

Lesson 20  
Colossians 3:1-3

Noel R. Vincent  
04-Nov-2023

\*\*\* Start Recorder \*\*\*



**Announcements:**

A. **Building the Ministry:** Each of us is here because we were invited.

- Make a *habit* of inviting men to join us.
- Invite your church buddies and other men of the church.
- Invite your dad, adult sons, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Invite any adult male believers without a church home.

B. **Need a Communications Manager:**

- Manage small groups rosters.
- Reminder texts, special communications, etc.
- One-page, bi-weekly newsletter (items posted to website).
- Member of the church in good standing.
- Mature, faithful, and trustworthy individual.
- Time availability: 1-2 hours a week.

C. **Small Groups Forming Now:**

- Several Small Group Leaders have answered the call.
- You may be invited to join a group soon, but you can choose your own group.
- Encourage you to bring your Bibles and perhaps a notebook or a prayer journal.

\*\*\* START RECORDER \*\*\*

**Colossians 3:1-3**  
(04-Nov-2023)

**Opening Prayer**

**Introduction:**

In the first two chapters of Colossians we have carefully combed through together, Paul has been identifying and addressing the heresies of the Gnostics; heresies which, as we have discussed a number of times here, are still around today, both in the church and especially in the Christian cults.

In the immediately preceding verses, Paul corrected the ascetic error of the Gnostics [the belief that there is moral virtue and spiritual benefit in one's self-denial of life's daily pleasures, that one should adhere to prohibitions against certain foods or marriage, and that one should even engage in certain forms of self-harm]. Now, Paul gets to his application.

**Read Colossians 3:1-3**

**Colossians 3:1 (NOTES)**

- "Therefore" - Paul is saying, "Brother, if you are a true born-again believer, don't follow your own, or someone else's, made up religious beliefs that only inflate your vanity and distract you from your relationship with Jesus. Instead, turn your total attention to Christ, and seek Him."

**DISCUSSION:** Think of how many people make up their own religious beliefs today? Their own gods? What are some of the attributes you've heard people describe about their god that runs contrary to the God of the Bible?

- He wouldn't send people to hell. He would not allow evil and suffering in the world. He wants me to be happy. He has a sense of humor. He isn't jealous. He isn't vengeful.

What about some of the false religious beliefs people invent for their own personal use?

- People are born good. People are basically good. I can worship my god on my own terms, in my own way. All roads lead to god. Jesus isn't the only way. It doesn't matter what you believe, so long as you are sincere. We are all god's children, he accepts everyone.

Christians don't have such options available us. We accept God on His terms and worship Him as He prescribes. Anything less is sin.

- "If you have been raised up with Christ" - In verse 20 of the prior chapter (4 verses back in Chapter 2), Paul argued about letting go of the old when he said, "If you have died with Christ" - meaning, "If you have been given a new heart in regeneration."
- Now, Paul argues, "if you have been raised up with Christ", it is time to embrace the new. If you or I have been born again (regenerated) by the Holy Spirit, then we have died to our old life and ways. So, the point is to recognize that and live accordingly. You got a new heart, so you now have an obligation to make use of it by rejecting temptation to sin and instead yielding to the Holy Spirit living in you."
- "keep seeking the things above" - If you have been born again into a new life with Christ, keep seeking (Gr. - zeteo = to keep on striving). Seeking what? "The things above." What are they?
  - Eph 1:3-15 "Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ ... His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ... 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention ... In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose ... 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance ... "

## Colossians 3:2 (NOTES)

- “Set your mind on the things above” – Don’t focus on the things which inflate your pride or appeal to your sinful flesh (things on the earth). Instead, focus on that which humbles you and magnifies God - the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. Have about you an eternal perspective, seeing everything in your world and life in the context of your relationship with Christ and against the background of the eternity of which you are now already a part.
  - Php 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

## Colossians 3:3 (NOTES)

- “For you have died” - You have had a spiritual heart attack, and the old heart quit. Thus, sin no longer has power over us a). to condemn us to eternal death, nor b). does it have power to reign in us, for the power of the Spirit of God now reigns in us, the power to resist temptation and sin. We now have the will to resist temptation and to avoid sin. Only our mortal bodies, our flesh is in the way, and we must reign over it.
  - Ro 6:4-14 *“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ... 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with [Him,] in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. ... 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body [flesh] so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*
- “your life is hidden with Christ in God” - There are several ways this should be understood. First, having been called out of the world and into His Kingdom, the world no longer recognizes us or knows us or considers you or me one of its own. Second, Christ is in Heaven at the right hand of God, where our citizenship has been secured, and our eternal life is in Him, and His Spirit lives in us. The world cannot see Him and won’t until His return. Third, physically we look the same as non-Christians, only in the spirit realm has there been a distinctive change. Physically, we look unchanged.

**Application:** Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you're having trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

**Closing Prayer**

**Small Groups**