



Lesson 7

3:1-3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Notes:

- v. 1 “you have been raised with Christ” – referring to God’s work in Baptism (2:12-13)

1.) What does it mean that Christ is seated at God’s right hand? What doesn’t it mean?

Psalm 98:1 Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Jeremiah 23:24 “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

Matthew 28:20 “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2.) The accusation has sometimes been leveled at Christians that we are “so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good.” Describe some scenarios where this critique is well-deserved. However, what is the primary mission of the Church?

James 2:15-17 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Mark 16:15 [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

3.) How ought setting our sights on Christ ruling above transform how we...

- Use our time and energy?
- Generously help and give to those in need?
- React to the suffering, evil, injustice, and death that is all around us?

4.) In what sense is Christ our life? How are our lives “hidden” in him?

3:5-9 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices...

Notes:

- Organizational structure of 3:5-17: Directives for Sanctified Living
 - Vices to avoid (vv. 5-9)
 - Putting on the new man (vv. 10 – 11)
 - Virtues for the new man to practice (vv. 12-17)
- “put to death” (v. 5) = Aor. Imperative = do this now!
- “greed” (v. 5) = this could be referring to material greed as it often does elsewhere in Scripture, but in this context of a list of sins in the sexual sphere to suddenly throw in greed for possessions/money. At its root this word has the sense of insatiably craving more. So more likely is that Paul is condemning a life of incessant pleasure-seeking, which is idolatry.
- “you must rid yourselves” (v. 8) = Aor. M. Imperative = “to take off/lay aside (clothing) for oneself”
- “slander” (v. 8) = “blasphemy” which can include slanderous language against God or men

1.) How would you categorize the two lists of vices that Paul tells us Christians to avoid? (v. 5, 8-9)

2.) Based on these words how would you describe the spiritual fight we are engaged in day by day.

3.) What are some Biblical examples of God’s judgment against societies that have given themselves up to sexuality?

4.) What is all included in “putting to death” what belongs to the earthly (sensual) nature?

Romans 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Matthew 5:27-30 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. (cf. the example of Joseph in Gen. 39)

3:10-11 ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Notes:

- “new” (v. 10) = more recent in time
- “which is being renewed” (v. 10) = also new in quality
- “knowledge” (v. 10) = again ἐπίγνωσις
- “barbarian” (v. 11) = non-Hellenic in language or culture
- “Scythian” (v. 11) = from the north of Black Sea, those portrayed as the height of unrefinement and savagery

1.) What is the tense (P/PR/F) and voice (A/Mid/P) of the phrase “which is being renewed”? What does that mean about our sanctification?

2 Corinthians 3:18 We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

2.) What does it mean that “Christ is all and in all”? How does that change our perception of others?

Galatians 3:26-28 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

3:12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Notes:

- "compassion" (v. 12) = the feeling of intense/inward love (σπλάγχνον – internal organs as seat of emotion)
- "forgive" (v. 13) = includes the idea of giving/showing grace, here exemplified in forgiveness
- "whatever" (v. 13) = introduces a general condition (i.e. friction and cause for complaints are *going to happen*, show grace every time it does!)
- "love" (v. 14) = agape (ἀγάπη)
- Notice the thankfulness theme in verses 15-17 (3x)

1.) How did our Lord Jesus manifest these virtues to the fullest?

2.) How has the Lord forgiven you?

3.) How does verse 17 reinforce the truth once spoken by our Savior that "a good tree bears good fruit" (Matt. 7:17)? How is this the inverse of how the world looks at things?