

A Practical Study of COLOSSIANS

How Christians Grow

“Christ is All and in All”

Key verse 3:11b — *“Christ is all and in all.”*

Study Number Eight – Christ in My Mind – Colossians 3:1-11

We’re in Colossians 3:1-11. It’s Study #8 in the.

Father, we thank You for Your Word and for the privilege of teaching it. We ask that You would use Your Word in each life, that the insights that come from the text would be meaningful and will be applicable. We thank You so much for Your goodness and grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if when we are thinking wrong thoughts, the Spirit of God would have a beep that would warn us that we are operating in the flesh rather than the spirit? That the Lord of our minds has been taken over by ourselves and all of a sudden we would hear the beep and know that’s something we want to avoid.

Scripture is filled with references about the way you think and how critical it is to every other part of your life.

This is the only place that Satan has an entrée to get us thinking his thoughts, to get us distracted, to get us to be rendered ineffective.

We talked about Stages in Spiritual Development:

Christ Changed My Life in study #1,

The Will, the Walk, and the Work of Christ in study #2,

Christ in First Place in study #3,

Maturing in Christ in study #4,

Living in Christ in study #5,

Christ Living in Me in study #6, and then

Christ, Not Legalism in study #7

Now we're in study #8, "Christ in My Mind."

Let's look at some verses of scripture before we actually dig into the text.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.

1 Peter 1:13

...gird up the loins of your mind...

Do you understand the picture there? Long flowing robes were tucked in the belt so that they could run and jog just like a pair of running shorts. Or if they were going to do battle or do work they tucked it into the belt around them.

“...gird up the loins of your mind...”

In other words, be careful what you think about.

In Philippians 2, Paul actually gives us a command:

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Then the rest of that passage describes the mind of Christ who emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of men, humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death upon a cross. (ref. Philippians 2:6-8)

He wraps up Philippians with the MENTAL MENU of the mind of Christ in verse 8 of chapter 4:

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things

are honorable, whatever things are right, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever is of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

Trying to summarize so that we can get started on the text with some meaning and purpose, the mental discipline of allowing Christ to control our minds is the key to victory and to spiritual growth. So this is a central issue.

It is this area of the mind that Satan has his base of operation. He knows that he can defeat us if first our desires can be triggered through the eye-gate. Then we begin to think about it with the mind and the mind then triggers the will and action takes place.

This passage of scripture fits here:

Mark 7:20-23

And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Now where do thoughts of depression, discouragement, delay, desire, anxiety, where do all these come from? That's Satan's one assault to the mind.

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them.

Satan realizes that if he can affect the mind then he can affect the conduct in the life.

Now let these verses grab you and prepare you for the significance of what we're getting ready to look at.

Romans 12:2

Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed [HOW?] by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 4:23, 24

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Becoming a Christian involves a NEW MIND-SET. The Spirit of God energizes that new mind. That's where all the wonderful things come from the fruitage of the Spirit and His presence in our lives.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive unto the obedience of Christ,

This is the Lord talking:

Isaiah 55:8-9

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” sayeth the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Maybe you go through the day in neutral and you’re hoping that you’re thinking the Lord’s thoughts. That’s not the way it happens.

You have to surrender that mind to the Lord at the beginning of the day and be aware of what He has for a plan and purpose for us, so that we fight the good fight when we recognize when we’ve gotten sidetracked and off track. We have to stop and get it back on track.

Christ In My Mind.

The epistles of the apostle written to some of these churches like Ephesus, Philippi and Colosse. All have one kind of format. He deals with DOCTRINAL TRUTH in the first half and then with PRACTICAL TRUTH in the last half.

We have just passed from the doctrinal truth into the practical. The rest of the series is going to be an application to our individual lives as believers. He's talked about the Gnostics. He's talked about all of these things that were resident in Colosse and now he wants to apply it to their lives. That's where we are.

Our **KEY VERSE** out of the eleven is verse 2.

