

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

LESSON: AFFECTION FOR THINGS ABOVE—

July 13, 2025

LESSON:

I. COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Paul had been telling the Colossians that man-made religion appears very wise, but has no value against fleshly indulgence. Their dependence should be a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The believer's life is a life risen with Christ.

1. **First, seek** those *"things above"*, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

This means that the believer's life is to be in union with Christ. When He rose from the dead, we rose with Him, we conquered death, and we are raised to new life. ¹If the Colossians have died to self, and been resurrected with the life of Christ, then they will **seek** those things that pertain to the kingdom of heaven, and not things down here on the earth. And we will see Christ sitting at the right hand of God who is the Head over us, Colossian 1:18.

3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2. **Second, set** your *"affection"* (*phromēite*), the likings of your mind on things above and not on things on the earth. Have a heavenly perspective on things above, and not earthly perspective on things below.

Christians believers, who walk in the spirit, do not seek the wealth of the world, political positions of authority in the world for self; or even corporate positions of power and authority in the world for self, instead, seek the things pertaining to the kingdom of heaven, which pertains to the coming millennial kingdom of Christ on the earth.

3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. We change our behavior by letting Christ live within us, so that He can shape us into what we should be, rather than merely what we might want to be in ourselves. Paul says that we have already died with Christ; that is, co-crucifixion, and co-resurrection, with Christ spiritually, therefore we are locked together with Christ in security. Christ is now our life and gives us power to help us live, and He gives us hope for the future. This is where our real lives are lived—through Him.

3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Christ is now our life; our power to help us live, and our hope for the future. This is where our real lives are lived—through Him. And one day, Christ will be returning to earth. And if you are a Christian, whether your body died or was *"Raptured"*, you will return with Him. You will be revealed in glory, even as He will be.

II. COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

Ungodliness can be seen as a departure from God's Will, a lack of reverence for Him, and a life characterized by disobedience, sin and a disregard to His teachings. It is a condition of being polluted with sin; contrary to the nature of God!

Put Away: Sins of the Flesh

¹ <http://www.ffruits.org/firstfruits02/bookofcolossians.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:—

TERMS:

- **Mortify:** put to death quickly.
- **Fornication:** illicit sexual intercourse between unmarried partners; similar to, but not identical with adultery.
- **Uncleanness:** impurity in thought and speech, dirty mindedness, indecency.
- **Inordinate affection:** depraved passion, uncontrolled lust, an evil desire.
- **Evil concupiscence:** wicked craving and sensualness beyond natural expression.
- **Covetousness:** greedy desire to have more; entire disregard for the right of others.
- **Idolatry:** the worship of false gods, putting things in place of God.

Since we have died with Christ, we need to consider our bodies as unresponsive and dead to the idolatrous pursuit of evil (the things listed above). The flesh must be kept in the place of death. It must be kept nailed to the cross. This is never easy, so we must make a conscious, daily decision to live according to God's values and to rely on the Holy Spirit's power. Paul tells the Colossians to "**mortify**" or put to death the "**members**" (those animal impulses that are earthly) in you; the old fleshly nature. Therefore, consider the members as alive to God and dead to sin. **The point is:** There is the fleshly nature, and there is the spiritual nature. The contrast is easy to understand. The Spirit urges us to put to death, "**sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**" God does not regard sin with indifference. Sin is sin whether you call it "**little**" or "**big**."

3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:— It is because of these things that come from the old flesh nature that the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience (unbelievers), that these Colossians once walked in and practiced (**3:7**). The Greek word for "**wrath**" means anger associated with punishment. The verse is clear that His anger and punishment will come upon the children of disobedience.

3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. Yes, you used to be immoral, greedy, lustful, and impure. But now as a Christian. This is not to be present in your life. Does this mean that you are not tempted? That your body doesn't have immoral desires? That your mind isn't tempted by money? Not at all, however, your response to those temptations should be very different than they used to be. It's a choice! Put them to death (cut away; mortify) and do not entertain them!

