



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Things Above (Colossians 3:1 – 4:1)

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THEME Book Study (Colossians)

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This sermon is the third of a four-part sermon series on the Book of Colossians. Having gone through the first two instalments establishing our faith in the sovereignty of Jesus and anchoring our lives in the centrality of Christ, we now discover how we should live our lives in the culture of the kingdom of God, focused on the things above.

LIVE OUR LIVES IN THE CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1) Put to death the earthly traits

In Colossians 3:1-11, Pauls tells us now that we have been raised with Christ, we live as citizens of the kingdom of God, seeking to live in the new ways and putting to death the old ways that we used to live.

Put to death the earthly traits	Put on the things above
Sexual immorality	Compassion
Impurity	Kindness
Passion	Humility
Evil desires	Meekness
Covetousness	Patience
Anger	Forgiveness
Wrath	Love
Malice	Peace
Slander	Thankfulness
Obscene talk	Filled with the Word of Christ
Lies	

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” - Colossians 3:2-4

As we anticipate our future glorification in verses 3 and 4, we must pursue personal holiness as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12-13) by actively seeking to put to death the earthly traits (refer to the left column of the table above). After all, no one who abides in a Holy God keeps on sinning (1 John 3:6). If Christ has already paid for our sins and set us free from the chains of sins and death, we can confess to Him our struggles and seek His help to overcome them.

2) Put on the things above

In contrast, Colossians 3:12-4:1 provides us with the new way to live. Paul went on to explain practical tips to live out the kingdom values (refer to the right column of the table above) for every member in the household. And, he exhorts us to look to God as our point of reference; as the standard.

Colossians 3 may seem like a passage of do's and don'ts, but it is more than that. As we focus on the list of the things above, we will sense what is important to our King. We catch a glimpse of His heart. His value system is different from that of the world and what matters to Him is more than just do's and don'ts. Let us catch His heart.

CONCLUSION

As people called into His kingdom, we must catch His heart. Let us not be like the Pharisees – preoccupied with the do's and don'ts, involved with ministry, reading the Word, whatever spiritual discipline etc, and yet miss the very heart of God. As citizens of God, let us see the heart of the King - a kingdom of compassion, of humility and of love.

QUESTIONS

1. In Col 3:4, we are assured that when Christ comes again, we will also be with Him in glory. Why then, do we need to strive to put sin to death as in Col 3:5? What did Ps Darren mention about this apparent contradiction?

2. Over the past week, which “earthly trait” had crept up in your life that you had to put to death or confess to the Lord? Share with the group as you feel comfortable to do so.

3. Focus on the list to put on the things above. What can you put on in the week ahead? Share this in the context of the relationships that Paul mentioned. As a husband, wife, parent, child, servant, master.