put off the works of darkness and revert to the weapons of light. He must walk honestly, far from excesses and drunkenness, from lust and from immorality, from quarrels and jealousies. The Christian must know how to analyze times and circumstances and be able to determine in what time we are: it is time to wake up from sleep because salvation is closer to us than when we believed. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6: "You, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober."

We must have affection for things above. Every day we must think of our new birth which is acquired at the price of the blood of our Lord Jesus to put us in contact with God. Since we are resurrected with Christ, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is righteous, whatever is pure, whatever is beautiful, whatever merits approval, whatever is virtuous and worthy of praise, let that be the object of our thoughts. Thus, everything about this new life in Jesus should be in our thoughts. Our mind must be directed and controlled by God. We need to focus on Jesus because he is our head.

Overall, everything is shaken: society, religions, morality, science; everything is so fragile! We should look higher than the scene before us. A more and more intimate communion should develop between us and our Lord during all these trials. In such a turbulent and troubled world, looking at Jesus and having God's thoughts is all the Christian needs as we wait for the great day of our Lord Jesus. Do you not see it as a grace and a blessing to have the opportunity to fix your mind on things above, and not on earthly things?

Lord, thank you for your word. The world is in decline, and everything is unleashed and goes from bad to worse. Help me to be fond of things above and not of things on earth. Lord, let your light enlighten my soul. Help me to know you better, to love you with all my heart, to obey you sincerely, to abide in your word daily and bring forth more fruits every day.

- How should the Christian's mind be?
- How should the Christian walk?
- Since we are resurrected with Christ, what should be our thoughts?
- Since everything is unleashed, what would our behavior be?

Further Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Read: Colossians 3:1-11

Scripture Verse: *“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:3-4*

Today’s Thought:

We live in a world where everything is going from bad to worse, where the social foundations are overthrown; for many, life is trivialized, immorality is at its height. The world is in degeneration. Seeing what is happening in the world, it is easy for Christians to lose sight of themselves if they do not know exactly who they believe in and if they forget the reason for their existence. The Christian must know that he died with Christ and that his way of life must be different from those who are in the world and who do not yet have Christ in their life. The Christian must also know that his life is hidden with Christ in God.

Therefore, the Christian must know that he must remain centered on Jesus while remaining in the reading of his word, in meditation, in fellowship, in sharing the word of God and in prayer. The one whose life is hidden in Jesus gives himself totally to Christ. His physical, emotional, mental and spiritual life, his needs, worries, sorrows have been laid at the feet of Christ because his life is hidden in Jesus. Peter said in his speech, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may raise you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7. And Jesus, for his part, will turn everything into joy and a song of praise.

He whose life is hidden in Jesus must offer himself totally to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. He must dedicate his whole being – spirit, soul and body – to the service of his Master. All its members are at his service as instruments of justice. One whose life is hidden in Christ surrenders to Christ, puts all his faith in Christ, stops focusing on himself to focus on Jesus by leading a life of total submission and obedience to Christ and his word.

Brothers and sisters, we must know that our life is hidden in Jesus. Since Jesus is in heaven, our life is hidden there; therefore, the enemy cannot do what he wants with us. To be hidden in Christ is a grace and a privilege because we do not have to do anything to enjoy such grace. Don't you rejoice to learn that your life is hidden in Jesus? "To him who is victorious, I will give part of the hidden manna. I will also give that person

a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it." Revelation 2:17. What ineffable Joy! What eternal happiness! Isn't it a great motive for renouncing the things which are on earth and clinging to those which are above?

Thank you, Lord, for reminding me through your word I am yours. My life is hidden in you, the devil cannot decide my life. I totally surrender my life to you. I stop focusing on me to focus on you and your word. Open the eyes of my understanding to realize that I am truly yours, nothing to fear. Draw me closer to you in a perfect relationship with you.

- Where is the life of the Christian hidden?
- What can help the Christian to stay centered on Jesus?
- What should the Christian lay at Jesus' feet?
- What must the Christian put in the service of Christ?

Further Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-5

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Read: Colossians 3:1-11

Scripture Verse: *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.” Colossians 3:5-6*

Today’s Thought:

In the previous study we looked at our position as dead and risen with Christ; the life that responds to that position we have in Christ. We have also seen that we must put off the works of darkness and revert to the weapons of light. Whatever is honorable, righteous, pure should be the object of our thoughts.

