

Colossians: Lesson #47: Seeking the Things Above

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Sunday, October 19th

Read Col. 3:1 – 4:18 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Col. 3:2 “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Things Above

- In life we have to spend some time thinking about this life and about what you need here on earth. But to remind us of what is really important, we need to look up. I don't mean look up physically with our eyes, but what we are talking about is that we need to “look up” think about our home in heaven.
- One reason to look up is because Jesus is not on this earth, He is in heaven ruling with God. We should live our lives thinking about what He wants. When we pray, we are praying to God in heaven and Jesus is hearing our prayers.
- Also we should look up because one day Jesus will return and take His people home to heaven. We need to think about that often so that we will keep living for it.

Things to Put Away

- Did you every get a lot of your things out and it got your room messy? Did your mother come in and say its time to put everything away?
- Paul tells the Colossian Christians that its time to put some things away that have been in their lives. But these things don't just need to be put away in the closet, they need to be put in the garbage can and thrown away forever.
- Throw away things like: Immoral actions, wanting bad things, being greedy, acting angry, wanting to hurt other people, telling lies, telling things to hurt other people, using dirty words. God doesn't like for anyone to live that way, but He sure doesn't want Christians to be that way.

Putting on Better Things

- We should definitely get rid of the bad things, but there are some things worth putting on. The words putting on can mean like your putting on clothing. You might say these are things we should wear in our lives every day.
- When we put these things on it will make our lives look more like the life Jesus lived.
 - ⇒ A kind heart that thinks about other people.
 - ⇒ A friendly helpful spirit that does kind things,
 - ⇒ A mind that doesn't think only about you, but thinks about what would be good for other people.
 - ⇒ A patient mind that is willing to put up with things that are hard sometimes and doesn't get mad just because things aren't going real good.
 - ⇒ A forgiving spirit that is willing to overlook something someone has done that angers you.
 - ⇒ Love – the kind of love that glues us together like a family.

- ⇒ A thankful heart.
- ⇒ A heart filled with God's Word.
- ⇒ Singing songs of praise to God.

Family Matters

- One of the things we should also put on is being a good family member. Family members have to work together to make the family happy and pleasing to God.
- Wives have to be willing to listen to their husbands and follow their leadership.
- Husbands must love their wives and never act mad and mean toward them
- Children have to listen to their parents and do what they tell them.
- Fathers should encourage their children and not make them feel like they can't do anything right.
- Servants were supposed to work hard for their masters and not just pretend to be working.
- Masters were to remember that they had a Master in Heaven (Jesus) and should never treat their servant in a cruel way or unfair way.

Use Our Time Well

- One other thing Paul told the Colossians that would be real good to remember. We go to church and try to do right because we believe in Jesus and follow His Word. Not everyone follows Jesus.
- We should remember that they may be looking at us to see how we live. We don't want them to see us doing something that is bad. We want to do things that will help them to believe in Jesus and go to heaven with us.
- One important way is to remember to use good words. Don't talk mean, don't use filthy words, but tell them things that will make them want to serve Jesus and come to church.
- We always need to use our time well while we are on the earth, and anytime we get a chance to do something good, we should do it.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Set Your Mind on Things Above

3:1 So if you have been raised up together with Christ, keep seeking upward where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Constantly set your mind upward, not on this earth.

3 For you have died and gone away from worldly things, and your life is now hidden up there where Christ is with God.

4 Jesus Christ is what our life is all about. Right now man cannot see Him, but when the time comes for Him to return, then all will be able to see the Christ, and then you, too, will be seen with Him in glory.

Put These Things Away

5 So with this in mind, make the members of your earthly body dead to things like sexual immorality, impure things, lust, craving for sinful things, greed (which is like idolatry).

6 It is because of these very sins that God's wrath will come on the sons of disobedience.

7 At one time, you also walked among the sons of disobedience back when you lived in these sins.

8 But now you must put all these sins away from you: ongoing anger, angry outbursts of rage, a mean spirit that wants to do harm, abusive speech that tries to destroy another person's reputation, or letting dirty or improper words come out of your mouth.

9 Don't mislead or tell each other anything that is not true. Remember that you have separated yourself from the old person you once were and the things you once practiced.

Put On the New Person

10 And put on the new person – the one that's renewed to have a knowledge that is a likeness of the One who created him.

11 When you become this new person, there is no Greek or Jew, no circumcision or uncircumcision, no foreigner, no person of a different culture, no slave or freeman – but Christ will be everything to us and in all of us.