The one thing about this study that's different than all of the other studies is we have **TWO KEY VERSES**. The key verse for the whole book is Colossians 3:11.

Our key verse then is verse 2. There are **FIVE COMMANDS** in the passage.

There's a command in verses 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9.

Those 5 commands weld the passage together because now he's digging into the practical aspects and giving commands as to what he feels would be the solution to the problem in the Colossian church.

v. 1 Since, therefore, you were raised with Christ, be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

“Since, therefore, you were raised with Christ,”—here comes the **COMMAND**—“be seeking the things above, where Christ

is seated at the right hand of God.”

“Since, therefore,”—he’s going back to chapter 2 and describing that we were identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, and risen to newness of life. He’s telling us we need to start thinking from a heavenly perspective.

“seeking the things above,”

Eugene Peterson in *The NET Bible* paraphrases it this way:

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides.

In other words, you have your feet on earth but your head in heaven. You’re looking forward with great expectation and anticipation to what’s ahead for you in that glorious time when we’re home with the Lord.

He’s moving out of the classroom and he’s getting into everyday life. He starts right out with a command:

“Since, therefore, you were raised with Christ,”

Then he’s going to say **TWO THINGS**. The key verse is going to be verse 2, but the first thing he says now here in verse 1 is:

“be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the

right hand of God.”

Matthew 6:33

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these other things will be taken care of, be added unto you.

Instead of seeking for fame, wealth, popularity and honor, as Christians we should be concentrating on “things above.”

The questions we ask ourselves are:

What are our priorities?

Where do our thoughts go first thing in the morning?

Is it to the Lord and are we thankful that we’re still above ground and we’re having another opportunity to serve Him and to be more intimately involved with Him?

What is our first love?

All of these are questions that relate to our communion with the Lord. Concentrate on your communion. Get your head in heaven. It’s going to make life all that more meaningful down here on earth.

Here’s Billy Graham. This is what we mean about having your head in heaven. He actually gives the concept by the fact that old age is supposed to do this for us. Listen to what he

says:

(Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well by Billy Graham)

NEARING HOME WITH TRIUMPHANT EXPECTATIONS

While growing old has been the greatest surprise of my life, the greatest triumph is yet to come: experiencing victory over death that will usher me into the eternal presence of my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ....

I often wonder if God, in His sovereignty, allows the eyesight of the aged to cast a dim view of the here and now so that we may focus our spiritual eyes on the ever after.

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Does that sound like another translation of Colossians 3:1? He's basically saying that he has a lot up there in heaven. And he's looking forward not only to seeing Ruth (his wife), but to seeing the Lord Jesus Christ, the One whom he's served all of these years.

It's telling us that the secret to the joy and the fulfillment and the fruitfulness of our lives at any age is the thoughts we have of heaven, and the thoughts we have of Christ.

“seeking the things above,”

Seeking FELLOWSHIP and COMMUNION.

John MacArthur gives us a long list of what it means to “seek above”:

...tenderness, kindness, meekness, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, strength, purity, and love.

p. 128 (source unknown)

All those things are going to be true of heaven and so you would think of those things.

If we are laying up treasure, bearing fruit and serving the body of Christ then we are on target with what we need to be doing. But we must have the total and complete control of the Head who is in heaven. We must consult Him so that we’re not off track.

Command #1: “be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

From the Greek point of view this is a **PRESENT IMPERATIVE**.

Translated this literally means “be seeking the things above and keep on seeking regularly.”

It’s something that should be a part and parcel of everything we do every day.

The **PRESENT TENSE** would bear that out.

Keep on “seeking things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Esther DeWaal made this great statement:

(Take My Heart, O God: Riches from the Greatest Christian Women Writers of All Times by Sarah Young)

Uncrowd my heart, O God, / until silence speaks, / in your still, small voice, / turn me . . . to listening, waiting, stillness, silence.