Put Off: Sins of the Will

3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

TERMS:

- **Anger:** uncontrolled temper, a deep-seated emotion of ill-will, a settled feeling of habitual hate, revengeful resentment.
- **Wrath:** boiling agitation, fiery outburst of temper, violent fit of rage, passionate outbreak of exasperation.
- **Malice:** vicious disposition, depraved spite, willful desire to injure, cruel malignity which rejoices in evil to others.
- **Blasphemy:** slanderous talk, reviling, evil speaking, railing insults, reckless and bitter abuse.
- **Filthy communication:** obscene speech, shameful speaking, foul-mouthed abuse, dirty epithets, unclean stories.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

The sins we had to put away in verse 5 were of the body. Now, we have the sins that are done with spiteful actions toward others. Paul exhorts them to *"put off, lay aside, and rid themselves of"* the sins that they now practice, and he lists these sins as follows: temper, angry outbursts, ill-will toward fellow Christians, malicious gossip, and vulgar speech coming out of their mouths. This list is a bit different from the one Paul gave directly before it. These things are spiteful actions toward others that characterize the sympathy of lost children of disobedience in the domain of darkness. They are transgressors of Christ's Law of Love.

Paul was appealing to the commitment the believers had made in their baptism and urging them to remain true to their confession of faith. **The point is:** these Christians had already put away many sins in their lives, but they still had many sins in their lives that they still held on to, and needed to put away from themselves. So, when people see these things coming from Christians, what do you suppose they think? (*"There's not much difference between him and most everyone else in the world"*). But we are different because of the Spirit of God within us to rely on!

So, the way the Spirit is telling us to deal with these things in our current every day state of salvation is that we are to cast them off now, in the same manner as the old man was cast off in the past by Christ. You see this is not works for salvation. This is working out the salvation that you already have in the Spirit, with awe and reverence. The word Paul uses for **"cast them off"**, is a Greek word that is used for taking off dirty clothes and throwing them aside. Paul's point is that we are in the new man of the last Adam, which is Christ. We have already put off the old man, which of course is the old self, which represents the body of the first fallen Adam. In salvation, now we are in the one new man which is the body of Christ, that Christ established in Himself. Paul explains that Christ **"in Himself"** makes all groups of people whom He saves, **"... into one new man,"** Ephesians 2:15.

Don't Lie:

3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;— One temptation that we find that is so easy to give into is to lie to one another. We lie for many reasons: to protect our reputation, to make things easier for ourselves, or to stay out of trouble. Paul is calling this to the attention of the Colossians, telling these Christians to stop lying to each other, since they had put off the old man or the old nature. The Colossian Christians are to tell the truth in every situation. If he does slip, and tell a lie, he is convicted of it by the Holy Spirit, repents and gets cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Many Christians today will tell a lie without the slightest feeling of guilt. Many Christians do not even comprehend that lying is a grave sin. Because, the truth of the matter is, when we lie to one another, we're really lying to God. There is no difference in a little lie or big lie, a lie is a lie.

Put On The New Man

3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:— In addition to *"putting off the old man"*, the Colossians had to also *"put on the new man"*, which is a reference to the new life in Christ. The new man is the person you are, after being saved. The new man is received, from Christ, at the time of the second birth, and is the regenerated man, the new nature. The new man is the nature of Christ and the new man must be renewed in knowledge in the believers who have decided to follow Christ. **"Renewed"** speaks of a continuous action. Sanctification is a continuing part of the Salvation process that affects both character and conduct to be fashioned after the image of Jesus Christ. It requires perseverance and tenacity in the process of the soul, and it will not be complete until the point of death or rapture. The battle of the new



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

man occurs in our minds. That is why your mind must be renewed in the full knowledge of the New Covenant in Christ. And this is the action that we would have to take. When we renew our minds with God's revealed knowledge, we hold our heads up high and dwell on heavenly things; meaning practice, review over and over His Word; and we learn and obey His Will. The **"new man"** does not lie but speak the truth. It is the old man or the old flesh nature that causes us to lie. The **new man** that is being conformed to the image of Christ is trustworthy. You can count on him to speak the truth. Becoming more like Christ will take a lifetime.

