

# THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Dr. Rich Wilkerson | Tuesdays@TrinityMiami | November 21, 2023

**Colossians 3:1-4** — Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

These first 4 verses are the beginning of 17 verses here, in Colossians 3, where St. Paul speaks to the church at Colossae as to what it looks like for New and Old Believers alike to **LIVE AS ONE WHO IS MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST!**

When we are baptized in water it is signaling those around us that we died and were buried in water but then you and I were resurrected into new life in Christ. What does that mean? Everything that used to move you in your old life of sin has died and you are resurrected into the realm of heavenly living. That's doesn't mean that you are so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good. It just means that your thoughts and purpose for living has completely changed, and now you are pursuing life as a follower of Jesus.

**Romans 12:2** — Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

So Paul's approach is directing the people in Colossae to **set their hearts and minds on things above where Christ lives**. He's wanting all of us to get off of this limited sinful planet and into God's eternal heaven where heaven's thoughts and purposes reign.

Paul speaks of our hearts and minds...

**The MIND is where THOUGHTS originate.  
The HEART is where one's DECISIONS are made.**

So what is Paul saying if you take into consideration Romans 12:2 — You must daily pray for your mind with its former thoughts to be transformed for new thoughts and thought patterns to be birthed in your mind!

**That means prayer and scripture must be a daily spiritual food source.**

Remember, Garbage IN Garbage OUT ... HOWEVER ...

**Fresh Word — Fresh Oil — Fresh Anointing IN ... Real ABUNDANT Life Flowing OUT!**

**When your thinking is good and holy — your choices will be GOOD and HOLY!** Paul says get your thinking located where eternal thinking and acting is already happening. Get your thought life in heaven.

The reason for this is that when you got saved you died and your life was hid with Christ in God! One day when Jesus returns at His second coming — you and I will return with him! And this is the final stage of our spiritual life Jesus for eternity!

**Colossians 3:5-11** — Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

So in this passage Paul gives 3 undeniable directives to the church at Colossae. Now remember, the church at Colossae is also Trinity Church in Miami Gardens. This word is for all time since the day it was written!

**Paul's 1st Directive...** Col. 3:5

PUT TO DEATH, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.

SEE NEXT PAGE >

So whatever is dead — is not alive in any form or fashion. Paul says put to DEATH — anything that smacks of sexual immorality or lust or those impurities that are birthed in hell.

St. Paul doesn't make you wonder what he's trying to say... but rather just says it PUT TO DEATH, in other words kill it — these desires of immoral thought and actions which are birthed from hell... just get them dead!

### **Paul's 2nd Directive** ... Col. 3:8

But now you must also RID YOURSELVES of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Another translation of RID YOURSELVES is PUT ASIDE — In other words it was in me now I'm going to PUT IT ASIDE from me or RID MYSELF of this way of acting.

You know people who are driven by rage. They fly off the handle at the drop of a hat. They go from 0-100 just like that. What is this? These are people who lose control — they go too far — and they do something in the heat of the moment that they regret the rest of their life.

The Apostle says RID YOURSELVES of such attitudes and behavior it's a command!

### **Paul's 3rd Directive** ... Col. 3:9-10

DO NOT LIE to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

### **DO NOT LIE!**

That's it. Lying breaks trust. A perpetual liar causes friends and family to wonder which version of you they are speaking with. Truth is a tough woven tapestry of trust that we weave with those who we come in contact with. But the father of all lies, even Satan himself, is the father of all lies. He does everything he can to tear that tapestry of truth. And in so doing the trust begins to erode in a family a community and a nation.

St. Paul says DO NOT LIE ... Remember that was the old you — you have taken that old you off and you have put on the new you!

What does that line in Vs 6 mean because of this THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING?

I've taught you many times before that we believe as a church that the next event on God's calendar of events will be the rapture of the church. Jesus comes in the clouds to catch his BRIDE — WE THE CHURCH — AWAY. While we are celebrating the marriage supper of the lamb in heaven for 7 years. All hell is breaking loose here on earth.

You can read about these events in the book of the Revelation. At the end of the 7 years of God's wrath being poured out on the land Jesus then returns at THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. He will be saddled up on a white horse and we His bride will come with Him in the sky and He will defeat the devil and during what is known as the Battle of Armageddon.

