

Put Off the Old Man

Col. 3:5-11

INTRODUCTION:

During the past few weeks, we have been considering the supremacy and sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul tells the Colossians and us that Christ is **all we need**. We are to stay away from practices that are in addition to God's Word, such as, worldly philosophy, angel worship, reacting to visions that have been seen and legalism.

Paul is now going to shift from what Christianity is NOT to telling us what Christianity truly is and what our lives should be like as a Christian.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 3:5-11 (NASB)

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Prayer

Mindy's song this morning was I believe in miracles. It stated:

I believe in miracles--I've seen a soul set free,
Miraculous the change in one redeemed through Calvary;
I've seen the lily push its way up thru the stubborn sod--
I believe in miracles, for I believe in God!

This is what Paul is telling us today. When we were redeemed through Calvary our soul was set free from sin. It was a miracle given to us from God through His Son. Because of Christ we have been righteous before God through His grace. We now are in union with Christ and are striving to live like Him. We have turned away from earthly things and now have our mind on heavenly things.

Romans 6:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

Paul tells us that when we were baptized, our old self was crucified with Him. We now have a new life with Him and want to live our lives for Him.

This morning we are going to look at our **RESPONSIBILITY** to avoid worldly sin, the **MOTIVATION** that we have for living for Christ, and the **MEANS** by which we rid our lives of these sins. Let's look at our **RESPONSIBILITY** to avoid worldly sin once we have been "miraculously changed".

BODY:

I. Responsibility to Put Off the Old Man.

Colossians 3:5 (NASB)

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

A. Put to Death Sexual Sins.

1. Immorality.

We know that we are not to commit adultery. Sexual morality is something broader than just a husband and wife cheating on their spouse. It refers to any sexual activity outside of the marriage union.

God created sex. He created sex to only be a blessing between a husband and wife. Any sexual activity outside of that is sinful and it is to be avoided.

But it is not only the sexual ACTS that must be put off, but we must also put off IMPURITY.

2. Impurity.

Impurity is an internal sin not external. Impurity comes from the heart.

Matthew 5:28 (NASB)

²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

We commit sinful sexual acts because we are already impure in our hearts. Impurity is internal, not external. Paul tells us that is not enough to just remove the outward acts, we must also clean up our thoughts and desires.

But Paul even goes deeper. He says it is not just the physical acts and the internal thoughts and desires.

3. Passion and Evil Desires.

A crime of passion is when our sinful thinking has grown to the point that it is beginning to control us. This is a perverted desire in our hearts that will grow if we do not stop it.

James 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

James says we must also get to the root of the desires that creep into our thoughts before they turn into impurity and ultimately to sexual action.

Next Paul turns to

4. Greed (or Covetousness).

Greed and covetousness does not seem to fit here does it? The others seem to fit in when it refers to sexual sin, but greed seems out of place.

The reason for that is that when we think of covetousness, we think of money or worldly possessions. But the word covet simply means to **want more of what we have or to desire something that we do not have**. The thing that we desire could be anything. In context here, the thing we would be coveting would be sexual pleasure.

Paul calls it **idolatry**. It is the choice to choose our own pleasures over serving the will of God. It is the difference between thinking that God sets the rules by which to live verses the mindset that I WANT something and I will serve myself.

Paul tells us what happens to someone who will not serve God and lives for themselves.

Romans 1:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Throughout the scriptures idolatry is always associated with sexual sin. That is because sexual sin is a form of idolatry.

Paul says we must put these things to death. Not just the outward acts, but all the way down to the desires of the heart.

There is a second category of sin that we must rid our life of. We must put off **Bitterness**.

B. Put to Death Bitterness.

Colossians 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

Here, Paul starts with the desires and works his way up to the actions. These are things we must get rid of in our life, just as we are to get rid of sexual activities.

1. Anger.

We have all met people that we would just characterize as an angry person. They may not even know what they are angry about, it is just their state of mind. Paul says there is no place for that in the Christian life, it is sin!