No Distinctions

3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. As a Christian becomes conformed to the image of Christ, all distinctions (differences) disappear. **Nationality Distinctions** disappear as there is neither Greek nor Jew. Jews referred to all people outside the Nation of Israel as Greeks. In this day we would say there is neither Jew nor Gentile for the Christian conformed to the image of Christ. There are no **Religious Distinctions** (i.e., circumcised or uncircumcised) for the Christian that is in Christ. We are all one when we walk in Christ. There are no **Cultural Distinctions** when we are in Christ. Anyone foreign to Greek culture was a Barbarian, and a Scythian was a wild, savage nomad. Cultures disappear when Christians become conformed to the image of Christ. **Economic or Social Distinctions** (i.e., slave or free) disappear when Christians put on the life of Christ. It is important to understand that this verse is referring to Christians who are realizing the salvation of their souls, and not to every Christian. Many immature Christians still cling to these normal human distinctions based on nationality, religious, cultural, and socioeconomic factors. Christ is absolutely everything.

III. COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Godliness is living a life that is pleasing to God, characterized by reverence, devotion and obedience to God's Will!

Continue To Put On

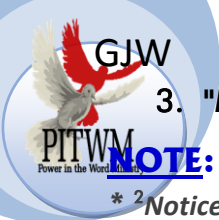
3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

TERMS:

- ***Bowels of mercies:*** a heart of compassion, mercy in action, and heartfelt sympathy for the less fortunate.
- ***Kindness:*** thoughtfulness of others, unselfishness, sweetness of disposition, gentleness, and graciousness. This is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and refers to the inner attitude.
- ***Humbleness of mind:*** This refers to the outward expression of that inner attitude. Humbleness is modesty, it places self last, and regards self as least (Eph.2:8).
- ***Meekness:*** not weakness, but lowliness; delicate consideration for others. It is the opposite of arrogance and self-assertion. Pride has no place in the Christian life.
- ***Long-suffering:*** patient under provocation. This denotes the restraint which enables one to bear injury and insult without resorting to retaliation. It accepts the wrong without complaint. Long-suffering is an attribute of God (Rom.2:4), and a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22).

These are the attire of the new man; his spiritual wardrobe of practical righteousness; godliness, the characteristics that are to be of the earthly nature. These things are now true of all who come to faith in Christ under the New Covenant. The command in this verse is to be obeyed at once. And it is to, believers who are called:

1. **"Elect* of God"**, i.e., chosen of God.
2. **"Holy"**, i.e., set apart by God and for God.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

3. "Beloved", i.e., loved by God.

NOTE:

* ² Notice that in this trinity of favor (that God gives us in His Son). The first thing that Paul calls us is "**the elect**." This is the translation of the Greek word "**eklektol**". The word is derived from the preposition, "**ek**," and the verb, "**lego**." These two words combine in the Greek to mean "**plck out**." The noun form is, "**eklektos**." It refers to people who have been **plcked out**. So, when you hear the statement, "**I elected you**." The equivalent is, "**I plcked you out**" To say, "**You are 'the' elect**," is to say, "**You are 'the' plcked out**." This is important, so stay with me. This word does not mean that God merely identified you. It means **God selected you**, and so your identity is that you are elect. But there is more: To be elect always means to be selected unto something. Whenever you elect someone, you are electing them unto, or "**to be**" something. It is like in Deuteronomy, "**Yahweh your God has elected you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth**" Deuteronomy 7:6.