## **WHAT DOES OUR NEW SELF LOOK LIKE IN CHRIST?**

**Colossians 3:12-17** — Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What happens when you are tempted to fall back into the devils trap of hatred, rage and conspiracy theories — that you yourself are conjuring up in your own mind? The answer is right here. First of all, remember that you have **PUT ON YOUR NEW SELF IN CHRIST**. Because you have — Paul writes ... *Clothe yourselves with Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness and Patience*.

You see church, if you're living IN YOUR FEELINGS ... which is the current PLAGUE the devil has vomited on this nation presently, you'll be making up lies which have no foundation. You'll begin to believe that your whole family — that's parents, aunts & uncles, cousins, friends, associates — and — just people in general THEY'RE ALL AGAINST YOU! And that's just not true unless you're a serial killer or pedophile. People just don't have enough time to focus in on you like that. People don't all gather together to hate you. That's just a lie from the devil, the FATHER OF ALL LIES!

So instead of living in your feelings ... Choose to be loving, kind, humble, gentle, and patient! I don't choose to hate you. NO! I'm a Christian. We talked about it last week. I choose love —

SEE NEXT PAGE >

what does that mean? It means — “To will the highest good and best interest of those you meet!” Not the least of which is your family of ORIGIN — and your family of CHOICE! We are to be ruled by the Peace of Christ. Not stress and letting our feelings run out of control! Paul says sing make melodys in your heart, psalms, hymns singing to God with GRATITUDE!

**Colossians 3:18-21** — Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

So we begin with a WORLDWIDE, but especially Nationwide HOT BUTTON. Wives submit to your husbands.

When it comes to marriage Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Sarah got her slave woman to sleep with her husband. Rebekah conspired with her younger son Jacob against his older brother, and didn't tell her blind husband Isaac what was happening.

So ... where are the good biblical examples of a wife really submitting to her husband, and then you have a single man, Paul, laying down the law “WIVES SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS!” However, the hope that this will happen is found in the next verse 19 which says — “HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES ANS DO NOT BE HARSH WITH THEM!”

When a man truly loves his wife and cares for her and is not harsh with her, I believe she is more than willing to yield to her husbands desires. The truth is someone has to speak for the family. Retrogression is upon us again demanding that we go back — but I say we left those bad days and we're at a better place now.

70% of the homes in North Miami and Miami Gardens are being led by a single mother. And many of the homes being led by a man are abusive homes across this nation.

What does God say anyway ... Wives submit to your husbands and husbands LOVE YOUR WIVES and don't be OVERBEARING with your children so that you discourage them and drive them away!

God is not on vacation. **He knows your needs and your hearts cry.** But this is not a new thing in our country or the American church. It's been a long time in the making. All we can do is to love one another as Christ loves his church!

Two things are mentioned in closing.

**1<sup>st</sup>** The matter of slaves and in particular Christian slaves. No matter how you are treated, love your masters and do good to them even when you don't think they deserve it or have been harsh with you.

This is a different time in historical slavery. This is the slavery that formed in the European colonial forces including England, France, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands in the late 1400's and then went to Dominican Republic then to Haiti, and finally to most of the Caribbean and then to America, and then back to England. What is being spoken of here by Paul is the domination of the Roman Empire at that time that had little regard for humanity except to serve their diabolical purposes. People overnight would be taken from their homes and sold to Romans as slaves. Many of them became Christian in time. That's who St. Paul is writing to.

I spoke about this during our study in the book of Titus but Paul is very emphatic in saying that slaves then, and employees now, must love and serve their masters or bosses today in order to promote the good news of Christ. Remember church, when Jesus said go into all the world and preach the hose and make disciples in Matthew 18:19-20 it wasn't to any exclusive group it was to EVERYONE!!

The **2<sup>nd</sup>** thing in this last section is found in ...

**Colossians 3:23-24** — Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

This is the passage that must drive us all.

You must daily and sometimes hourly remind yourself who you're working for; who you're living for, who you're serving! His name is Jesus, and when you feel like giving your boss, or your child, or your fellow employee, or your spouse, or your next door neighbor, or the police, or your mother or father, remind yourself who put you in this planet in order to serve his purposes, and who you're really working for. His name is Jesus and he has your back! He'll take care of you. **GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!**

Believe it, settle it, and from here on out ... I'm not working for that guy, I'm working for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He knows what's best for me on this side of heaven — in preparation for me to rule and reign with Him on the other side!