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COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

GOSPEL LIFE



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Many people think of heaven as a shiny place in the clouds where good people go when they die. This isn't entirely accurate. Biblically speaking, heaven is the realm of God—it represents His perfect reign and rule. Jesus told us to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:9). In other words, we should think of heaven not just as a place we will go when we die if we trust Jesus, but also a place we should long to come to bear upon the world we live in now. That's more or less what Paul is going to tell us in Colossians 3:1-17—we should long for Jesus' rule to be demonstrated in our hearts and lives so that we might point more people to Jesus. Jesus calls us to fight sin and to love others like He loves us.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus calls us to fight sin and to love others like He loves us.



EXPLORE

scripture

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you

have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming. **7** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one

another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you

were called in one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE COLOSSIANS 3:2

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

DWELL

Because followers of Christ have been given new life through Christ, Paul's conclusion is that we should have a new focus: the things of God, rather than the things of earth. While it's true that this will eventually involve eternal life with Him in heaven, that's not what Paul is focusing on in these passages. Instead, he is bringing attention to the way we should live in the here and now. Christ is our hiding place and our refuge, and we should look to Him for guidance in how to live, rather than trusting in earthly motives and practices.



What does it mean to be hidden in Christ?



What are some "earthly things" this passage challenges you to change your perspective on?

MEMORIZE

Write Colossians 3:2 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being our trustworthy and eternal source of new life.

day 2

COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

DWELL

This section may, at first glance, appear to be a list of rules that Christians should follow. But Paul isn't giving rules for the believers in Colossae to follow. Instead, he is giving practical examples of what it looks like to turn away from earthly desires and motivations and instead turn our eyes toward Jesus. We should want good fruit to come from our new lives in Christ, and that means we intentionally set aside—put to death—the things that destroy life.

← How is greed idolatry? What does Paul mean by this?

→ In which of these areas do you struggle the most? Who can you turn to for godly guidance and encouragement?

MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Colossians 3:2 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

PRAY

Ask God to help you turn away from practices and attitudes that do not lead you closer to Him.

day 3

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

DWELL

In contrast to Paul's list in verses 5-9, he now gives his readers a list of the holy and Christlike attributes and attitudes that we should strive toward as God's people. He says that we should "put on" these attributes and behaviors, just as he told us to "put away" (v. 8) the negative attributes in his previous list. We should clothe ourselves in these things, like fine clothing.

🔄 What are the things that Paul says we should "put on"? List them.

↔ How can we encourage one another in these things?

MEMORIZE

Write each word from Colossians 3:2 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

PRAY

Thank God for sending His Son as a perfect example for us to follow.

day 4

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

DWELL

When Paul talks about “peace,” he means a lot more than just the absence of conflict or a feeling of being relaxed. The biblical idea of peace carries with it the idea of wholeness, harmony, and safety. In fact, the Greek word for “peace” comes from a word that means to bind or join together things that have been separated. “Peace” and “unity” were connected ideas for Paul and the writers of the Bible. When we look to Christ and imitate him in actions and attitudes that give life, the result is harmony, unity, and wholeness within ourselves, with each other, and with God.

← What does it mean to let the word of Christ dwell among us?

↪ What are some ways that you do this and pray about this with the other believers in your life?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Colossians 3:2 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

PRAY

Ask God to guide you in being a peacemaker in your community.

day 5

JOHN 17:20-23

DWELL

Christian unity is possible because the God who we follow is the very model of unity. Jesus said that He was one with God the Father, and that the Father was one with Him. He prayed for those who believe in Him to be unified as the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are unified and perfectly one—and because Jesus was human as well as divine, His prayers were not simply expressions of something He hoped would happen. He knew that this unity was, is, and will forever be a reality of God’s kingdom.

↑ How does Christian unity show the world the reality of the things Jesus taught?

→ How are you living in ways that show the unity of God to the people around you?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Colossians 3:2 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Say a prayer asking for God’s perfect unity in your church and your community.