



## Colossians 3.1-11

Last 2 chapters have been a series of classes in Calvary Chapel Seminary. Deep truths that clearly stand on their own:

- Mystery of Christ in them = Col 1:27
- Circumcision of their old flesh nature = Col 2:11
- the fact that they had died with, were buried with and raised with Christ - Col 2:20, Col 2:12-13; etc). <sup>1</sup>

Colossians 1-2 – doctrinal, foundational

Colossians 3-4 – practical, application of Chaps 1-2

- **Alexander Maclaren:**

“We have now done with controversy. We hear no more about heretical teachers. The Apostle has cut his way through the tangled thickets of error, and has said his say as to the positive truths with which he would cut them down. **For the remainder of the letter, we have principally plain practical exhortations, and a number of interesting personal details.**”

**1** If then you were raised with Christ,  
seek those things which are above,  
where Christ is,  
sitting at the right hand of God.

- We have died with Christ through water Baptism
- We have been raised in newness of life

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.preceptaustin.org/colossians\\_chap\\_3\\_word\\_study](https://www.preceptaustin.org/colossians_chap_3_word_study)

- We await our final sanctification, our final Holiness when we see HIM face to face.

**Romans 6:8**

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

**Colossians 2:12–13**

12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,**

**2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

- Seek those things which are above (v1)
- Set your mind on things above (v2)
  - “Set” (zēteite) means **“to seek or strive for earnestly”**.<sup>2</sup>
- **Hebrews 12:4** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood as you struggle against sin.<sup>3</sup>
- This world will fail us
- Our government will fail us
- You may feel as though I have, or this church has failed you
- **LOOK UP!**

**Ecclesiastes 7:14**

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful,  
But in the day of adversity consider:  
Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other,  
So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.

**Philippians 3:13–14**

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself to have laid hold of it. But I do one thing, forgetting the things behind and straining toward the things ahead,  
14 **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>2</sup> Norman L. Geisler, “Colossians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 680.

<sup>3</sup> W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Heb 12:4.

**Spurgeon** – “Your Lord and Master has gone up to heaven. You profess that he represents you, and that you have gone up there in him and with him. Then do not seek the things that are down here below, the things of earth; but live where your life has gone. **Where your treasure is, there let your heart be also. “Seek those things which are above.”**”

## Who are you?

- **It has been said – stop being so pious, so holier than thou”**
  - **“So heavenly minded that’s he’s of no earthly good”**

## C. S. Lewis, in “Mere Christianity”:

“A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but **one of the things a Christian is meant to do.**

It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read History you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.

The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven.

**It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.**

**Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’:  
aim at earth and you will get neither.”**

## John Piper:

“Yes, I know. It is possible to be so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use.

**My problem is: I’ve never met one of those people.**

And I suspect, if I met one, the problem would not be that his

mind is full of the glories of heaven, but that his mind is empty and his mouth is full of platitudes.

I suspect that for every professing believer who is useless in this world because of **other-worldliness**, there are a hundred who are useless because of **this-worldliness**."



### **The Life of Annie J. Flint**

Few have experienced agony like Annie Johnson Flint (1866–1932). Both of her parents died during her childhood. She grew up an orphan — fortunately, in a family where she was taught the Scriptures, reading, writing, and music. But even then, Annie's childhood dream of becoming a concert pianist was quickly dissolved when she developed severe rheumatoid arthritis in just her early-twenties. The arthritis was so severe that by Annie's thirtieth-birthday she could no longer walk. Her hands were disfigured, her body was twisted, and she was rarely able to sleep because of the extreme discomfort she experienced throughout her joints. Though her physical body became more deformed with each passing year, Christ was powerfully being formed in Annie through her agony and suffering. Despite the intense pain it brought to her contorted fingers, Annie was a prolific writer and poet. She regularly reflected upon God's Word, his promises, and his abiding presence in her life through poetry and prose. Though she spent most of her life stuck inside her little room in a Sanitarium, she rarely—if ever—complained about her condition. Those who knew her best described her as bright, encouraging, and surprisingly humorous. In fact, it was her heart for people that started her writing career as she created cards and gift-books containing her poetry for friends who needed encouragement.

Annie was ruthlessly honest about life's difficulties. She refused to gloss over pain and suffering, and in her poetry, she never minimized the experience of living in a world marred by sin. But Annie also resisted the equally strong tendency to become cynical and pessimistic. She, better than most, wrote with one eye on the present hardships and the other on God's eternal goodness and purposes in them. By doing so, she lifted her readers' hearts above their present misery to behold from God's perspective his sovereign goodness in their trials and the nearness of Jesus through every tribulation.

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater;  
He sendeth more grace when the labours increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done:  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power has no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

- Annie Johnson Flint

**3 For you died,**  
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
**4** When Christ who is our life appears,  
**then you also will appear** with Him in glory.  
**5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth:  
fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire,  
and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Ephesians 2:1-7**

**1 And you He made alive,**  
**who were dead in trespasses and sins,**  
**2** in which you once walked according to  
**the course of this world,**  
**according to the prince of the power of the air,**  
the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

**3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature** children of wrath, just as the others.

**4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

**5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

**6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

**7** in which you yourselves **once walked** when you lived in them.

**8 But now** you yourselves are to put off all these:

anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

- **“you yourselves are to put off all these”**

- Putting off means – divorcing yourself from all these attitudes

- How many men and women are noted by their coarse language?

**9** Do not lie to one another, **since you have put off the old man with his deeds**,

**10** and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

**11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

**Old man – the dead man – dead by unforgiven sins**

**New man – blood bought, born again, baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit believer!**

**Ephesians 4:21–24**

**21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

**22** that you put off, concerning your former conduct,

**the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

**24** and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

How many of you need to be loosed from your grave clothes?

## The past rules over you

- The Devil has a hold of your soul by reminding of your past.
- **LAZARUS – COME FORTH!**

### **John 11:43–44**

**43** Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

**44** And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.

**Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”**