

Study Guide

# COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

## Jesus, Our Pursuit (Part 1) | Colossians 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

### Introduction

In Colossians chapters one and two, the Apostle Paul provided the church with a healthy Christology, teaching clearly and concisely who Christ Jesus is and what Christ Jesus has provided for His saints, summarized in 2:13-15:

<sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

In chapter three, Paul begins answering the question, "What does it look like to be made alive together with Christ in the here and now?" Christ's resurrection not only assures us of glory with Christ to come, but equips us to live a new resurrected life now for Christ's glory and for our joy. And it begins with rightly ordered desires, rightly directed thoughts, and killing sin.

#### The BIG Idea:

The resurrected life can only be lived in the power of the resurrected Christ.

#### Pursue the things above (1-4).

Because you were raised together with Christ.  
Because your life is hidden together with Christ.  
Because you will appear together with Christ in glory.

#### Pursue the resurrected life (5-11).

Kill earthly desires now (5-7).  
Cease earthly activities now (8-11).

#### 4 Diagnostic Questions

Thinking Heavenly or Earthly

What are you putting in your mind?

What is the state of your mind?

What is coming out of your mouth?

What is displayed in your actions?

## Let's Think About It

### Reflection

Brent mentioned that "desire drives pursuit." How have you seen that play out in your own life?

Why do you think Paul uses such strong language like "kill" when talking about sin?

How does understanding your identity in Christ (dead, raised, hidden, glorified) change how you view sin?

### Heart Questions

Where do you find your mind drifting most often—toward things above or things on earth?

Are there any "morally neutral" things in your life that may be crowding out your focus on Christ?

### Application

What is one "earthly desire" or habit you need to actively put to death right now?

What practical steps can simplify your life to help you "set your mind on things above" during a normal day?

### Community

Why is it significant that many of these commands are given in the plural ("you all")?

What role does the church (this group included) play in helping you pursue Christ?

**Always. Only. Jesus.**

How does the truth that "Christ is all, and in all" (v.11) bring both comfort and challenge?

Are you actively pursuing Christ—or just participating in Christian culture?

### Softly and Tenderly Will L. Thompson, 1880

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and  
pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home;  
you who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!

### [Lord Have Mercy](#) (For what we have done)



Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa,  
Sandra McCracken

### [I Will Wait For You \(Psalm 130\)](#)



Shane & Shane