—ESTHER DEWAAL

p. 1/5

And Gary Thomas in *The Glorious Pursuit*:

(The Glorious Pursuit: Embracing the Virtues of Christ by Gary L. Thomas)

An undisciplined inner life—one that is attached to the world even as it seeks to fight it—is misery defined. Some of us live spiritually like a person on a diet who has a freezer full of Häagen-Daz ice cream. If you’re serious about the diet, you’ll get the ice cream out of the house, right? Otherwise, you’ll simply make yourself miserable. We halfheartedly want to follow God and live holy lives, all the while surrounding ourselves with temptation.

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Command #2 is here in verse 2—our KEY VERSE for the study.

Why are we talking about the mind of Christ? There it is.

v. 2 Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth.

“Be setting”—PRESENT IMPERATIVE again.

“Be setting your mind upon things above, not on things on the earth.”

The priority of our mental menu should be HEAVENLY and not earthly.

“setting your mind upon things above,”

Keep on doing it. Keep on thinking. Keep on seeking those things which are above.

He uses a POSITIVE and a NEGATIVE here in verse 2.

POSITIVELY—“Be setting your mind upon things above,”

NEGATIVELY—“not on things on the earth.”

We have a transformed mind. We have a transformed life.

Our primary focus as a believer growing in Christ is to be

thinking more of heaven than we're thinking of here "things on earth."

We can summarize this by saying:

The more I think about the Lord Jesus and my eternal destiny with Him, the more the things of this life are placed in their proper perspective. And I see the relative unimportance of things here in comparison to eternal things.

Is Christ and His mind the dominant characteristic in your life?

Have you made Christ the Lord of your mind?

Have you ever thought about this? Have you been concerned about your thought life? Realizing that that's Satan's entrée to all of the things that we face?

Christians are defeated by impure thoughts, impure things, thoughts of this world. Our thoughts should be in heaven and the joy of being forever with the Lord.

Command #1: "be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

Seek and keep on seeking with a daily discipline.

Command #2: "Be setting your mind on things above,"

“Be setting” and keeping on setting—daily discipline again—
“your mind on things above.”

Here’s a little section out of the Sermon on the Mount. The most familiar part is Matthew 6:19-34.

Matthew 6:19-21

“Don’t lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart and also your mind be.

Down to the end of that he says:

Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

So he’s putting it all in perspective for us.

It turned out that Charles Haddon Spurgeon was so impressed with Thomas Brooks that he put together a little book as the editor of his famous statements. What a treasure it is. Listen to this:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

When men have poor, low, light, slight, thoughts of God in their drawing near to God, they tempt the devil to bestir himself, and to cast in a multitude of vain thoughts to disturb and distract the soul in its waiting on God.

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Listen to what Ruth Paxson says:

(Life on the Highest Plane: A Study of the Spiritual Nature and Needs of Man by Ruth Paxson)

Do I hear someone say, This is too high a standard for me, it is not only impossible but unattractive. I am on the earth and in this world, therefore why should I not live as though I were and enjoy what this earth and this world have to give me and leave the enjoyment of heaven until I reach there? Such is the reasoning of vast numbers of Christians and their lives are in full harmony with their reasoning. As someone has aptly said they have become Christians much as a man takes out a life insurance policy—something that does not in any way alter one's manner of living but will be of use after death and is maintained with the payment of a yearly premium. With many a person becoming a Christian has made little if any difference in either his character or conduct. He is still of the earth—earthy.

Is it not conceivable that God would have us become acclimated to our eternal home in heaven with Christ during our transient stay on earth?

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She asks the hard questions and puts it to us. She sure strikes reality.

Let's see what Leighton Ford has to say. He was involved in the Billy Graham Crusade:

(The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things by Leighton Ford)

Often during a recent Lent I prayed a prayer that our pastor suggested: "Lord, show me what I am missing." Let us start this journey together where we are, with that prayer, and see what he shows us.

