

UNION BETHEL AME CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
DIAL – NUMBER: (425) 436-6260 ACCESS CODE: 141997#
Zoom Meeting ID 863-1188 9288, Passcode 782781
Facebook Live @unionbethelameccary
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:30 – 7:30 PM
An Exposition of the Epistle of St Paul to
THE COLOSSIANS

Introduction

Apostle Paul exhorts us to set our hearts upon heaven and take them off this world; he exhorts us to mortify sin, and he lists various instances of it; he earnestly presses for mutual love and compassion. He concludes with exhortations relative to duties of wives and husbands, parents and children, and masters and servants.

Chapter 3

Verses 1-4

The Spiritual Life

- 1) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.**
- 2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth, 3) For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory.**

The apostle, having described our privileges by Christ in the former part of the epistle, and our discharge from the yoke of the ceremonial law, comes here to press upon us our duty. Though we are made free from the obligation of the ceremonial law, it does not mean that we may live any kind of life. We must walk the more closely with God in all instances of obedience. Paul begins with exhorting the Colossians to set their hearts on heaven, and take them off this world. It is our privilege that we have risen with Christ and, have benefit by the resurrection of Christ, and by virtue of our union and communion with Him are justified and sanctified, and shall be glorified. We must be mindful of the concerns of heaven more than the concerns of this world. We must make heaven our scope and aim, and seek the favor of God above. We must keep our

communion with the upper world by faith, hope, and holy love, and make it our constant care and focus. We must secure our title to and qualifications for this heavenly bliss that Christ has secured for us.

We have these privileges because Christ sits at the right hand of God. He who is our best friend and has advanced to the highest dignity and honor in heaven, and has gone before to secure for us heavenly happiness. For that reason we should seek and secure what He has purchased for us by such a vast expense, and is now taking so much care about, for us. We must live such a life as Christ lived here on earth and lives now in heaven, according to our abilities. *Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.* To seek heavenly things is to set our affections upon them, to love them and let our desires be towards them. To be spiritually minded means we should seek and desire a heavenly home. Things on earth are in opposition to the things above. We must not focus our attention on earthly things, but set our affections on heaven, because heaven and earth are contrary one to the other. To have our attention focused on earthly things, weakens our attention to things that are above.

- 3) *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* If we are dead to earthly things, and have renounced them as our main source of happiness, why should we waste our time setting our affections upon them, and seeking after these things. We should be like a dead thing to everything that gratifies our flesh for sensual pleasures only.**
- 4) *When Christ who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.* Christ lives in us by His Spirit, and we should live to Him in all that we do. Christ is coming again when He comes to rapture His saints. Now He is hidden from our view, but when He comes back in all His glory, we that are hidden in Christ will appear with Him, and live with Him in heaven forever.**
- 5) The question that should keep us focused is, will what I am thinking about, saying, or doing bring glory to God? Will the conversation I am in glorify God?**

Verses 5-17

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6) Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7) You used to walk in these ways in the life you once lived. 8) But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouths. 9) Do not lie to each other, now that you have taken off your old self, with its practices 10) and have put on the new self. This new self which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11) In the new self, there is no Gentile, Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace, and be thankful. 16) 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. 17) 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.

Why was it necessary for Paul to clearly define what the Colossians should not do, as Christians?

Instructions for Christian Households

Verses: 18-25

18) Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19) Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21) Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. 22) Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you to gain their favor, but with sincerity of heart. 23) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. 24) Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25) Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Why did Paul give the Colossians specific instructions of what they should and should do as Christians?