

Colossians 3:1-17

Being Eternally Minded

Section 1: 3:1-4

What captures your imagination? What do you strive for? The church of Colossae is told to *seek the things above* and to *set your minds on things above*. We are called to “seek” and “set”. These are action verbs. We must purpose in our hearts and minds to seek to glorify God in every aspect of our lives. We don’t wait until we “feel like it”. Seeking implies diligently searching. Go look for ways to glorify God...search it out. Set implies determination. Determine to set your mind on things above by making sure you are putting things in your mind that will cause you to seek things above. *Start listening to Christian music, reading Christian books, building healthy relationship with other believers...*

Too often we are focused on the temporary. Too often we allow the temporary things of this world to control us to levels we don’t even realize. The wrong order, not having coffee, traffic, work issues, children coming in the night before a major project is due and they’ve done nothing and the like can derail our entire day. If you want to know if something has too much of a grip on you...observe how you respond when it doesn’t work out just the way you want.

If a temporary thing of this world can wreck your day...you may be holding it too tight.

We do, however, have the opportunity to make the temporary things of this world have eternal value. The only way that the temporary has any value is when you leverage it for the glory of God. For example: jobs are temporary thing of this world...but you can leverage your job to glorify God by providing for your family and sharing the gospel. That is how we apply being heavenly minded, use it for the glorify of God. If it can’t be used to glorify God then more than likely it is a waste of time and you should be careful not to be distracted or overcome with it.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to be more focused on the eternal than the temporary?
- ❖ How do we take the temporary and make it eternally valuable?
- ❖ What are some practical steps you can take to become more eternally minded?

Section 2: 3:5-11

What are those things that are of this world that we are to put away?

- **Sexual immorality** – sex in any form and/or in any way that is not confined to the marriage of a man and woman.
- **Impurity** – anything not holy.
- **Lust** – desiring, ogling, extended gazing at the opposite sex that isn’t your spouse.
- **Evil desire** – any desire not of God.
- **Greed** = idolatry – wanting money you don’t need to have what you want.
- **Disobedience** – not following God’s Word.
- **Anger** – self-centered explosive emotion.
- **Wrath** – getting even, taking matters into your own hands, reacting negatively.
- **Malice** – ill will, wanting bad for someone.
- **Slander** – speaking poorly of someone...justified or not.

- **Filthy language** – anything not edifying or encouraging.
- **Lying** – non-truth telling, partial “truth”.

These things should be the opposite of the believers’ actions. Not only should we avoid these actions, we certainly should not celebrate or support them. Do we love others who live in sin? Of course. But if someone claims to be a believer...they MUST be held accountable. If someone doesn’t claim to be a believer...we don’t call them to a moral lifestyle...we share the gospel. Our only hope in avoiding the works of the flesh is the Holy Spirit indwelling us. How we respond to believers and non-believers is vastly different.

All believers should have this in common... at all cost, we avoid the works of the flesh. Jesus even goes as far to say if your right-hand cause you to sin, cut it off. We are not to play around when it comes to sin.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ There are certain actions that are sinful. Why is it important to know what those actions are?
- ❖ How does sin impact your life? Why does sin seem so attractive?
- ❖ What are some practical steps we can take to fight against sinful temptations?

Section 3: 3:12-17

What exactly are the opposite actions that should mark a believer?

- **Compassion** – mourn with those that mourn, rejoice with those that rejoice.
- **Kindness** – friendly, generous, considerate.
- **Humility** – thinking of others first.
- **Gentleness** – kindly pointing to truth.
- **Patience** – enduring with kindness and gentleness.
- **Bearing with one another** – working it out with other by showing patience.
- **Forgiving one another** – giving another chance, desiring restoration.
- **Love** – being patient, kind, gentle, humble, compassionate.

building

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- **Peace** – emotional self-control despite circumstances.
- **Thankful** – gratitude in action.
- **Treasure the Scriptures** – meditate, memorize, apply.
- **Wisdom** – using the right knowledge the right way.
- **Teach and Admonish one another** – build each other up.
 - Through psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- **Do everything (word or deed) in the name of Jesus** – glorify God.
- **Give thanks** – give honor and credit where honor and credit are due.

Natural Result of building

When in doubt...do everything for the glory of God. Wherever you find yourself...glorify God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How do our actions reveal our hearts?
- ❖ Why do our actions matter so much?
- ❖ What are some practical steps we can take to increase about ability to show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience...etc.?