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The Attentive Life—Looking before the Lord at what we're missing by our unwillingness to allow Him to do what He wants to do.

Spurgeon says:

(Exploring the Mind & Heart of the Prince of Preachers: Five-thousand illustrations under one-thousand topical headings from the works of C. H. Spurgeon by C. H. Spurgeon)

We must learn to hear what we do not like. The question is not, “Is it pleasant?” but, “Is it true?” 2130.107
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If it is true, then we need to respond in obedience.

v. 3 For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

“For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.”

So many people are insecure about their relationship to the Lord. The Lord not only saved you but He hides you in the hollow of His hand. (ref. Isaiah 49:2)

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; they shall never perish, neither shall any one pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hands.

We died with Christ. We’ve been risen to newness of life. But we are “hidden with Christ in God.”

Paul gets close to that in:

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ is living within me.

Romans 8:38-39

...nothing shall separate us from the love of God, which is ours in Christ Jesus.

John Newton always has a way of catching it. He says in “Amazing Grace”

Rejoice, believer, in the Lord,
who makes your cause his own;
the hope that is founded on his work
shall ne'er be overthrown.

Though many foes beset your road,
and feeble is your arm,
your life is hid with Christ in God
beyond the reach of harm.

(<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/RL/469>)

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

O Christians, how justly may that father be angry with his child who is unwilling to come home? and how justly may

that husband be displeased with the wife who is unwilling to ride to him in a rainy day, or to cross the sea to enjoy his company? But is not this your case? is not this just your case, who have God for your portion, and yet are unwilling to die, that you may come to a full enjoyment of him?

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v. 4 Whenever Christ, who is our life, is made visible, then also you with Him shall be made visible in glory.

“Whenever Christ, who is our life, is made visible, then also you shall be made visible with Him in glory.”

You are going to be “made visible...with Him”—“visible in glory.”

It took the purchase of the blood of His own Son to provide that for us.

Whenever Christ, who is our life—that would go back to 1 John 5:

1 John 5:11, 12

And this is a record that God hath given to us, eternal life. And this life is in His son. He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life.

All of those would fit here at this point. He is the giver of life.

“then also you with Him shall be made visible in glory.”

1 John 3:2, 3

...soon we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this home in him, purifies himself, even as he is pure.

Yesterday we were BORN, today we LIVE, and tomorrow we must DIE. We are not stable or stationary. We're on a trip. We're heading toward home.

Command #3 is not very pretty. In verse 5 it's telling us to put some things to death.

When you're thinking right, and with the mind of the Lord, there are going to be some things that drop out of your life.

v. 5 Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon the earth: fornication (immorality), impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

“Put to death, therefore,”—and he mentions FIVE THINGS here and another five things down in verse 8.

“Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon the earth:”—FIVE THINGS—“fornication (immorality), impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

We'll explain that last one, "covetousness," which is IDOLATRY, shortly.

Command #1: "seek things above,"

Command #2: "set your mind on things above,"

Command #3: "Put to death, therefore, the members which are upon the earth:"

He then lists these FIVE THINGS.

Try putting them in REVERSE. When you think of them in reverse, you look at it from the standpoint of experience—real life.

It's for SELF-GRATIFICATION, it's SELF-CENTERED, it's using the temple of the Holy Spirit as an INSTRUMENT FOR SIN.

Romans 6:13

neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Augustine, who struggled with a lot of this, said:

“To my God a heart of flame; To my fellow man a heart of love;
To myself a heart of steel.”
(source unknown)

Realizing and recognizing the seriousness of it.

“Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon earth.”

1. Now you understand “immorality” is any sexual activity outside the bound of marriage.
2. “Impurity” is the motive of the heart.
3. Then you have the “passion” which is physical lust.
4. The “evil desire”—looking with lustful intentions.
5. “covetousness, which is idolatry.”

How is “covetousness” idolatry? It’s wanting more and more and more. It’s when what you want has literally become an idol. It can be any good thing, but to want it without the Lord’s providing it is like “idolatry.” That thing becomes more important to you than the Lord Himself.

