

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

Week 4: Putting on the New Self

Key Text: Colossians 3:1-17

OPEN

In chapters 1-2, Colossians focuses on the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus. Now, as we move to chapter 3, Paul begins to focus on what applying the truth of Jesus' supremacy to our lives should look like. In other words, the first half of Colossians is theological about Christ. The second half of the book focuses on the practical in putting on what Paul calls the 'new self.' To do that, from Paul's words, we see the need to give Christ supremacy in four dimensions of our life: 'life above' where we look at our life from God's point of view (3:1-2), 'life below' where we pay attention to how we live (3:5-10), 'life within' where Jesus resides and we abide with him (3:3,11), and 'life beyond' where we stay mindful of the hope, and even coming wrath, of Jesus' return.

REFLECT

- This is a dense passage of scripture, so let's look at it in 4 parts: 3:1-4, 5-11, 12-14, and 15-17.
- In 3:1-4, what do you think Paul means by "you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ"? Explain.
- In 3:5-11, Paul mentions 'wrath.' We don't talk about 'wrath' often but Paul says it's coming (v.6). What is it?
- In 3:12-14, list the 3 adjectives in v.12 that describe believers from God's point of view. How do they make you feel about yourself as a believer?
- In 3:15-17, describe the various expressions of the message of Christ dwelling in us as a community (v.16).

DISCUSS

- Talk about a time when you were caught under-dressed or over-dressed. What does what we wear communicate?
- Paul uses the analogy of clothing to talk about putting on the 'new self.' Which specific attitude or trait stands out to you right now as what is most needed? Why?
- Paul mentions that Jesus is at the 'right hand of God'(v.1). Look up these passages to learn more about what that means and the comfort that should bring us: Luke 22:66-71; Acts 2:32-33; Acts 7:54-56; Rom. 8:34-39; Heb. 12:1-2.
- In the last part of our text, Paul talks about hymns. He also talks about songs from the Spirit. What is the difference? Is there a difference? What is a 'song from the Spirit'?
- What is a favourite song or hymn of yours that God has used to really speak to your heart? What is it about that song that speaks powerfully?

APPLY

- In the opening verses, Paul says set both your heart and mind on 'things above.' What are some ways you can practice that this week? Brainstorm and share.
- What is one specific thing God is pointing out to you that needs to be 'put to death' from the lists in verses 5 and 8?
- What is one specific thing you believe God wants you to 'put on' from v. 12 or other scriptures?
- How can you plan this week to let the message of Christ dwell more richly in your heart through worship?

PRAY

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's empowerment to put on the new self. Ask the Holy Spirit for a spirit of holiness to grab a hold of your heart.
- Spend time thanking Jesus for interceding on your behalf before the Father....plan to Intercede for others in prayer.
- End your time together in a song of worship and time of giving God thanks.