

Colossians 3:1–11

Mortifying Desires and Putting Off Behaviors that Don't Belong in Heaven

Monday, July 24, 2023 • Read Colossians 3:1–11

Questions from the Scripture text: What has happened to believers with Christ (v1)? What should they seek? Why—Who is there? What else are we to do with “things above” (v2)? Upon what are we not to set our minds? What has happened to believers in v3? With Whom is their life hidden? Where is their life hidden? Who will appear (v4)? Who also will appear with Him? In what condition? What are we to do with our worldly aspects—that part of us that will end with this world (v5)? Which specific, worldly (sinful) aspects of us (that we are to put to death) does he mention? What is happening because of these things (v6)? What two ways does v7 describe how they used to act upon their inward sin? What six other things do v8-9 identify as things that believers need to put off? What have believers put off (v9b)? What have they put on (v10)? In what is the new man renewed? According to whose image is the new man renewed? What factors/aspects are not part of the newness of the new man (v11)?

How do you live, when heaven is your new culture of origin? Colossians 3:1–11 looks forward to the sermon in the upcoming midweek meeting. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **those who belong to heaven put to death whatever desires, and put off whatever behaviors, don't belong in heaven.**

God has saved us by Christ. In our place, Jesus has lived the perfectly obedient life that we could not. In our place, Jesus has died under the wrath and curse of God that we deserve but could never satisfy.

But God has not only saved us by Christ. **He has saved us in Christ.** When we believe in Jesus, we are joined to Him. v3 tells us that we died in Christ's death. But it also says that our life is hidden with Christ in God—so that if you trust in Jesus Christ, the way to read v1 is not so much “if then you were raised with Christ,” but rather, “*because you have been raised with Christ.* Christ didn't just give His life for us, but as v4 says, Christ *is our life.*”

And God has saved us for Christ. We live on earth, but the purpose of our earthly life is the glory of Christ by Whom and for Whom we have been saved. He is seated at the right hand of God, and His is all the glory. v11 tells us that Christ is all and in all. And what is part of the glory of Christ at His appearing? Our appearing with Him—also glorious.

Christ will take those who were full of the things in the lists of v5 and v8—we formerly walked in them (v6)! And, He will have made us entirely the opposite. He has “renewed us in knowledge according to the image of [Christ].” What will be the great distinguishing characteristic about us on that day? Not our ethnicity, or ceremonial markings, or culture, or socio-economic status—but that we have been transformed from wickedness into the spitting moral images of Jesus Christ.

So, as we consider Him where He is right now, and how we have been saved to bring Him glory, that gives us marching orders for the rest of our lives. Christians often want to know about the particular future events of our lives. But Deut 29:29 calls those “secret things.” Whatever else we are called to, we are called to put to death the list in v5, to put off the list in v8, to follow Jesus in obedience to all the commands of His Word—what Deut 29:29 calls “the revealed things.”

Why? Because we have been saved not just by Christ and in Christ. We have been saved *for Christ.* We were resurrected in Him so that we might bring Him glory by putting sin to death. Even the law was unable to do that in us, but Christ is doing that. We both please Him and honor Him, as we put to death the deeds of the body!

How does God's method of killing sin point to your only hope? Who is that hope? What hope does He give?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for uniting us to the Lord Jesus, who has risen from the dead and ascended to take His seat in heaven. Grant that, by Your Spirit, the priorities of heaven would be our priorities on earth, we ask in Christ; AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP110B “The Lord Has Spoken” or TPH447 “Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Colossians three versus one through 11. These are God's words. If then you were raised with christ, Seek those things which are above where christ is Centering, at the right hand of god. Set your mind on things above. Not on things in the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with christ.

In god. When christ to is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members, which are on the earth. Fornication of cleanness. Passion evil desire. Covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, the wrath of god is coming. Upon the sons of disobedience.

In which you yourselves. Once walked when you lived in them, But now you yourselves are to put off all these things. Anger raw malice. Blasphemy filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another. Since you put off the old man with his deeds, And i've put on the new man.

Who is renewed in knowledge? According to the image of him who created him. Where there is neither greek nor Jew? Circumcised nor uncircumcised. Barbarian civilian slave nor free. But christ. Is all. And in all, So, for the reading of gods inspired, At an errant worked. So, this past Midweek meeting when we heard about.

The spirit. Dwelling in us and christ dwelling in us. By his spirit. We were reminded that. To be spiritually minded. Is to have christ. Ruling our hearts by his. Principles. For his. Priorities. And therefore putting sin to death, which will hear about, in the next passage, In Romans 3.

But our union with christ is such that not only does Christ dwell on us, but even as we're hearing it, Explained, and then preached. In Romans 8, the bible usually talks about questions. Most often talks about christians as being in christ. And so there's this wonderful picture of Our being.

