

Lesson 9

Colossians 3:1-11

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- 1 If then you have been raised with Christ^a, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your minds^b on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ who is your life appears^c, then you also will appear^c with him in glory.
- 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality^d, impurity^e, passion^f, evil desire, and covetousness^g, which is idolatry.
- 6 On account of these the wrath^h of God is comingⁱ.
- 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
- 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath^m, malice, slanderⁿ, and obscene talk^o from your mouth.
- 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off^p the old self with its practices
- 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator^q.
- 11 Here there is not Greek^r and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian,^s Scythian, slave,^t free; but Christ is all, and in all^u.

- Notes
- a HCSB "Messiah" (also in v.1b 3, 4, but not v.11)
 - b KJV "affection"; NJB "thoughts"; NIV "hearts"
 - c NJB, REB, NASU, HCSB, CEB "is revealed ... be revealed"
 - d KJV, ASV NRSV, REB "fornication"; NASU, NAB "immorality"
 - e KJV, ASV "uncleanness"
 - f HCSB, CEB, NIV "lust"
 - g NJB, NRSV, REB, NASU, HCSB, NAB, CEB, NIV "greed"
 - h NJB, REB "retribution"
 - i Also NIV, but KJV adds "on the children of disobedience" (sim. ASV, NJB, NRSV, REB?, NASU, HCSB, NAB in [], CEB), compare Eph.5:6
 - m NJB "hot temper"; REB "bad temper"; NAB "fury"; NIV "rage"
 - n KJV "blasphemy"; ASV "railing"
 - o KJV, REB sim., HCSB sim. "filthy communication"; ASV "shameful speaking"; NJB "abusive language and dirty talk"; NRSV, NASU sim. "abusive language"
 - p NJB, NRSV "stripped"; REB "discarded"
 - q REB "being renewed in the image of its Creator and brought to know God"
 - r NIV "Gentile"
 - s NJB replaces ",," with "and"
 - t NJB, NRSV, REB, NASU, HCSB, CEB sim., NIV sim. replaces ",," with "and"
 - u NJB "There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything"; CEB "but Christ is all things and in all people"

Comments / Questions

1. In 2:20, Paul writes "If with Christ you died...". Now, by continuance, he writes "If then you have been raised with Christ..." (3:1). Throughout this section, Paul contrasts the things to which we have died and the things which should characterize our new life.

2. Paul also uses the image of us being "*raised*" with Christ in Romans 6:4 and Ephesians 2:6. Look at those passages. Is Paul making the same point there as here?
3. Is "*seek(ing) the things that are above*" (v.1) the same thing as "*set(ting) your minds on things that are above*" (v.2)?
4. What is suggested by saying that our "*life is hidden with Christ in God*" and then that it will "*appear*" when Christ appears?
5. Paul gives two lists of vices: v.5 and v.8. They are to be "*put to death*" and "*put...all away*", respectively. Why two lists instead of one? How would one characterize each list?
6. How is covetousness idolatry?
7. What is suggested by "the wrath of God"? Does it mean that God is angry? Find other NT references concerning God's wrath.
8. Paul uses an interesting phrase to describe the growth of the "*new self*": "*which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*" Compare the translation of the REB (Note q). So, what does that mean?
9. Verse 11 sounds like:

Galatians 3:28 "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*" and

1 Corinthians 12:13 "*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*"

Is Paul making the same point in all three passages?