He then adds:

2. Wrath.

Wrath refers to an explosion of anger. This is when something sets off the anger and causes it to explode into an outburst of anger which can lead to MALICE.

3. Malice.

The wrath can become so explosive that the person begins to wish ill will upon the individual they are mad at. They may even want to physically injure them.

4. Slander.

The malice can cause one to actually verbally try to hurt someone's character or reputation or try to cause them to lose their jobs.

5. Abusive Speech.

This anger and revenge on a person may cause one to start cursing or start name calling. All of this is a form of bitterness which is unacceptable and is a sin that must be put off.

C. Put to Death Dishonesty.

Colossians 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

As Christians we should be honest. Not just to other Christians, but to everyone.

Matthew 5:33-37 (NASB)

³³ "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' ³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. ³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

When Jesus was speaking here, His concern was not so much about taking an oath. His concern was that the oaths were being greatly abused. Some people were saying that if they took a certain oath, then they were not bound to it. These same people were saying that if they did **not take an oath**, they were not required to fulfill the promise either. Jesus is saying that when we say we will do something, that we WILL do everything possible to fulfill that promise. Let our Yes, be Yes and our No, be NO!

So these are responsibilities that we have as Christians to put off the old man. Let's now look at the motivation that we have to do the same.

II. Motivation to Put Off the Old Man.

Colossians 3:6 (NASB)

⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

Paul tells us the motivation that we have to put off these things is because God's judgment is coming. There are some very good reasons we should be motivated to serve Him.

A. The Wrath of God is Very Real.

The scriptures tell us that no one is exempt from God's wrath. God is a righteous judge. He will also judge righteously.

Romans 2:5-8 (NASB)

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

B. Hell is Horrific.

Matthew 13:49-50 (NASB)

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

C. Life After Judgment is Eternal.

Matthew 25:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Can you imagine the hopelessness of Hell? It will be a **eternal** place of torment and punishment without ANY possibility of ever getting relief ever again!

III. Means to Put Off the Old Man.

Paul tells us the Means by which we can rid our life of sin and be found righteous before God on Judgment Day.

Colossians 3:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

A. You Must be Born Again.

Colossians 2:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

We were buried with Christ in baptism and rose to a newness of life.

B. You Must be Renewed in Your Thinking.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Notice that the change that is to take place is the renewing of the mind. The sinful actions that we once did, we no longer desire to do. It is not a list of "Do's and Don'ts", it is a new mindset of WANTING to serve Christ.

As Paul stated at the start of chapter 3 you must keep your mind on heavenly things. You must saturate your mind with God's word.

- Diligently study (not just read) the Bible.
- Listen to good preaching.
- Listen to scripturally based music.
- Read scripturally based books.

We read and study God's Word in order to know **eternal** knowledge and truth from God.

CONCLUSION:

As we mature in Christ, we understand more and more how unworthy we are for Christ's saving grace. We are thankful that we are not judged based upon our futile attempts to serve Christ. We feel we are not doing enough for the Lord, while at the same time, we may be doing more for Him than ever before. Let me suggest to you that this feeling of inadequacy is the presence of the Holy Spirit working within you. It is a **great feeling** when one finally realizes that all the things that they have read in the scripture has become more than just theory. It becomes second nature to their mindset. You reach the point where you realize that you ARE unworthy of righteousness on your own and that there IS a Holy Spirit working within you and prodding you to serve. You are thankful everyday for all the blessings that God provides for you and you continuously keep your mind on heavenly things.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

So we offer His invitation, realizing that there may be someone here who has never accepted Christ as their Savior. We plead with you. We appeal to you not to let this moment escape nor to let this window of opportunity pass you by.

If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior, then come now, confess that you believe in Him, be faithful to Him in Christian baptism, arise to walk in the newness of life. God's invitation is offered to you. Will you come as we stand and as we sing?

He Is Lord!

He is Lord, He is Lord. He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.