

## Consecrate Yourselves Unto God 2

Colossians 3:1-10 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

### ❖ Introduction

- **Do you know what we are doing here today?**
  - **Our Goal** is to build each other up to walk in a manner worthy of our Calling
  - We are Christians... (if you haven been raised with Christ)
  - And Christians ACT Christian
  - **And Christian is not what this culture says it is...**
    - It was a name given to those who lived in Antioch
    - Because the mimicked Jesus every day
    - Not because the went to a church... or lived in America
    - These men and women lived Christ-Like Set Apart Lives
    - And the church grew in Antioch because these people were a witness in WORD and DEED
- **One thing about Jesus**
  - He was set apart.
  - He was Holy and Righteous... filled with love and grace
- **He came to 1) Save us**
  - He said He came to Seek and to save that which was lost...
- **He came for another Reason Christians!**
  - **2) He came to sanctify you.**
  - He came to present you to the Father
  - **Colossians 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—**
    - We are studying this book of Colossians today.
    - After Paul spends two chapters giving us some good theology...
    - Teaching us some great things to know about Jesus...
    - In ch. 3 He is giving us the “How to apply these things”
    - Giving us some good practical instructions...
  - **But before He does that, he said what he said in 1:22**
    - He is letting these Christians in Colossae and Laodicea know
    - Jesus plans to present you before the Father as Holy and Blameless and beyond reproach
  - **Now, before you get to smug about it this morning**
    - And say... well of course, His blood makes me Holy and right in the eyes of God
    - And that is just the end of it for me, I have nothing to worry about...
    - Well, the Bible NEVER talks like that.
    - You may have heard that your whole life, but the Bible NEVER talks like that...
    - **As a matter of Fact...**
      - ◆ **after Paul says that Jesus will present us Holy, blameless and beyond reproach**
      - ◆ He says **1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard,**

- **So, I say to you, as Paul would say:**
  - **Phil 2:12 Work out your salvation in fear and trembling...**
- **The warning to fall away from Faith is real...**
  - It will not happen to those who have been given the Holy Spirit
    - ◆ Because He will lead you... God will keep you
    - ◆ But, if you sit here with no fire in your soul, with no desire to move for God
  - **You should be afraid of being that "IF"**
    - ◆ If you indeed continue... he says
    - ◆ If you have been raised with Christ
- **Because those who are in Christ, will live for him... although they stumble along the way**
  - Be careful that your stumble isn't something more
- **But, I say with the author of Hebrews**
  - **Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.**

#### ❖ Recap

- **What did we notice in the first 2 verses**
  - Before we began we talked about Holiness...
  - **Talked about being Set Apart unto God**
    - We looked at the analogy of the wedding dress
    - How it is set apart for a very special purpose
    - And how we are to be set apart from this world
- **Paul's appeal to you is based on "If you have been raised with Christ"**
  - So, All those who have been born again are challenged here...
- **Seek the things that are above**
  - Dig and search out like a very valuable treasure. Seek to know Christ
- **Set your mind on things that are above**
  - When you find the treasures of knowing Jesus
  - Looking at His character and words and life
  - As you have come to mine out of the Word wonderful things about God
  - Set your mind on those things...
  - Think on them and meditate on them..
- **This is a discipline... this NEVER happens on accident... this has to be planned out and done**
  - And this seeking and setting will be the foundation to following through on Paul's words to us
  - So, we continue on to verse 3
  - And Paul gives us more rational reasons to Set our minds on Christ

#### ❖ 3) Think on Jesus Because You are in Him and will be with Him

- **<sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**
- I do not want to spend a lot of time here... but these two verses are very important
- These two verses are your **ammunition** in setting your mind on things above
  - **Remember your Death...** if you do not understand this... Understand this!
    - If you do not understand this, you will be less effective
    - You will be an Archer missing some arrows in his quiver
  - **What does it mean to die?**
    - At one point you are walking around, going about your business
    - You are going to work, exercise, watch tv, enjoy hobbies, etc...
    - Then... your life is gone... you are now no longer living...
  - **Paul is trying to tell us that something very similar to that has happened to us**
    - We have died... who we used to be is no more... He does not exist

