

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." Colossians 3:14, NKJV

### LESSON STUDY INTRO

This lesson examines the practical realities of our new life in Christ as described in Colossians 3:1-17.

#### 1. Conversion means to die and live like Jesus (Sab, Sun)

- The change we need is possible only as we appropriate Christ's death and resurrection to our own experience.
  - "You died with Christ" (Col 2:20) and "you were raised with Christ" (Col. 3:1); see also Rom. 6:1-4.
- Since we are united with Christ—and Christ is in heaven, then our thoughts must now be heavenly, too (see Col. 3:1-4).
  - It requires an act of the will to "seek those things which are above" and "set your mind on things above."

#### 2. To be a new creation, the old man must die (Mon)

- Far from a single event, the restoration Christ offers is an ongoing process requiring diligent denial of our fallen nature.
  - "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth..." (Col. 3:5)
    - "Even though spiritually we have died with Christ, our 'members'—that is, the temptations that our body and mind present us—need to be put to death." Q1L11, Mon, par 2
- The vices Paul lists (see Col. 3:5, 8, 9) are examples of the sins for which "the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience" (Col. 3:6).
  - "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Rom 1:18)
    - To save us from God's justice against such sins, death to the old man is essential.
- The power to execute our old man of sin here on earth comes from our being "hidden in Christ" in Heaven.

- “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God... therefore put to death your members which are on the earth.” (Col 3:3, 5)
- “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.” (Gal 2:20)
  - “We can put to death earthly things (fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness, etc.) only because we have been raised with Christ and have His spiritual life and power to put these things out of our minds and lives.” Qtly, Mon, par 4

### 3. We need to replace the old man with a new man (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- A genuine Christian life is filled with righteousness, not just emptied of wickedness (see Mt. 12:43-45).
  - Righteous deeds are “put on” (Col 3:12-14).
    - This is similar to righteousness depicted as a garment (Zech 3:4) and immortality being “put on” when Christ returns (1 Cor 15:54).
    - This “put on” language indicates such things are gifts from God that we must accept as our own.
- This transformation is only possible through the Word.
  - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” (Col 3:16; see also Heb. 4:12; Rom 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18).
  - Keep a song in your heart (Col. 3:16; Eph 5:19).

If anyone comes to you and begins to tell you of the faults of another, if you cannot stop that voice in any other way, lift your voice and sing the Doxology.  
2SAT 22.5

## CONCLUSION

He who has determined to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ’s strength for victory... The power of a higher, purer, nobler life is our great need. The world has too much of our thought, and the kingdom of heaven too little. AA 476-478 (Qtly, Fri, par 2,3)