Notice that the same way we're to put off those negative things, we are to put on the positive ones. You don't just stop something wrong without putting something right in its place. Paul exhorts the Colossians as born-again believers who have been set apart and loved by God, to "**put on**" the "**bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering**." The bowels are the intestines, the heart, the lungs and the liver, and the Hebrews considered the "**bowels**" as the seat of the more tender affections of kindness, benevolence and compassion. These affections are not automatic upon spiritual rebirth, but they must be "**put on**" as a Christian would put on new clothes that are fresh and clean. When you clean the inside, the outside will match, because what's on the inside will come outwardly in your speech and behavior.

The putting off of the old man is likened to the removal of old, dirty clothing, and the putting on of the new man is likened to putting on clean, fresh clothing.

We need to make a conscious effort to make changes in our character: being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another, forgiving, loving, and thankful.

Forbear And Forgive

3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

TERMS:

- **Forbearing one another**: put up with things we dislike and get along with those who disagree. Christians can disagree without being continuously disagreeable. There is a cut-off.
- **Forgiving one another**: the word forgiving (*Gr. charizoman*) is built on the same root as the word grace and means to bestow favor unconditionally. This means that the Christian will always treat the offending party graciously. The Christian not only forgives, he forgets.
- **Quarrel**: a cause of blame, a ground for complaint. He thinks himself angry.

The key to forgiving others is remembering how much God has forgiven you. Realizing God's infinite love and forgiveness can help you love and forgive others. We are to imitate Christ's merciful, forgiving spirit.

Put On Love

3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. If these are merely things that we are trying to follow without being saved, then they are just outward expressions of a written commandment, and so Colossians 3:13 just becomes another law list to follow in the flesh.

² <http://www.bridgewaybiblechurch.com/index.php/sermons/79-colossians-verse-by-verse-expository-sermons>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

They appear like the real clothing, but they are fakes. But, for us who have put on the new man in the Spirit, put on Christ. So, the key to what Paul is saying is that what ties all this together is the main outer robe, that is, like the layers of clothing that people would wear in the time of Paul.

You would have your undergarments, and over them you would have your tunic; and you would have your main outer robe that brings it all together and covers it all.

On top of these things, like an outer garment, put on charity, love. Love is the basis and cloak of all the graces; the bond that binds the others together; the bond of perfection, meaning completeness; full grown and mature.

The love of Christ is that beautiful outer robe that covers all the other manifestations, and brings it all together. This kind of love is not an emotion. This is action love of commitment, and caring that is stronger than emotions. In fact, it keeps on going even when emotions die or change.

³The Law of Christ of the New Covenant is love. So, the point is that though we can do all the other things, the outer love garment must be there as part of the complete outfit. *"We can even piously speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, but if we do so, and do not have love, we are just noisy instruments making loud sounds. Even if we have the gift of prophecy, without love, we are nothing. Even if we have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, we are nothing. Even if you give all your possessions to feed the poor in a religious act, and if you surrender your body to be burned in a religious act, but do not have love, it profits you nothing" (1 Corinthians 13).* Listen, being able to do a list of religious or nice looking things does not make you manifest the King. Doing things that look like love, does not mean you are doing the love itself. It looks like you are on the throne. You think you look good, but the reality is that the emperor has no clothes. **The big point** with this principle is that without real, Holy Spirit love, then, you are just an actor, and acting is what anyone can do.

Peace Will Rule

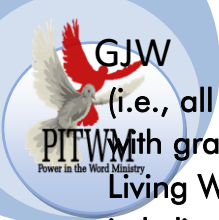
3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. The Christian who has the love of God ruling in his life also has the peace of God ruling in his heart. Do problems in your relationships with other Christians cause open conflicts or mutual silence? Consider what you can do to heal those relationships with selfless acts of love. Then the **"peace of God will rule in your heart."** The word **"rule"** comes from **"athletics."** Paul tells us to let Christ's peace be **"umpire"** in our hearts. Our hearts are the center of conflict because there our feelings and desires clash—our fears and hopes, our distrust and trust, our jealousy and love clash. How can we deal with these constant conflicts, and live as God wants? Paul explains that we must decide which choice will promote peace in our souls, and in our churches (conflicting elements or peace)? We are to demonstrate the heart-peace which Christ demonstrated. It is a tranquility of soul which is not ruffled by adversity nor disturbed by fear. There is so much to thank God for concerning the riches of Christ. God wants us to be just as thankful to the people around us in the body of Christ. The Spirit wants us to recognize the Spirit in them too.

