



Looking Inwards (15 mins)
Caring For Each Other

*Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an **opportunity to share**, not something you have to do, however, 'it's the sharing that enables the caring!') for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?



Looking Outwards (15 mins)
Concern For Others

*Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours; or church, which you would like to share (please be careful not to pass on anything that is **confidential** or which you think the person/people concerned would not wish to be shared) for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?



HG77: Living In Christ (4/6)
Christ In Your Living

Colossians 3:1-11

Home Group Study Notes

28th October 2012 - Andy Smith



PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION
BEFORE THE MEETING!

Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group with you, along with any previous notes and other resources which might be helpful.



Welcome (10 mins)
Ice Breaker



Looking Upwards (10 mins)
Worship

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...





Looking Upwards (40 mins) *Bible Study*

Read through the text for this study, and any references given below, alongside those in the sermon notes, then answer the following questions - you may find it helpful to read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, of your answers with your Home Group.

1: Can you explain, as if to a person who knows nothing about Christianity, what being “raised with Christ” means to you?

2: How can we be more aware of being “dead to the old life” and looking forward to glory in the new? Be practical and give examples of what this means.

3: Are sexual sins worse than any other kind? If so, why? If not, how can we make it clear that all sin is a serious matter?

night, which is why Paul uses warnings like:

"But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these" - **Colossians 3:8**

Paul finishes off this section with further instruction.

STRENGTHEN THE CHRISTLY (verses 10-11)

A. FOR WE HAVE PUT ON THE NEW SELF (10)

As we noted earlier, in baptism into Christ, we "put on Christ" - **Galatians 3:27** therefore in PRINCIPLE we also put on "the new self" which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (verse 10).

What we have done in PRINCIPLE (**Col 3:10**), we will need to do in PRACTICE. Paul goes on after verse 11 to show how we do this. In verse 12 he talks about the clothes that the “new self” should wear: “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

THE GOAL IS "CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL" (11)

Faith in Jesus means that we are to be renewed according to the image of Christ - cf. **Romans 8:29**. If we become like Christ, we destroy the barriers that have divided people throughout history. The equality and unity we have with each other comes only through our faith in Jesus cannot be found anywhere else – it is unique to him.

CONCLUSION

You could say that this passage lays out the primary New Testament message for the future of all people: we must be renewed in the image of Christ.

In order to accomplish this goal, we must listen to the warnings of Paul and...

- a. **Seek The Heavenly**
- b. **Slay The Earthly**
- c. **Strengthen The Christly**

- **Sexual Immorality** – This is a general term for any illicit sexual intercourse.
- **Impurity** - Uncleanliness in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, wasteful living
- **Lust** - Paul is using the term here with negative connotations to do with corrupt passions and desires.
- **Evil desires** - Desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden

Also that which appeals to the "lust of the eyes"

Greed - The desire to have more. Note that Paul describes this as idolatry – putting something else in the place of God. However, Paul is very clear that we are to set our minds on things above (where God is). So when we covet material objects, we have our minds on earthly things which become our idols.

So what is the motivation for putting these things to death?

- To avoid the coming wrath of God! - **Colossians 2:6-7**
- It's one thing to do these things when we "lived in them", but in Christ we have "died to them".

Paul is pointing out that there are two realities at play in the Christian's life. There are the old ways, which will ultimately bring death and destruction. This is our old home – a place we used to live. There is also the new ways, the heavenly things – peace, justice, mercy, love etc. This is our new home even though we don't physically live there yet. Paul is pointing out in very stark terms that because we no longer live in the earthly reality that we should not carry on behaving as if we do.

WE MUST ALSO "PUT OFF" THE SOCIAL SINS (verses 8-9)

Emotional Sins.

- Anger** – The Movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion.
- Rage** - Passion, angry, heat, anger boiling up and soon subsiding again spilling over.
- Malice** – The desire to injure or hurt another person.

Sins of the tongue.

