

INTRODUCTION

Last week Aaron spoke on Colossians 3:1 and challenged us to ‘*set your hearts on things above*’. This week, we continued in Colossians 3, and Joe challenged us to ‘*set your minds on things above*’. Both of these commands are present imperative, meaning that this process is continuous. We must choose again and again and again to focus all of our life – our family, our job, our friends, our church – on Christ as He sits at the right hand of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had your heart set on receiving a certain gift? Did the anticipation of receiving that gift have an effect on how you acted and/or what you thought about?
2. Read Colossians 3:2-4. The word for ‘mind’ is *phroneō*, which, according to the Bauer-Danker Greek Lexicon of the New Testament, means “*think, hold an opinion; set one’s mind on; develop an attitude based on careful thought*”. It refers to a person’s inner disposition, not just a passing thought. What do you spend time thinking about? Is God a regular part of your thoughts?
3. The mind is extremely important in your walk as a Christ-follower. Read Romans 12:1-2, and discuss ways to renew your mind. (See Psalm 119:11, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:1, Titus 3:5, and 1 John 2:27.)
4. In Colossians 3:1, what do you think Paul meant by ‘*things above*’ and ‘*earthly things*’?
5. Make a list of some of the ‘*things above*’ found in Matthew 6:33, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 4:8, and James 3:17. How often is your mind set on these things?

Study Questions for Community Groups

6. Read Matthew 6:19-21. How does this passage increase your understanding of Colossians 3:2?
7. In Colossians 3:3, Paul declares that *'you died'*. Your *'old self'* was crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 6:14) and you have a new self (2 Corinthians 5:17) that is alive in Him. Your life is transformed, and your new focus is to glorify and obey Christ. Do you feel like He is alive in you, influencing your thoughts, decisions, and actions? Or do you feel that you are living your life in your own strength?
8. What does the phrase *'your life is now hidden with Christ in God'* mean to you? Read Psalm 27:5, Psalm 31:20, and John 10:28-30. Do these passages add to your understanding of this phrase?
9. According to Colossians 3:4, what is the reward for being dead to sin and alive in Christ? (See also 1 John 3:2-3.)
10. As Joe said on Sunday, this perspective is a long-term view. Are there situations you are dealing with that you can view in perspective and act on in light of eternity?

SCRIPTURE

²*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.* ³*For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴*When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Colossians 3:2-4

APPLICATION

How can you set your mind on things above? What daily habits can help the process? List any changes you need to make in your life that will help renew your mind.

The only way to make Jesus first in your life is to put Him in the center. Find a tangible way to remind yourself daily (constantly!) to ask, "Am I keeping Jesus central in how I relate to others and how I view my circumstances?"