REVERSE the five words:

1. The immoral individual looks at this lovely young lady and desires to have her for himself.

2. He's filled with evil intentions that do not come from a pure heart.
3. It progresses to love based on the physical.
4. His mind is filled with thoughts of doing what he knows is a violation of the law of God.
5. Then the actual act of immorality is committed.

“Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon the earth:”

Flee, stand, do not conform. Don't go along with it.

Chuck Colson tells of one morning when he was invited to speak at a prison and there were over 400 inmates there. He said:

(The Faith: What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It, and Why It Matters by Charles Colson and Harold Fickett)

I spoke to between three and four hundred excited inmates jammed in the chapel that morning, many apparently serious believers. Five minutes into my talk I asked them the question that had struck me that morning, “Okay, now, you fellows that are in here, you are the experts. Why is it that we as a nation are filling so many prisons?”

Dozens among the guys sitting there in their blue denim uniforms began shouting out, “Sin!” The word became a

ringing chorus. ... These men have lived it, though. They know the truth.

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Richard Rushing, who is one of the Puritan writers from *Voices from the Past*, says:

(Voices from the Past: Puritan Devotional Readings edited by Richard Rushing)

When lust is up and eager for fulfillment, all considerations of eternal glory and blessedness are laid aside to give it satisfaction. [That's what Satan does when he attacks the mind.] Many part with the joys of Christianity for the vilest price. A little pleasure, a little gain, a little happiness in the world, will make men part with all that is honest and sacred.
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It's almost like he's writing right for today.

(Life on the Highest Plane: A Study of the Spiritual Nature and Needs of Man by Ruth Paxson)

To master my will, He had to melt my heart.
(source unknown)

Surrender is a crisis that develops into a process.
(source unknown)

The longevity of the surrender involves new things every day

as we become aware of those things which are offensive to the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

Listen to Oswald Chambers:

(My Utmost For His Highest by Oswald Chambers)

Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence.

(source unknown)

Maybe you're thinking that about thoughts right now and those are not spiritual thoughts. Get back on track again and realize the Lord has something special for you.

In the very next word, the Lord is not trying to rob you of joy. He's protecting you from wrath. He's protecting you from an angry God. He really gets ticked when His children are living like we've had described in verse 5.

So as a loving Father says put these things away. Why?

v. 6 Because of which things there is coming the wrath of God,

“Because of which things there is coming the wrath of God,”

Hebrews 10:31

It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be misled; you cannot ignore God and get away with it; a man will always reap just the crop that he has sown.

A. W. Tozer never went to seminary but what a legacy in his writings. Warren Wiersbe has done a great job in collecting much of his salient writings into two small volumes. Listen to this:

(The Best of A. W. Tozer: Book 2 compiled by Warren W. Wiersbe)

But God's justice stands forever against the sinner in utter severity. The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions. It hushes their fears and allows them to practice all pleasant forms of iniquity while death draws every day nearer and the command to repent goes unregarded. As responsible moral beings we dare not so trifle with our eternal future.

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Here's Erwin Lutzer:

(Making the Best of a Bad Decision: How to Put Your Regrets Behind you, Embrace Grace, and Move Toward a Better Future by Erwin W. Lutzer)

The human mind has the capacity to rationalize anything the heart really wants.

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That's why the covetousness is idolatry that we saw at the end of the warning.

v. 7 in which things also you once ordered your behavior when you were living in them.

“in which things also you once ordered your behavior when you were living in them.”

This is the way our life was before we came to know Christ. Now our life is hidden with Christ in God. We are seeking things above not things down here on the earth.

2 Corinthians 5:7

...we are made new creations in Jesus Christ...

Command #4:

v. 8 But now put away also all these things: anger, wrath, wickedness, evil speaking, abusive language out of your mouth.

