



MONDAY 3 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:1-4

Plug In...

Shortly, we look at a section that will tell us to absolutely kill off sin ([3:5-11](#)). It will be challenging as it presses right into our hearts to check if we love Jesus in everything. But there is a first step to victory over sin. Today and tomorrow we look at that.

Paul reminds the Colossians again of one of the most fundamental truths in Christian theology, “You have been raised with Christ” (3:1); “You died with Christ” (3:3). Because of this truth, set your heart and your mind on the reality that this Christ is seated in the position of absolute rule ([Colossians 1:15-20](#)).

This is the incentive, safety, power to actually live radically; deal radically with sin.

Chew It Over...

Carve out space today, don't delay, and bring your heart to the surface. Is your heart currently captured by the truth that Christ rules the world? Has it been like that in the past? What happened? You have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of the Son – you are safe and hidden in Christ. Now set your heart on Christ's position. Now set your heart and mind to the whole love of Christ and His concerns.

Prayer Suggestion

Repent. Thank the Father for safety with Christ in God. Ask Him to help you to grow, with no delay or regression ([Colossians 1:28-29](#)).



TUESDAY 4 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:3-4 (3:9-II)

Plug In...

Paul reflects here the historical moment of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (*cf.* [1 Corinthians 15:3-5](#)). That moment was a historical transition between the 'old' era and the 'new' era. Between the 'old' creation and the 'new' creation ([Colossians 1:18](#)). The Christian united to Christ in His death and resurrection is an historical change too. From the realm of the 'old' person, to the realm of the 'new' person. Here in this realm, as a new person, they are renewed daily towards the goal of the image of the Creator – to be like Christ.

Chew It Over...

Sometimes in our battle against sin we think that the old/new transition is psychological. That is, we think there are two natures co-existing. The 'old' nature is there, but becoming a Christian means a 'new' nature is added and the two natures are intermingled until after the resurrection.

Paul doesn't speak like this. He's more definite, more categorical. The 'old' self does not exist in the Christian. They are a new person, in a new position, in a new state. We must not dismiss the shocking statement: *we have been raised with Christ*. You are 'in Christ'. You are not 'in Adam', you are not the old person. You've transitioned.

So, what about sin's presence in the Christian? Because the reality of the 'new' person is hidden. At the moment it cannot be fully seen. What is visible now is a person that is categorically 'new' and being changed (renewed) towards the goal of an exact image of Christ. The 'old' person cannot "put to death sin". The new person can.

There is an anecdote about Augustine (fifth century Christian bishop in Nth Africa) which helps. Before becoming a Christian he was a womaniser. After becoming a Christian, one of his former lovers threw herself on him. He pushed her away. She said, "Augustine, it is I!". He said, "Yes, but it is not I."

Prayer Suggestion

Lord thank you for severing me from the old person dominated by sin and a life of rebellion and sin against God. Thank you that I am counted as Christ in the eyes of the Father. As I prepare over the next few days to look at what sin I need to kill off and what attitudes I need to put on, may you work strongly and deeply in me.



WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:5-7 & John 15:1-8

Plug In...

Paul connects coveting (NIV has 'greed') to idolatry. Idolatry is the first commandment in the Ten Commandments. 'Do not covet' is the final command of the Ten Commandments. Breaking the last is breaking the first.

The 'new' person is not stuck in this idolatrous way of life.

Chew It Over...

The connection of these sins to idolatry means they are not just behaviours to avoid, but they actually interrogate and expose what we really desire and love. Are our hearts yet fully in submission to Jesus' lordship or not? As you review, allow this list that Paul has here to press into what we love, remember you have an umbilical cord to Christ in heaven. The Holy Spirit is within the new person (providing the life-giving sap for this renewal to the image of the Creator – see [John 15:1-8](#)). You can put to death.

What do you need to put to death today?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God you are not permanently stuck in these sins under God's wrath. Pray that the Holy Spirit within you crucifies that which you've struggled with.



THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:8 & John 15:9-17

Plug In...

In the previous list many sexual sins are listed. At the top of Paul's list of sins in the New Testament are sexual sins (see: [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [6:18](#); [Galatians 5:19-20](#); [Ephesians 5:5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3-5](#)). Sexual sins seem to top the list. Paul sees a tight connection between the lack of love for God (idolatry) and how that minimises one's love for neighbour. Sexual sins seem to be the most blatant disregard for one's neighbour and the neighbours down the generations.

Here, he gets us to press in on what attitudes we have going on.

Chew It Over...

These attitudes destroy relationships, destroy human beings.

What do you need to put to death?

What do you need to bring to life in its place?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that you will absorb yourself in Christ. Read and meditate on Jesus who laid down His life for His friends. Pray that you will daily seek Christ's example to hold other humans you interact with as special, valuable. Ask for wisdom on how to build, encourage, and uplift.



FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:9 & Romans 6:1-14

Plug In...

The rationale for discontinuing lying is you are not the 'old' person anymore. The command strikes the Colossians. They're 'new' people, they're Christians, but they lie. They need to stop practicing lies, for they are not an 'old' person anymore.

Chew It Over...

Think of where we lie (the so-called acceptable lies). Lies can be big or small. They can be classed as 'little and white' to 'deceitful'. We lie so regularly it is very disturbing. How do we spot our lies? Lies conceal. Put to death lying.

Prayer Suggestion

You are truth God, you do not lie ([Numbers 23:19](#); [Hebrews 6:18](#)). Oh how I lie. Help me not to lie to myself, to others. Thank you for the truth about lying. Expose where I lie. Help me finally put this to death.



The Lakes

WEEKEND 8-9 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:9-II

Plug In...

Read again what we must put to death. These things must be put to death, for we are 'new' people. We are new people heading towards the goal of being in the image of the Creator.

Chew It Over...

Putting to death is hard daily – and lifetime – work. But it is living. It is not limiting. The 'old' life was limiting.

Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God ([Colossians 1:15](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#)). He was a walking-talking-living Garden-of-Eden dynamic ([Colossians 2:9](#)). God and humanity in perfect relationship wonderfully ruling, caring, and cultivating the world.

Watch Jesus' life. He never lied. He was never embarrassed. He didn't take from people. He was never was crude, He never discriminated, He never was too busy. He deliberately sought out those that smelled, oozed disease, dripped with sin. He put things back together, got rid of evil, made loose legs walk, stood little girls and grown men up out of the grave. With Jesus, everything is in harmony and reconciled. His life is not limiting, it is fulfilment. In Jesus, the world is seen as put right. Jesus is humanity at the peak! Christ is all-in-all. And we are 'in Christ'!

Prayer Suggestion

[Colossians 3:17](#) – Give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.