

Colossians 3:1-4 Part 1_(vv1&2)

“The Best Christians Are Dead Christians”

Introduction

1. Paul is now going to take these believers from the doctrinal to the practical.

2. Sound doctrine should affect the way we live out our daily lives.

Titus

3. The Christian faith brought with it something new – a connection between beliefs and behavior. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

• “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.” 1

Peter 4:3-4

4. In Colossians 3-4, Paul will admonish this local assembly in practical matters of their everyday living.

Verse 1

1. Right away, Paul uses as his basis for godly behavior the believer’s position in Christ.

2. We know where Christ is. Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20

• “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.” Hebrews 10:12

3. Paul is drawing an obvious conclusion. If we now possess Christ's life, and if Christ is in heaven, then we should be seeking those things which are above. Ephesians 2:6

4. Our lives should be consumed with one thing – Jesus Christ.

Verse 2

1. This is a short verse, but a very powerful reminder for the child of God.

- The word "affection" is dealing with your heart and mind – your inner being.

2. It is so easy to fall in love with the things of this earth and get a mindset that we are going to live here forever. 2Timothy 2:4

3. Our physical life on earth is temporary; our spiritual life in heaven is eternal.

4. Why would we invest our energy and resources into this earth when it is just a temporary stopover? This is what Paul is emphasizing. Our position in Christ should affect our attitudes and actions here on earth as we pass through.

5. When Paul admonishes believers to set their affection on things above, here is what he means:

- As we live our everyday lives, we truly seek Christ in everything we do and seek to honor Him first and foremost.
- It also means that we look at everything on earth through the lens of an eternal perspective.
- We live our lives on earth as ambassadors from heaven. Philippians 2:15

6. Here is the point: Your position in Christ should affect everything about you here on earth – your priorities, your stewardship, your time, your attitudes, your actions, etc.