

Christian Character - Introduction Col. 3:1-4

Introduction:

*The purpose of this lesson is to understand why we should “put on the new man” (3:10). In the upcoming weeks, we will look at this “new man” in great detail.

I. We should put on the new man because we have been “raised with Christ” (3:1-2).

- A. One does not have to theorize about when we are raised with Christ.
 - 1. There is a marvelous working of God that takes place when people are baptized.
 - a. Our sins are remitted.
 - 1) Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”
 - b. Our sins are washed away.
 - 1) Acts 22:16 - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
 - 2. Furthermore, one is raised to walk in newness of life!
 - a. Rom. 6:3-4 - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - 3. Paul even gives us the meaning of being “raised with Christ” in the context of this passage.
 - a. Col. 2:11-12 - In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, {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.
 - b. To be “raised with Christ” is to be baptized into Christ.
- B. “If you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above.”
 - 1. The idea of seeking is one that is a deliberate search.
 - a. Those who have been raised with Christ do not find those things which are above by accident.
 - b. It takes time and effort on our part in order to find those things which are above.
 - c. This time is spent in searching the word of God to discover what to do and also putting into practice the things that we learn (this is why we will be discussing “the new man” in the upcoming weeks).
 - 2. We seek those things which are above because that is “where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”

- a. **Jn. 14:2** (Jesus tells us where He is going) - **In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**
 - b. **Jn. 20:17** (Jesus again says that He is going to the Father) - **Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"**
 - c. **Acts 1:9** (Jesus ascends to the Father) - **Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**
 - d. Christ is now at the right hand of the Father.
 - 1) **Heb. 1:3** - (speaking of Christ) **when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**
 - 2) **Heb. 12:1-2** - **Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**
 - e. **"Above"** is the place where the Father and the Son now dwell.
- C. We should put on the new man because we have been **"raised with Christ."**

II. We should put on the new man because we have died (3:3).

- A. Those who have been raised with Christ have died.
 - 1. "Death" means separation.
 - a. A physical death is the result of a separation of the body and the spirit.
 - b. A spiritual death identifies the one who, by sin, is separated from God.
 - 1) **Eph. 2:1** - **And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.**
 - 2) This eternal separation from God is called the second death.
 - a) **Rev. 20:14** - **Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**
 - b) **Rev. 21:8** - **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**
 - 2. Not only have you died, but your life is now **"hidden with Christ"** (3:3).
 - a. Our life now becomes one with Christ.
 - b. We have His mind (attitude).

- c. **Gal. 2:20** - 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.
- B. Those who have died are encouraged to put off the sins of the world (**3:5, 8**).
 - 1. The sins of the world will not last forever.
 - a. **I Jn. 2:15-17** - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - b. When we put off the things of the world, we live like a new man in Christ.
 - 1) **II Cor. 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
 - 2. Because the world will not last forever, we put off the things that will destroy us eternally.

III. We should put on the new man because "Christ...will appear" (**3:4**).

- A. We do not know when Christ is going to appear again.
 - 1. **Mt. 24:36** - But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
 - 2. **I Thes. 5:1-4** - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. {2} For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. {3} For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. {4} But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
 - 3. **II Pet. 3:10** - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
- B. Even though we do not know when He will return, we do know a little about what will happen on that day.
 - 1. **Jn. 5:28-29** - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice {29} and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.
 - 2. **II Pet. 3:10** - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
 - 3. It is at this time that a great judgment will occur (**Mt. 25:31-46**).

4. Paul even tells us that when Christ appears, “then you also will appear with Him in glory” (3:4).

Conclusion:

It is because of the sins of the world that “the wrath of God” will come “upon the sons of disobedience” (2:6).