

The Cost of Living a Christian Life!



Lesson Two:

Colossians 3:1-4 ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

If you really want to serve God, you've got to make up your mind.

Seek heavenly treasures, mortify the deeds of the body.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

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“If” - In general, the word “if” speaks of uncertainty, or, it puts responsibility on the individual.

However, let's replace “if” with “since” - “Since ye then be risen with Christ...”

Since you are now walking with God, what should you do?

Treasures in Heaven

What does Paul mean when he suggests we seek treasure in heaven?

Pleasures on Earth	Delight in the Lord
Treasures on Earth	Treasures in Heaven
Reputation among Men	Stand with God
Worldly Riches	Mansion in Heaven
Man's Philosophy	Following God
Worldliness/Immodesty	Holiness/Modesty
Flesh	Spirit
Time	Eternity
Immodest	Modest

The church is different from the world.

I began with Col. 3:1-4, however we can't stop there. Notice what comes next.

Colossians 3:5-10 ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Mortify your members: your will or desires

These are contrary to walking with God: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (sensual desires), and covetousness, which is idolatry, disobedience, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, lying to one another.

Tell me if I'm quoting this verse correctly:

“Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.” Col. 3:2 (don’t look yet!)

How can I pursue an education? How can I do my housework? How can I carry on my business? How can I have a successful marriage? How can I handle my job? How can I _____ (fill in the blank)?

If we do all things as an offering to God, we will do them better and with a right attitude.

Do it as if it’s money you put into the offering plate.

It’s an open and public offering to God.

Cleaning floors; do it as if you were doing it for Jesus.
Studying, do it unto the Lord.

Working at a job; do it as if Jesus was looking.

Dating a boyfriend/girlfriend; is Jesus the foundation of the relationship? If He is, you won’t “try it before you buy it”.

Got it!

How do we get the mindset that we can include Jesus in all we do?

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

Philippians 4:12-13 ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Most of you have worldly jobs, but, you can do it with a sanctified mind. You can do your job as an offering to God.

If you hate your job maybe it's because you aren't doing it for God or unto God.

If you hate doing the laundry, try doing it unto the Lord.

How do we change our attitude when it comes to "doing it unto the Lord", rather than, "it's my job" or "I have no choice, I have to do this"???

You who work in offices or businesses surrounded by ungodly people:

Some conversations – you won't (you shouldn't) fit in.

You will, at times, feel awkward and/or out of place like a misfit.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

The old sinful life is not attractive any more.

I love these verses:

1 John 3:2-3 ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

It states that we are striving to be like Him.

We are purifying ourselves.

The Loneliness of a “Crucified Life”.

Psalm 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Philippians 3:13-14 ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

David, a man after God’s own heart, is quoted as saying:

“They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing” Ps. 34:10

“My soul thirsts after Thee...” Ps. 143:6

“Truly my soul waits on God...” Ps. 62:1

Psalm 63:1 O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

Psalm 63:8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

At the end of your life, what will you be known for?

The heroes in the Word of God, were people who were misunderstood, fought against, criticized, ridiculed, often stood alone, yet they are known as heroes of the faith.

It's sad, but, as preachers and pastors we often stand alone. We are unable to clear our name because doing so would breach confidence. We are ridicules and misunderstood, but, if people just knew what we know.

Loneliness sometimes sets in when we (Christians), because of the lifestyle we have chosen, will not participate in ungodly things.

Remember, we are "in" this world but not "of" this world.

In the Old Testament, the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies alone. The only thing that protected him was the blood offering he brought. He went to great lengths to separate himself so he could be acceptable to God. But when it came down to it, the clothes had to be right and the body clean. But the one thing no one else saw, was his heart. If his heart wasn't right (had sin), he and the offering would be rejected.

Separate ourselves:

Never forget the Bible is clear about holiness:

"Without holiness no man will see the Lord" Heb. 12:14

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

"Be ye holy..." 1 Peter 1:16

"Be ye holy in conversation..." 1 Peter 1:15

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

If we are truly living a “crucified life”, everything we have, everything we are, belongs to God.

The world’s philosophy is “fill yourself”. The Lord’s philosophy is “empty yourself”.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Discussion:
