

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 22 2017

“The Supremacy of Christ ~ Breaking Free”

Colossians 3:1-11

Chapter 3 marks a _____ in the letter, as we move from _____ to _____.

“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him.” (Titus 1:16)

KNOWING WHERE TO LOOK

#1. Look _____!

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4)

We have a new _____ and therefore a new way of _____. In other words, we now have a _____ source for living. Although this is a _____ reality, we need to _____ these truths on a daily basis, in order to break free from the past.

- **Setting our _____ on the things above.**

If we do this, we will experience _____ and _____ here on earth.

Set = *zeteo* =

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

If we seek Christ and allow Him to become our ultimate _____, our hearts will _____.

- **Setting our _____ on things above, not on _____ things.**

Thoughts can influence _____, so if we place our thoughts above and not on the earth, our _____ will reflect those things that matter to God.

“Finally, 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.” (Philippians 4:8)

FIVE REASONS TO LOOK UP

- **We have _____.** Because of the cross, we have no _____ to live like we used to live.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave

himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

- **Our life is _____ with Christ.** This gives _____ and _____ to those who don’t understand spiritual matters.

“Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

- **Christ is our _____.** By realizing that Christ is our life, we can have a new _____ about anything that happens to us. If He is truly our life, we have nothing to _____.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life...” (John 14:6)

- **Christ will _____ again.** Therefore, it only makes sense that we should be looking up on a _____ basis.

- **We will _____ with Him in glory.** When Christ returns, the real _____ of the believer, which has been hidden, will be made known. When Jesus is revealed in His glory, we shall be totally _____.

“...But we know that when he appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)

Our _____ determines our _____; and keeping our minds and hearts in the right place will help determine where we end up.

Where are you looking this morning? What does your mind focus on?

What gets the attention of your heart?

#2. Look _____!

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:5-9a)

Because we’ve died and been raised with Christ, we have the _____ power to defeat those _____ that want to control us.

_____ trumps legalism, but Paul makes it very clear that we’re no longer to let sin _____ over us.

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” (Romans 6:1-2)

We need to be on the constant _____ for sin, and when it begins to awaken in our lives, we should put it to _____, or it will _____ us!

DESTRUCTIVE SINS

- _____, *Porneia* = pornography = a general term that refers to any form of _____ sexual behavior.

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

Sexual sin effects us at the _____ of our being and it is _____.

- _____. These are the _____, unclean _____ and intentions of the mind.
- _____. Love takes _____ and deepens over time, while lust seeks quick _____ and always wants more. Love uses the senses to cherish the other, while lust focuses only on _____.
- _____. Our physical desires are _____ given, but they can become evil when they're motivated by our _____ nature and are executed for evil ends.
- _____. The person who is never _____ with what he has is usually _____ of what others have. This leads to _____.

If we're involved in any of the things on this list, we need to _____ right now! _____ it to God and to whomever we are wronging.

God's wrath is _____ within His holiness by mercy, compassion and love. He's repulsed by sin and yet is committed to us in _____. Yes, Jesus gives us _____, however, He also tells us the _____ about our sin.

SOCIAL OR RELATIONAL SINS

Rid = apothemi =

- _____ is a continuous attitude of hatred that remains bottled up within.
- _____ is what comes bursting out, often uncontrollably.
- _____ is an attitude of ill _____ towards a person. It's often a

hidden hatred of the heart that takes revenge in secret.

- _____ is when we destroy another person's good _____ by lies, gossip and the spreading of rumors.
- _____ language is crude talk or abrasive _____ that's often filled with swearing and sexual innuendo.
- _____ to one another disrupts _____ by destroying trust. It tears down relationships and can lead to serious conflicts.

When you look out, what do you see?

Does your lifestyle reflect your true identity in Christ?

#3. Look _____!

“...since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” (Colossians 3:9b-10)

This is not a command to keep, but a _____ to _____—it's already been _____. We're exhorted to stop doing certain things because we _____ stop. We are different therefore, we can _____ differently

Although we are created in the _____ of God, because of sin, that image has been _____. And so, God's purpose is to _____ His image in us.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2)

When you look in what do you see?

Are you living out the truth of your conversion that you are a new creation?

#4. Look _____!

“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

In Christ there should be no _____ of nationality, race, education, social standing, wealth, gender, religion, or power because the gospel breaks down walls of _____.

Since Christ dwells in all believers, we must make sure we're not allowing any _____ or prejudice to take root in our lives or church. The stigma of being different must be loved away as we strive for unity within _____.

When you look around what do you see?

Do you see people who are different than you or less than you? Or do you see brothers and sisters in Christ?