Seated raised with christ and seated. With christ, in the heavenly places. Says, if then you were raised, With christ seek those things which are above. Where Christus? Sitting at the right hand of god set your mind. On things above, not things on the earth. Is talking about the same thing here as he was in last week's roman sportsman.

Those who exist in the flesh, set their minds on the things, the flesh. Those who exist in the spirit, set their mind on the things, the spirit. And so, if you're united, With christ, then your life is hidden with christ in god now. The you who was in the flesh, the you who were in the flesh, That version of yourself that was in the flash.

Is gone, it died. You died. Your life is hidden with christ and god now And so, we are to have our priorities. Formed and our principles formed. By ourselves as we are in the lord jesus in heaven. So he says, set your mind on things, about not things below.

He doesn't mean like, Stop eating. Stop working. Stop loving your neighbor. Uh, stop participating. Um, the life and service of your nation. Those sorts of things when he says at the end, there's neither greek nor juice circumstances or uncircumcised. Barbarian city and slaver free. He's not saying that these distinctions no longer exist.

You're saying that these are not the things. That established the principles and priorities of our life. Our life is now first, and foremost, more than anything else. Our core identity is in the lord jesus himself. And he is the one. Who is establishing the priorities? And so you can see that.

When it talks about, How we will appear when christ appears, you want to know what setting your mind on? Um, on heavenly things means What what it means is. Working at conformity to the lord. Jesus becoming more and more like. Aiming at, how we will be in the last day.

Uh so those who are at the men's breakfast this morning and christ presenting us to himself in the last day without spot or wrinkle. Running such thing, but blame us. But we aim at this blamelessness, We aim at holiness, like he was 12 says the standard of holiness. Uh, that we aim at is to be pure as he himself is pure.

That's first, john three since set your mind on things above colossians 3:2. And that thing things above is our appearing with him in glory. Colossians 3, 4. And so, if we're going to if we're going to aim at, Being like the lord jesus even glorious like the lord jesus.

There are a number of things that must be put off. And put to death. Put off verse 8, anger. Wrath malice. Blasphemy. Filthy language. Out of your mouths, lying. The old man and his deeds. Uh, we have Uh, we have put off and so we must put off. All of those things.

And we put on, The new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him. So, according Yeah, according to christ. And knowing christ. You have to get dressed for heaven. Like one who's getting dressed for a great ball. A great occasion, a great wedding.

Is actually the The most correct analogy. Like someone who's getting dressed for a great wedding. And you may not wear, anger, and wrath, and malice and blasphemy, and filthy, language and lying in heaven. And there are things that must be killed. Verse 5, but to death. Your members, which are on the earth.

So, The, the earthly. When he says, do not set your mind on things in the earth. Is kill fornication. Uncleanness, passion evil desire. Covetousness. Which is idolatry. These are all. Uh motivations and desires do not feed. These desires. You kill them. You strangle. You starve them to death. You suffocate them.

You don't give them air, you don't give them opportunity. You don't give them fuel you kill All of your evil desires. Not laugh at. Um, Of the idea or entertain the idea. Of indulging them. Or allow yourself to think about how much your flesh. Would enjoy. Any of those things?

No, absolutely not. You're not set your mind. On earthly things on things below. And kill those desires. Kill those motivations. And then doing so you will move towards putting off the behaviors. In verse 8 and 9. So, we have to starve. Suffocate strangle. The desires and motivations. And verse 5.

As a as the necessary way of Putting off. The behaviors. In versus eight and nine. But, It's not just a killing and a putting on. That's a living out of our life, with christ. It's not just a killing and a putting off. It's a living out of our life with christ, not just a killing.

And it's a putting on. The new man. And, That which isn't conformity to christ. Not just to putting off. The other behaviors. You can't, like, Uh you can't get rid of the one without putting on the other. There's no neutral state. Was especially it is Knowing jesus and preparing for glory.

The. The, the great work that we are at in sanctification. Is not just. Ridding ourselves of the things that make us feel bad. Although sin should make you feel badly, and it's unpleasant. And we definitely, Are helped by god that he He has given us consciences. But what we are doing is embracing Christ.

Embracing our new life in him. Enjoying him. And preparing for everlasting glory. Uh, when he appears And we appear with him. That's a great motivation. Not just, To. To make adjustments. That that read us of unpleasant things now, But laying hold of christ himself. And preparing for glory. The lord give us.

So value him. So consider him. That we are raised with him seated with them. We died with him. Our life is hidden with. And we will appear. With him and glory, god has saved us by christ. But it is also saved us support Christ. Let's play.

Our god, we pray that you would give us of your spirit. So that we would love you. Want to please you. And so that we would love the Lord jesus. And rejoice to be united to him. And live. From out of that union that we have with him. Unto his glory.

Grant that we would do. So we asked him was that?