12 So, holy and beloved, since you are the people God has chosen, clothe yourself with a heart of tender compassion, with a friendly helpful spirit that does kind things, with thinking that is humble, with a controlled attitude that is patient and gentle with others, and with a willingness to put up with difficult things for a long time without losing your temper.

13 If you see a fault in someone or have a reason to blame them for something, bear with each other and forgive them. Just like the Lord had to forgive you, you do the same to others.

14 But on top of all this, put on love which completely binds us together.

15 And Christ's peace (which brings together that which has been divided) should decide and control all things in your hearts. That is what you were called to in one body. And be thankful all the time.

16 Let Christ's Word be at home inside each of you, and let it dwell there in large amounts and with all wisdom. Keep teaching and admonishing each other in Psalms, and hymns that praise God, and songs that are spiritual in content, singing to the Lord with grace in your hearts.

17 And whatever you do in the things you say or the works you, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Family Responsibilities

18 Wives, voluntarily place yourself under the leadership of your husband and co-operate with him. This action is the proper thing for a woman in the Lord who is married.

19 Husbands, always love your wives and stop acting in bitterness toward them. Being resentful, harsh and angry doesn't show love.

20 Children, listen to your parents and do everything they tell you because that pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, deal with your children without agitating them to anger and resentment. Otherwise, you'll just end up discouraging them and making them want to give up.

22 Servants, you have human masters. Be sure to listen to them and do whatever they tell you. Don't be like some who serve only when they are being watched, as if all that mattered was pleasing them. Don't pretend to be serving, but sincerely dedicate yourself to your work. Instead of just trying to please men, serve with a reverential fear of God.

23 And in everything you do, work hard, not like you were doing it for men, but work like you were doing it for the Lord.

24 Since you know that it's really the Lord Christ you are serving, you realize that He will reward you with an inheritance.

25 But if you're doing wrong, all that you will receive back is punishment for doing wrong and there will be favoritism or partiality shown to anyone.

4:1 Masters, show your slaves conduct that is righteous, equal and fair, recognizing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Christian Duties

Prayer

2 Constantly be devoted and dedicated to prayer, and stay alert in your prayers especially in regard to expressing your thanks to God.

3-4 And in your prayers, pray for us, too, that God would open up a door for us the Word so we can be telling about the mystery of Christ (which is the very reason I have been imprisoned). Pray that I will speak like I should speak, making the mystery of Christ very clear.

Using Our Opportunities

5 As you walk among outsiders to Christ, live wisely, recognizing that in time opportunities to influence them are presented to us and we must buy those opportunities while we can.

Using Gracious Words

6 Your words should always be spoken in grace, as if they were food seasoned with salt, knowing the right and proper way to answer everyone.

Paul Sends His Greetings

7 Tychicus will tell you all about me. He is a beloved brother, a faithful servant and a fellow servant in the Lord.

8 I've sent him to you for that very reason so that he can encourage your hearts and tell you about how we are doing.

9 I'm also sending along with him, Onesimus who is now a faithful and beloved brother, who is also now one of yours. He and Tychicus will tell you all about the things going on here.

10 Aristarchus, who is with me here in my imprisonment, sends his greeting to you, along with Mark. Mark is a cousin of Barnabas. I've sent instructions to you about him before. If he gets to come, welcome him.

11 Also sending his greeting is Jesus who is also called Justus. All these are Jewish men who work together with me for the Kingdom of God. Each of them has been a real comfort to me.

12-13 One of your men from the church there, Epaphras, is here and he also sends his greeting. This servant of Christ always is diligent to pray fervent prayers for you, asking that you stand filled and lacking nothing in regard to God's will. May I say in his behalf that he is very zealous for you and the brethren nearby at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

14 Luke, the beloved doctor, and Demas both send greetings.

15 Send greetings to the brethren who are at Laodicea. And send greetings to Nymphas, and the church meeting in his house.

16 Now when this epistle is finished being read among you at Colossae, send it to be read by the church at Laodicea. And in the same way, have the letter I'm sending to Laodicea read there among you at Colossae.

17 And tell Archippus, "Pay careful attention to the work of service that has been given you to do in the Lord; fulfill it."

18 These greetings I, Paul, have written by hand. Remember the fact that I am imprisoned. Grace be with you. Amen.