



A Study of Colossians

Chapter 3

In the final two chapters of Colossians, Paul moved into the practical application of the doctrines he had been teaching. After all, it does little good if Christians *declare* and *defend* the truth, but fail to *demonstrate* it in their lives. There are some Christians who will defend the truth at the drop of a hat, but their personal lives deny the doctrines they profess to love. “They profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him” (Titus 1:16). We must keep in mind that the pagan religions of Paul’s day said little or nothing about personal morality. A worshiper could bow before an idol, put his offering on the altar, and go back to live the same old life of sin. What a person believed had no direct relationship with how he behaved, and no one would condemn a person for his behavior.

But the Christian faith brought a whole new concept into pagan society: what we believe has a very definite connection with how we behave! After all, faith in Christ means being united to Christ; and if we share His life, we must follow His example. He cannot live in us by His Spirit and permit us to live in sin. In this chapter, Paul gives us instructions, motives and family matters to clarify the direction we should go in a sinful world.

Instructions For Holy Living (3:1-11)

1. To live holy lives we must first seek the heavenly. Paul emphasizes the true blessing of our relationship with Jesus. Give five focus points of that relationship. (1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____ (5) _____ 3:1-4
2. To live holy lives we must slay the earthly. Paul begins with a list of 5 appetites of the flesh. Name them:
(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____ (5) _____ 3:5
3. To live holy lives we must strengthen the Christly. Putting off and putting on are once-for-all actions. But being _____ in the image of the Creator is an ongoing thing. 3:9-10
4. To live holy lives we must realize that _____ is _____, and is in _____ 3:11

Motives For Holy Living (3:12-17)

1. God graciously saved us therefore clothe yourselves with (1) _____, (2) _____,
(3) _____, (4) _____, (5) _____ 3:12-14
2. The _____ of Christ should rule our hearts 3:15
3. The _____ of Christ must dwell in us _____ 3:16
4. The _____ of Christ directs what we do in _____ or _____ 3:17

Family and Holy Living (3:18-4:1)

Living a Christian life not only changes us individually but it also changes our homes. Paul gives instructions to various members of the family to facilitate this change.

1. Husband and wives should focus on _____ and _____ 3:18-19
2. Parents and children should focus on _____ and _____ 3:20-21
3. Masters and servants should focus on _____ and _____ 3:22-4:1