Dwell In God's Word

3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Paul exhorts the Colossians to allow **"the Word of Christ"** to dwell richly in them, teaching everyone

³ <http://www.bridgewaybiblechurch.com/index.php/sermons/79-colossians-verse-by-verse-expository-sermons>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

(i.e., all individually) in all wisdom, and admonishing each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in their hearts to the Lord. **"The Word of Christ"** is the manifestation of Christ, who is the Living Word. The word **"dwell"** means to feel at home. Therefore, **"the Word of Christ"** is to feel at home in believers. We are to allow, **"Let" "the Word of Christ"** saturate us, and remain in us as a rich treasure. This Word is to be the living truth, giving us wisdom, and not man-made traditions. This Word is used in teaching and admonishing one another in:

- **Psalms** are songs from the book of Psalms.
- **Hymns** are other songs of praise, and
- **Spiritual songs** are other songs that affect your spirit by faith.

The Psalms are repeated in the New Testament at least 116 times. The Psalms were filled with Messianic prophecies that declared the reality of the Messiah that was to come, and now has arrived, has given His life, raised from the dead, and now sits at the right hand of the Father as King of kings and Lord of lords. To sing these, is to sing Scripture to one another. They can be personal testimony songs where the body sings about victories, desires, fulfillment, salvation, and hope in Christ. Spiritual songs by implication are not carnal. They come from the Spirit and the Word in our hearts. Together, we give thanks to our great and glorious God. We do all of this as the one body, operating the way we should--connected--in unity—and focused.

Do In The Name Of Jesus Christ

3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Paul sums up the point by telling the Colossians that whatever they speak or do, they should do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. This means that every word and act of a Christian should be said or done in the power and authority of Jesus Christ. When a Christian speaks or acts in the name of Jesus Christ, this means that Jesus Christ would have said the same thing or acted in the same manner. The more a Christian speaks and acts in the name of Jesus Christ, the more he is conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This is losing one's soul or life for the sake of or on account of Jesus Christ, and will result in the salvation of one's soul at the Judgment Seat of Christ. This Christian does not speak and act in accordance with his flesh nature, but he speaks, and acts in accordance with the Holy Spirit, and the nature of Christ.

SUMMARY:

Paul had been telling the Colossians that man-made religion appears very wise, but has no value against fleshly indulgence. If they were risen with Christ, then seek the things above where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Then they are to set their affections on things above, not things on earth. Paul says that we have already died with Christ, and that's where their/our lives are hidden with Christ in God. This is where our real lives are lived—through Him. When Christ appears, they will appear with Him in glory (**3:1-4**).

Paul tells the Colossians to "mortify" or put to death the "members" (those animal impulses that are earthly) in them; the old flesh nature. It is because of these things that come from the old flesh nature that the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience., for they used to walk in immoral



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

and greedy, lustful, and impure ways, but now they have put them off. They are not to lie to one another because they've put off the old man. So, continue to renew that new man in knowledge after Him who created you. As a Christian becomes conformed to the image of Christ, all distinctions (differences) disappear (**3:5-11**).

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. **14** 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 (NIV) (**3:12-17**).

APPLICATION:

Our example to follow would be in the footsteps of Christ. Our new nature reaches toward God's Spirit. As you put away wrong habits, God expects us to look in His Word to find right habits that give Him glory. Our character will go through some suffering when the old nature is being torn away. If there's no love or peace, we still have some growing, until its right. God does the adjusting.