- **One way we died is in dying to sin...**
  - ◆ When Jesus died on the cross... our death occurred... (Those that know Jesus)
  - ◆ So, now we do not have to die to sin again..
  - ◆ Death no longer has any claim over us...
- **Galatians 2:20 <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

➤ **Your life is hidden with Christ in God**

- Not only have you died, but your life... is hidden with Christ
- Hidden with Christ.. this is such a neat reality for the believer...
- **They are hidden in Christ... meaning they are made invisible**
  - They are protected... kept safe...
  - Kept safe from death...
- **This is what happened to Noah on the ark, The Lord shut Noah in the Ark...**
  - And Noah remained safe from the judgment..
- **Those hidden in Christ**
  - Are kept safe from death... and from the judgment of God... and from Sin...
  - We can remain safe from sin and its affects...
  - Although this does not mean we do not see its affects...

➤ **When He appears you will appear with him in Glory**

- Also, we see we have much to look forward to
  - We will be with Christ... We will be made like Christ one day..

➤ **If this is who you are... then why would you continue being someone you are not?**

➤ **Knowing this is like:**

- **Being Mohammed Ali – When He walked into the ring... He knew He was going to win**
- **Like being Joe Montana – He expected to win. He knew who He was**
- **Like being a High School Athlete playing against the Pee Wee team...**
  - You know who you are, You know your ability!

❖ **4) Don't Be an Idol Worshipper!**

- **<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry...<sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another,**
- Here... after telling you, that you are in Christ
- **He says: Destroy your sins... Put to death what is earthly in you**
  - Put to Death
  - Earthly in you
- **Then He gives you a list**
  - **sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry**

➤ **Before We look at this: We must notice something of GREAT importance**

- In ch. 2 Paul speaks against having a list of rules...
- He goes against legalism... people making rules of what you can eat and touch etc..
- **Col 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.**
  - Following man made legalistic rules are of no value
- **This is why Paul starts with Jesus...**
  - He starts with us setting our minds on Jesus
  - Because if Jesus is our treasure..

- Our natural inclination will be to flee from these things He lists here...
- **So, Paul says... Start with Jesus... start with loving Jesus... Setting your mind on Jesus**
  - Don't be like Ephesus who lost the love they had at first...
  - Start with Jesus, and then when confronted with Sin, remember the Word...
  - Flee from it because it goes against your greatest love

➤ **Back to Paul's Imperative to the Christian: Put to Death what is Earthly...**

- We have already been told to set our mind on things above... not on things that are earthly...
- Here He says... lets get to work on killing these earthly things...
- Then He lists some earthly things...

➤ **Put to Death!**

- **(Let me arm you this morning... arm you with the knowledge to Consecrate)**
- **Do you understand what He means here?**
  - **The definition for it is: *to stop a state or activity with lethal determination...***
    - ◆ But that is too clinical isn't it?
    - ◆ Now, I know you know what it means to put something to death
    - ◆ For something to die...
- **But... Do you KNOW what it means...?**
  - It is one thing to understand the meaning of the word
  - It is another thing to know and experience the meaning of the word
- **Paul is telling you to Put what is earthy in you to death**
  - That is you doing the work of killing something...
  - Here me now! You have to become a killer...
  - Your enemy is strong and subtle and has made you think he is your friend
  - He has lived with you many years...
  - This WILL NOT happen on accident
  - He does not say "manslaughter your sin"
  - He says... Kill it!
- **This particular Word comes from the word NEKROS**
  - **It means a corpse, lifeless**
- **When something is killed it is a very violent process**
  - You take an animal for example... and lets be a bit graphic for a minute
  - If you will excuse me...
  - But most people in here are meat eaters I would think...
  - Those animals you eat were once walking around running and eating or flying
  - Full of life without a care in the world...
  - Then someone takes a lethal weapon and takes their life from them...
  - Maybe they were killed with a knife and their life's blood ran to the ground
  - Maybe a gun was their downfall...
- **Here:**
  - **Paul is telling us two things...**
    - ◆ 1) the earthly things in you must die
    - ◆ 2) you have to be the one to kill them...
  - **You must take its life in your hands and choke it until it is no longer breathing...**
    - ◆ Sin is running and playing and frolicking in the green pastures of your life
    - ◆ It has not care or worry
    - ◆ And you must grab it around it's neck and choke the life out of it...
    - ◆ Until it lay limp in your hand unable to take a single breath
- **Gosh you may say: Don't you think I am going a little overboard?**

