

TITLE: PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

TEXT: COL 3:1-17

INTRO: In scary movies, people hide in their homes & lock all the doors & windows in order to keep the killer outside. In real life, our adversary is seeking to devour us (1 Pet 5:8), yet so often we not only fail to lock the doors, we even leave them open for him. **Col 3** is Paul's encouragement for them to get as far away from their old lives and to pursue Christ and the new life in Him. Even just allowing ourselves to think about sin is leaving the door open for Satan.

I. THE CONCLUSION (v. 1-4):

A. (v. 1-2) IF-THEN:

1. IF: The condition (v. 1a) – “IF you were raised up with Christ...” And they *were* (2:12)
2. THEN: The commands (v. 1b-2) (*spiritual focus, not physical*)
 - a. Seek! Don't just sit around and get comfortable. Seek those things which are above (seek Christ, the umbrella of authority. Everything else is 'below').
 - b. Set your mind (thinking) on things above, not on things of the earth (not on things that originate on the earth – system of laws, Judaism, asceticism; anything that is contrasted with what Christ says)
- Jesus told Peter, “Get behind me...thou savorest not the things of God, but...men” (**Mt 16:23f**)

B. (v. 3-4) WHY?

1. (v. 3) Possession: For (explanation) you died & your life has been hidden (perfect tense – past, but still being felt; cf. to v. 1 – you “were raised”) with Christ in God. You are God's people...a change has occurred!
2. (v. 4) Promise: 2nd coming - Whenever (uncertainty of when) Christ, our life, shall appear, then also you yourselves will appear (be manifested) with him in glory. This is our goal as Christians; we want to live with God in Heaven eternally. *Verse 4 is not possible if you haven't accomplished verse 3.*

(v. 5-17 is *how* your life is hidden with Christ)

II. THE OLD MAN (v. 5-9):

A. (v. 5-7) MORTIFY! (make dead, destroy). *Each one of us must analyze ourselves to see if these things describe us.*

1. Fornication (porneia) – any illicit (unlawful; prohibited) sexual activity
2. Uncleanness (impurity) – anything not pure in God's eyes (very all-inclusive type of word)
3. Inordinate affections (passions) – nothing wrong with passion (desire), as long as the object of the desire is God! Sometimes seems like a fine line between wanting something and *desiring* it (e.g., Money!)
4. Evil concupiscence (lust) – Jesus taught that adultery begins in the heart (**Mt 5:27-28**) with lust.
5. Covetousness (greediness; “greedy desire to have more” Thayer). Wanting things isn't wrong, *unless it's what drives you* – this is IDOLATRY (“worship of false gods”)! Strong word to use (cf. Israel's past)! What's on the throne of your life?

(v. 6) Those practicing these things 1) have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ (**Eph 5:5**), & 2) *will* have God's wrath (v. 7) Such were some of you (**1 Cor 6:9-11**). But these things should have come off at baptism

B. (v. 8-9) The list continues

1. (v. 8) Anger – this refers to *inordinate* anger (**Eph 4:26** – “Be ye angry and sin not”; **Prov 14:29** – “He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; But he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”)
2. Wrath – passionate anger; fierceness
3. Malice - κακία “badness”, wickedness, depravity, desire to injure
4. Blasphemy – speak evil against; slander
5. Filthy communication – obscene speech
6. (v. 9) Lying – lit. “having put off the old man, do not lie (present, imperative) to one another.
You have put off this old man and his deeds – **Rom 6:6** (*all* of the old deeds; you can't pick and choose)

III. THE NEW MAN (v. 10-17) (Mt 12:43-45):

A. (v. 10-14) Prerequisites to v. 15-16

1. (v. 10) How are you new? In knowledge...the very thing that others are leaving Christ in order to pursue!
2. (v. 11) Not divided – In Christ, these distinctions don't matter
3. (v. 12-14) **PUT ON: (fruits of the Spirit)**
 - a. (v. 12) Bowels of mercy [heart] – inner feelings
 - b. Kindness
 - c. Humbleness of mind (humility, modesty, not arrogant)
 - d. Meekness (mildness; power under control)
 - e. Longsuffering (not avenging wrongs)
 - f. (v. 13) Proper Christian relationships: forbearance & forgiveness (as Christ forgave you...after repentance)
 - g. (v. 14) Love, the bond of completion

- B. Then, after doing these things (v. 10-14), you can do what he says in v. 15-16
 - 1. Then the peace of God can rule in your hearts (Peace – quietness, rest, prosperity, safety, security, harmony - not having to fear God)
 - 2. Then you can be thankful
 - 3. Then the word of Christ will dwell in you richly (“let dwell”-imperative; present tense-continuous action)
 - 4. Then you can teach and admonish others in songs (how can a non-Christian do this?)
 - a. Our singing teaches one another
 - b. Sing in your (plural) heart (singular): We sing in “our heart” – multiple singers, *yet in one heart!*
- C. (v. 17) Finally, make sure everything you do is w/Christ’s authority. Can we add anything to Christ (syncretism)? Only with His authority!

CONCLUSION: Being a Christian means removing the old **AND** putting on the new (**Mt 12:43-45**). So often we tend to hold on to some of those ‘old man’ things. Just allowing ourselves to think about them is leaving the door open for Satan.