- Slander** - detraction, speech that seeks to injure another person's good name
- Filthy language** - Foul speaking, low and obscene speech
- Lying** - To lie, to speak deliberate falsehoods; to deceive.

The reason for putting off all these things: we must complete in PRACTICE what we started in PRINCIPLE - **Colossians 3:9b**. When we were baptised, we should have put down our old self and the things we used to do. In practice, this does not happen over-

4: How do we understand the wrath of God? Is it something we should talk about with non-believers? How can we help the depressed and those with tender consciences to see beyond God's wrath to his everlasting love?

5: Look carefully over the list of "old life" behaviour in verses 8-9. How far does each one still apply to you? Perhaps you could pray with each other about these issues.

6: What social barriers exist in our neighbourhood? How can they be broken down? Is this a political question or a Christian concern? How can Christians help to encourage excellence and at the same time demonstrate equality?



Is there anything you most want to put into practice as a result of this study?



HG77: Living In Christ (4/6) *Christ In Your Living*

Colossians 1:24—2:23

Home Group Sermon Notes

28th October 2012 - Andy Smith

A quick summary...

In chapters 1 & 2, Paul has maintained that Christ is "all-sufficient" in matters of salvation and overcoming sin - **Col 2:10**

Jesus is everything we need in this life and the next – the victory he was won on the cross has made a way for us to be reunited with God eternally. O Happy Day; Death has been defeated, He has made a way!

In chapter 3, Paul starts to spell out some basic and practical warnings that could hinder Christians looking in living a fruitful life in Christ.

Paul wants the reader to understand that these "**Basics For Living In Christ**" help us to understand the nature of what Christ has done for us and that we are now free from the earthly sins and temptations that cause us so much pain and despair. The victory has been won by Christ, so let's start living like we believe it!

SEEK THE HEAVENLY (Verses 1-4)

SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE (1-2)

Why is this so important?

It is essential if we desire to be "transformed" - **Romans 12:2**

It is necessary if we want to be able to "live according to the Spirit" - **Romans 8:5-6**

How do we "seek those things which are above"?

By directing our minds' attention to such things mentioned in **Philippians 4:8**;

“whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

More specifically, by setting our attention on the Word of God, where we find:

1. Christ present in the Old Testament as The Word (**Genesis 1**) or through the Messianic Prophecies (**Isaiah 7:14**)
2. Jesus' life and teachings in the Gospels
3. The church of Christ in the Book of Acts
4. Christ's teachings explained in the Epistles
5. Christ's encouragement and ultimate victory in the Book of Revelation

B. FURTHER REASONS TO SEEK THOSE THINGS ABOVE (3-4)

We died with Christ. Remember that through our faith in Jesus, we “get what he gets”. So when we are baptised into Christ, (which is a symbol of being buried with Jesus), we are also "crucified with Him" - **Romans 6:3-6**. We also "died" to sin", so we can be free from sin and now live with Christ - **Romans 6:7-13**

In the same way we died with Christ we were also **raised with Christ**. This is symbolised when we come out of the baptismal waters - **Colossians 2:12** ("...in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him..."). We were raised so that we might "walk in newness of life" - **Romans 6:4**

Our life is now **hidden with Christ in God**.

Paul wrote to the Galatians: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." - **Galatians 2:20**

Paul is telling us that because we have denied ourselves and been crucified with Jesus, it is now Christ who lives in us. So when Christ appears in glory, so will we!

It is also worth noting that the first three reasons for us to "seek the heavenly" are based upon what has happened in the PAST. This motivation is predicated upon what is promised for the FUTURE - And what a wonderful promise that is! However, obtaining that promise requires not only that we set our **minds** on heavenly things, but that we deal with our **bodies** as well.

It is in **verses 5-9** we learn that we must also...

SLAY THE EARTHLY (verses 5-9)

WE MUST PUT TO DEATH" THE SENSUAL SINS (5-7)

Paul is talking about the desires that speak to the "lust of the flesh"