**Living in Christ**

What does this new life in Christ look like? It is far different than a life lived according to traditions of men or worldly philosophies. This new life is dramatically different.

**Text:** Colossians 3:1-11

**Body:**

1. **Seeking the Heavenly** Colossians 3:1-4 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” NKJV

* “Raised with Christ” – Baptism is the line that separates the saved from the lost. (Acts 2:38) “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” NKJV After baptism, one is a new creature. (Romans 6:3-4) “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” NKJV
* “Things above” – Eternal, heavenly, spiritual (Philippians 4:8) “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.” NKJV
* Seek implies effort and work. (Romans 12:1-2) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” NKJV
* Set your mind, attention, affection on things above.

“A gospel preacher had announced on his broadcast that his topic next Sunday would be “Heaven.” He received this letter which wonderfully illustrates where the Christian’s heart should be. ‘Next Sunday you are to talk about “Heaven.” I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation, since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than a century I have been sending material out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe has been building a home for me, which will never need to be repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and already ready for me to enter and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected. There is a valley of shadows. But I am not afraid, because the best Friend that I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted 55 years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form, never to forsake nor leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of the shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me. I hope to hear your sermon on “Heaven” next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, California, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has no date marked for the journey – no return coupon – and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day.”

**Source Unknown**

* Lay up treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” NKJV
* “For you died” – Dead to the rule of sin (Galatians 5:24) “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” NKJV Walk in the light rather than darkness.
* “Hidden with Christ” (Galatians 2:20) “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” NKJV
* Heavenly anticipation fuels and sustains the Christian. (I John 3:2) “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” NKJV

1. **Put to Death the Earthly** Colossians 3:5-9 “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,” NKJV
2. We must not let sin reign in our bodies. (Romans 6:12-13) “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” NKJV

* “Fornication” – Every kind of unlawful or illicit sexual intercourse (I Corinthians 5:1) “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles – that a man has his father’s wife!” NKJV
* “Uncleanness” – Immorality, improper sexual conduct, a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19) “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,” NKJV
* “Passion” – Uncontrolled desires that enslave a person (I Thessalonians 4:4-5) “that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;” NKJV
* “Evil desire” – Craving for what is forbidden
* “Covetousness” – Greed (Matthew 6:24) “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” NKJV

Greed is idolatry because it puts our minds on things below, not things above. (Luke 12:15) “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ ” NKJV

* The future wrath of God motivates us to put to death these earthly desires. (Galatians 5:21) “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” NKJV

1. We must put off the following sins. These sins were troubling the Christians at Colossae.

* “Anger” – A settled feeling of hatred (James 1:20) “for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” NKJV
* “Wrath” – Rage; outburst of emotion
* “Malice” – Ill-will; vicious attitude (Ephesians 4:31) “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” NKJV
* “Blasphemy” – Slander; malicious gossip
* “Filthy language” – Foul, indecent language; harmful (Ephesians 4:29) “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” NKJV
* “Lying” – A willful intent to deceive by words or silence
* Why? Because we have put off the old self and have been raised a new man.

1. **Renew the New Man** Colossians 3:10-11 “and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” NKJV

* The “New Man” is put on in baptism. (Galatians 3:27) “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” NKJV We “put on Christ.”
  + His compassion (Matthew 9:30) “Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.” NKJV

* + His holiness (I Peter 1:14-15) “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,” NKJV
  + His humility (John 13:4-5, 14) “rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” NKJV
  + His justice (John 5:30) “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” NKJV
* This new man must be continually renewed in the knowledge of the image of Christ. (II Corinthians 4:10) “always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

Our Heavenly Father expects changes in the lives of His people. I may be able to come to Jesus “Just As I Am,” but I cannot remain “Just As I Am.” We must always be moving in the direction of Christ and His Word.

Bobby Stafford February 12, 2017 Colossians: Lesson 9 Colossians 3:1-11