In verse 5, the apostle Paul exhorts the Christians of Colossae to holiness in order to avoid the wrath of God. In a word, the apostle calls Christians to live in resonance with the word of God. That means to be able to completely regard the word of God as true for him in his consciousness and live it. When you regard the word of God as true in your consciousness, you bring it into your life and you live according to it. As Christians, we should be in resonance with the word of God and its promises. We may not only read and talk about the things of God, but our mind must be in resonance with the things above. If we are not in resonance with the word of God, we will not be able to hear God’s voice and walk according to his will, and soon we will arrive back at where we were in the beginning, or even worse. If we want to grow spiritually, we want something good to happen in our life, then we must first make Jesus real for us in our mind. We would not be able to put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature until we set our mind to things above and live in resonance with the word of God and his promises. We should not only think about the things above but also believe and be in resonance with them.

Perhaps you can ask this question, "How can I put to death whatever belongs to the earth?" To put to death the earthly things, every day and every night the word of God should be in your mouth and your heart. You should set your mind on Jesus and keep him fresh in your life every day. Live Jesus, experience him, see him, feel him and make him real in your life. If you decide to put to death what is earthly in you, get busy with Jesus, practicing your relationship every day with him until your spirit, your soul and your body are saturated. Make Jesus a reality in

your daily life. Live a transformed life that looks like Jesus'. Dwell in Jesus, knowing with certainty that you are on the right path. Commit to abide in Christ, in his promises and his word until it becomes a habit. By doing so, you are placing yourself in resonance with God, his word and his promises. Gaze at the things above, think about what you feel is missing from your relationship with God and ask him to fill the gaps. Don't let your mind take you on a world tour, focus on Jesus and his promises. Give yourself totally (100%) to Jesus, not a part of you. Water only boils at 100 Celsius, not 99. Today is the only time that exists; live it fully to God. Do not compromise your relationship with your Lord. Don't move away your focus on Jesus and his promises; open yourself up to greater levels. If you can live this kind of life, you will be able to put to death the earthly things.

Lord, thank you for the revelation of your word. Help me to put to death what is earthly in me like: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Help me to regard your word as true in my consciousness and bring it into my life and live according to it. Lord, help me to love you, experience you, see you, feel you and make you real in my life.

- How can the Christian live in resonance with the word of God?
- What can happen if we don't resonate with the word of God?
- How can we put to death whatever belongs to the earth?
- What percentage of our life should we give to Jesus?

Further Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16

Friday, February 17, 2023

Read: Colossians 3:1-11

Scripture Verse: *"In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth." Colossians 3:7-8*

Today's Thought:

In the previous study, we showed that the apostle calls Christians to live in resonance with the word of God. This means that the Christian should be able to take the word of God completely as true for him in his conscience and live according to it. He must put to death all that belongs with the earthly nature when he turns to the things of above and live in resonance with the word of God and his promises. He should give himself totally to Jesus, not just a part of him.

In verses 7 and 8 we see that the Christian must be able to differentiate between life before receiving Christ and life with Christ. In other words, the Christian must be able to tell the difference between the old and the new identity in Jesus Christ. The Colossians, before giving their lives to Jesus, behaved according to the pagan world, they lived in paganism, in moral corruption which was in full swing. They committed abominable and dark deeds because they were darkness, they normally carried out the deeds of their father, the devil.

Look at what the apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:1-3 when we were without Christ: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath." This is the life we used to lead here. We once lived according to the lusts of our bodies, doing the will of the flesh and our thoughts, we were by nature children of wrath. It was perfectly normal because we were without Christ, disenfranchised, estranged from the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, we who were dead in our trespasses, he made us alive with Christ. He raised us up with Christ and made us sit with him in heaven. Christ snatched us out of deep darkness, into spiritual blindness to give us a new identity, to put us in another position, "From darkness to

marvelous light."

In relation to our new identity, how should our life be? Can we continue to live the old life? We can answer with certainty: NO! Absolutely not! Now, the Christian who identifies with Christ must live a life that is like that of Jesus. We read: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Ephesians 5:8. We are to conduct ourselves as children of light and produce fruit relating to the light. "For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth and finding out what pleases the Lord." Ephesians 5:9-10. We renounce the fruitless works of darkness. We must not take part in the fruitless works of darkness, but rather we must condemn them. In Jesus Christ we are lights, our light rays must shine in this dark world in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

Once I was in darkness. Lord, thank you for bringing me from darkness to your wonderful light. Thank you for raising me up and making me sit in heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for snatching me into deep darkness, into spiritual blindness to put me in your wonderful light. Help me to produce fruit worthy of light.

- How was the life of the Colossians before receiving Jesus Christ into their lives?
- How does the apostle Paul describe the life of a person without Christ in Ephesian 2:1-3?
- How should the Christian conduct himself according to Ephesians 5:8?
- What are the fruits of light according to Ephesians 5:9-10?

Further Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1

Oh look! It's Friday! Saturday and Sunday are on the way; do not forget your appointment with your Lord! He loves that!

NOTES



centralwired.com