

Colossians – Teacher's Notes

Lesson 3 – Chapters 3&4

I. Review

Chapter 1-2 = What Christ Has Done (Doctrine)

Chapters 3-4 = What Christians Should Do (Action)

Chapter 1 – The Preeminence of Christ, He is supreme, He is first is everything

Chapter 2 – The Qualities of a True Church – what Paul wants for them; Paul addresses false teachings in the church.

II. Chapters 3&4

It is not enough for Christ to be preeminent in the Gospel, the cross, creation and the church. He must be preeminent in our lives.

What does it mean to you for Christ to be preeminent in your life?

Read v 1-4.

V 1-2 – (NLT) Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth.

v. 1-4 Heaven should fill our thoughts.

Christ is in you and someday you will receive His glory.

- So seek those things.
- So think about it.
- *The following verses tell us.....* So act like it.

(p. 582) Warren Wiersbe: The new life within demands a new life without.

Adopt attitudes and a lifestyle that reflect a close relationship with Jesus.

We should view everything in light of eternity. Our values of the things of the world will change.

Read V 5-17

A	B	C
Sins of Sexual Attitude and Behavior V 5-7	Sins of Speech V 8-9	Signs of Love V 10-14
Shameful Desires Sexual sin Impurity Lust Greed	Anger Malicious behavior Slander Dirty Language Lying	Mercy Kindness Humility Gentleness Patience Forgiveness Love
Relationship destroyers	Relationship breakers	Relationship builders
3:5 Put these to death	3:8-9 Lay these aside	3:12-13 Practice these things

A. Put to death = Everything that would keep us from fully obeying God and fully surrendering to Christ must be cut off.

- Immorality/impurity – Chastity was a new virtue that Christianity brought to the gentile world. Even today sexual appetite is looked on as something to be gratified, not controlled.
- The world says the church’s attitude is too severe....”It is all right if we love each other.”
- Even in the church we find some who want to change church doctrine to accept those who practice immorality, i.e. homosexuality.
- Passion, evil desires- Many times we allow these to be fed instead of put to death.
- Greed (covetousness), self-seeking, to have desire for what you have no right to. This becomes as idolatry as your life is dominated by the desire to get things instead of given to God.
- Those who live like this will experience the WRATH of God.

B. (Put Off) Speech ---Anger, wrath (vengeful anger), malice (desire to cause pain, injury or distress to another), slander (false charges or misrepresentations which cause damage to another person's reputation), abusive speech, obscene speech), lying.

C. Put on the NEW SELF –

- V 10- Be like the Creator.
- V 11- Renewed mind – accepting all believers as the same in Christ.
- V 12- Chosen of God, Holy & Beloved. These words belonged to the Jews, now they are spoken of the Church.
- V 12-14 – These virtues have to do with man-to-man relationships. (How we act toward one another)
- v. 14-16 Love, unity, peace (When we have love and unity we will have peace.)
- v. 17 - Word and Deed – Whatever you do or say. Give thanks.

III. 3:18-4:1 Relationships

Our love for Christ should translate into life for others.

IV. 4:2-6 Christian Duties

- 1) Devote yourselves to prayer
 - Keeping alert = watch
 - Attitude of thanksgiving
 - Prayer for Paul and other Christian workers – Paul asks for prayer for his work, not himself. He asks for power, not release from circumstances.)
- 2) Conduct yourselves with wisdom. It is not only our words, but our life that attracts people to Christ. Look for opportunities to work for Christ and serve others.
- 3) Let your speech always be with grace. (Godly speech is an important virtue.)

What does it mean to speak with grace?

V. 4:7-18 Fellow workers – People were important to Paul.

Tychicus – delivered the letters to Ephesus and Colosse.

Onesimus – runaway slave being returned to his owner Philemon.

Carries letter from Paul.

Aristarchus – Macedonian from Thessalonica. Was at the riot in Ephesus and was captured by the mob. Was with Paul when he set sail for Rome. May have enrolled as Paul's slave to be able to go with him. Was shipwrecked with Paul. Paul's fellow prisoner in Rome.

Mark

Jesus-Justus.

Epaphras – founder of Colossian church.

Luke – with Paul to the end.

Demas – Called fellow laborer in Philemon. In 2 Tim 4:10 Paul says he left because he loved this present world. He lost enthusiasm and faith.

Nympha –

VI. Read Philemon from NLT version.