“But now put away also all these things: anger, wrath, wickedness, evil speaking, abusive language out of your mouth.”

Most of the others hurt the individual. This hurts others. Most of it has to do with SPEECH and the use of the tongue.

On top of this be careful how you use your TONGUE. We realize that our tongue is an instrument of our mind. Out of the mouth will come what you're thinking. He makes it quite clear that these are things that need to be "put away" as well.

First of all he says, as you realize these things are going to harm others:

1. "put away...anger,"

This is a continuous attitude of hatred that remains bottled up within. Outbursts of anger, malice, doing evil despite the good that you have received, slander (destroying another person's good reputation), crude talk, abusive language, expletives—all of these things.

Listen to Coach John Wooden's prayer:

(Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success by John Wooden & Jay Carty)

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, show me if selfish ambition is getting in the way of our relationship and help me to set noble goals that will be pleasing in Your sight and bring glory to You. Thank You.

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In essence, a prayer like that has to come from a man who really knew the Lord himself.

Gary Thomas has written a book that takes all these old writers, priests who are living in a monastery—Scupoli, William Law, Rushing, and other great writers—and he uses their writings to show us how to struggle with the flesh. He shows us how to accept the reality of the flesh and how to tune in to the Spirit of God who's trying to produce holiness within us. Listen to what he has to say in this book:

(Thirsting for God: Spiritual Refreshment for the Sacred Journey by Gary L. Thomas)

Most of us want to be rid of our longstanding sins in a day. We think that by praying, "I'll never do it again!" we can somehow shout ourselves out of years of habitual failure. True holiness focuses on drawing near to God. As the love of God fills our hearts, the desire for sin is cut off and withers. But this is a process, not an overnight experience. Stress, confusion, weariness . . . any number of things can resurrect old sinful habits. That is why we must continually apply ourselves anew to loving God.

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Elisabeth Elliot said it:

(Take My Heart, O God: Riches from the Greatest Christian Women Writers of All Times by Sarah Young)

Until the will and affections are brought under the authority of Christ, we have not begun to understand, let alone to accept, His Lordship.

—ELISABETH ELLIOT

(source unknown)

Our mind is part of it.

Command #5 is in verse 9.

Notice we translated it as “Stop lying.” Whenever you have a **NEGATIVE PRESENT IMPERATIVE** you can use the word “STOP.”

John 14:1

...Stop being troubled in your hearts...

They were troubled. Here they’re obviously lying to teach other.

v. 9 Stop lying to one another, seeing you have put off the old man with his practices,

“Stop lying to one another, seeing you have put off the old man with his practices,”

Now focus on **TRUTH** and **HONESTY**.

Command #5 is “Stop lying.”

He says the same thing to the Ephesian saints in:

Ephesians 4:25

Stop lying to each other and tell the truth, for we are parts of one another and when we lie to each other we are hurting ourselves.

v. 10 and having clothed yourselves with the new man who is being renewed in knowledge according to the pattern likeness of the One who created him,

“and having clothed yourselves with the new man”—which is Christ in you, the hope of glory—“who is being renewed in knowledge according to the pattern likeness of the One who created him,”

We are being made like Christ on a regular basis when we’re fully cooperating with the Spirit’s work internally in our lives.

v. 11 where there cannot be Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all and in all.

“where there cannot be Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or freeman,”

You can’t be all divided up into all these various bodies. But

the KEY VERSE to the whole epistle is:

“Christ is all”—that a man needs—“and He is in all” that a man does.

In this verse we have SEGREGATION or the SAVIOR.

“Thou oh Christ art all I want,” Charles Wesley said, “more than all in Thee I find.”
(source unknown)

Whatever we do we do to the glory of God. Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do. “Christ is all” that a person needs and He’s “in all” that a person does. Find great joy wherever you are.

There are 14 lessons that come out of our study.

LESSON #1: The mind is the citadel of all that has to do with Christian growth and development.

LESSON #2: Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:13 to gird up the loins of our mind (DAV).

LESSON #3: Paul tells the Philippians to “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (2:5).

LESSON #4: “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Phil. 4:8).

LESSON #5: The mental discipline of allowing Christ to control our minds is the key to victory and spiritual growth.

LESSON #6: Becoming a Christian involves a new mind-set. 2 Corinthians 10:5: “we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (DAV).

LESSON #7: “Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth” (verse 2).

LESSON #8: Have you been concerned about your thought life? The impure thoughts, the thoughts of this world? These are the things that Satan uses to distract us from being victorious in our thought-life.

LESSON #9: Philippians 4:8: “And now finally, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say one more thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about” (TLB).

LESSON #10: We are joined with Christ, where He is, we also shall be. Christ, who is our life.

LESSON #11: Our bodies can be the instruments of sin or the temples of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON #12: “Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth” (verse 2). “Put to death, therefore,

your members . . . upon the earth” (verse 5).

LESSON #13: Colossians 3:11 is the key verse to the whole epistle. Christ is all that a man needs and he is in all that a man does. He meets all of my needs no matter what they are. He is in all that I do.

LESSON #14: “Jesus Christ is made to me, All I need, all I need. He alone is all my plea, He is all I need.” Living water, bread of life. White robe of righteousness Christ be all for us. We ought to be all for Him.

Let’s wrap up with a piece of poetry by Ruth Paxson:

(Life on the Highest Plane: A Study of the Spiritual Nature and Needs of Man by Ruth Paxson)

“Oh! the bitter shame and sorrow,
That a time could ever be,
When I let the Saviour’s pity
Plead in vain, and proudly answered—
‘All of Self and none of Thee.’”

“Yet He found me: I beheld Him
Bleeding on the cursed tree;
Heard Him pray, ‘Forgive them Father,’
And my wistful heart said faintly—
‘Some of Self and some of Thee.’”

“Day by day His tender mercy,

Healing, helping, full and free,
Sweet and strong, and oh! so patient,
Brought me lower while [He] whispered—
‘Less of Self and more of Thee.’

“Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea;
Lord, thy love at last has conquered:
Grant me now my soul’s petition—
‘None of Self and all of Thee.’”

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Father, we thank You that You have provided such an abundant life for us. We are such slow learners. Father, thank You that the blessings just come and we’re overwhelmed and the joy is ours daily as we seek You first. That we’re able to assure others of the blessings You provide. Lord thank You that with technology Your word can be spread quicker than ever before. And we pray that You’ll energize us to share Your Word with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

A Practical Study of EPHESIANS

HEAVEN'S PLAN for Life on Earth

“What It’s Like Living According to God’s Plan”

Key verse 3:11b — *“Christ is all and in all.”*

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT – CHRIST IN MY MIND – COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

KEY VERSE 3:2

- v. 1 Since, therefore, you were raised with Christ, be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
- v. 2 Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth.
- v. 3 For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.
- v. 4 Whenever Christ, who is our life, is made visible, then also you with Him shall be made visible in glory.
- v. 5 Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon the earth: fornication (immorality), impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- v. 6 Because of which things there is coming the wrath of God,
- v. 7 in which things also you once ordered your behavior when you were living in them.
- v. 8 But now put away also all these things: anger, wrath, wickedness, evil speaking, abusive language out of your mouth.
- v. 9 Stop lying to one another, seeing you have put off the old man with his practices,
- v.10 and having clothed yourselves with the new man who is being renewed in knowledge according to the pattern likeness of the One who created him,
- v.11 where there cannot be Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all and in all.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 3:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How do we implement the command in verse 1 to be “seeking the things above?”

3. How does one change the set of his mind?

4. What is our source of security, according to verse 3?

5. What are we asked to “put to death,” according to verse 5?

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6. What is God's attitude about these things, according to verse 6?

7. What other things are we asked to do in verses 8 & 9?

8. What does it mean to clothe ourselves with the "new man?"

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

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