- How did Adam and Eve's one sin turn out for the race of men?
- How many useless murders and thefts and wars and hatreds have come from sin
- Every bad thing on this earth is due to the sin of man
- We must take it seriously...
- **Your Soul is at stake!**
  - **Paul says in Romans something very similar**
    - ◆ **Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**
      - Live by flesh you die, live by spirit you live
      - KJV says... **Mortify the deeds of the flesh**
      - **Lay the ax to the root of the tree**
  - **Jesus is not going to present you partly holy and partly blameless**
    - ◆ It will be fully holy and blameless...
  - **The Great Puritan writer John Owen said this:**
    - ◆ **"Be killing sin or sin will be killing you"**
  - **Now, hopefully I have gotten my point across in regards how we must act toward sin**
    - ◆ **Now, what are we to be killing?**
      - Paul says it is those things that are earthly in us...
      - As opposed to things from above
      - But, it come down to one thing: **Idol Worship**
- **Idol Worship**
  - Idol worship in the form of Covetousness...
  - **How many idol worshippers do we have in here this morning?**
    - None that would admit to it...
    - Some that might be willing to consider it
    - Are there none willing to repent of their idol worship?
  - **You may wonder where I am getting the freedom to make this assumption**
    - **Look at the text: Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry**
    - **Let's take a moment to examine these...**
      - ◆ If we are going to be killing these things we must know our target
        - Let's not miss b/c we don't know what we are aiming at
    - **He starts with sexual immorality**
      - ◆ Root meaning of this word is where we get our word pornography
      - ◆ This word is very closely related to prostitution
      - ◆ In the old testament it describes the actions of a married man being with someone not his wife... as Judah and Tamar this was also Hosea's wife
    - **Then Impurity**
      - ◆ This means filthiness... I think we know what this is like... Very filthy in their imagination and talk... Impure... the opposite of what is pure... disgusting
      - ◆ This word is used in Leviticus concerning the state of the people without sacrifice to cleanse them... they were unclean before the Lord
      - ◆ This word was used in the O.T. to describe a person sick with a bodily discharge
      - ◆ It is like a festering sore...
      - ◆ Here Paul is describing a persons actions or thoughts in the sexual area as being impure
    - **Then Passions**
      - ◆ Although this word "passion" is not bad in and of itself...
        - Because it is great to be filled with passion for God
        - It means a strong feeling or emotion..

- ◆ Here, the context means a Lustful uncontrollable passion
  - Just a burning desire inside the person for what is impure and immoral
- **Then Evil Desire**
  - ◆ A longing... deeply rooted in the person... there is this desire
    - And it is a desire to have or do what they ought not to do
      - This is the word used in the parable of the sower...
      - The seed was choked out by desires for other things besides the gospel
    - **It is a self indulgent craving that displaces proper affections for God**
    - This is why: Proper Affections for God are so important...
      - Start with treasuring Jesus...
- **Notice the pattern:**
  - ◆ *Evil desire produces lustful passion producing impurity producing the act of immorality*
- **And covetousness which is idolatry**
  - ◆ I tried not to spend too much time on the first 4...
  - ◆ Because number 5 is the root of these sins...
  - ◆ And covetousness is equal to idolatry Paul says...
- **Idolatry**
  - Now, we know what idolatry is... and we are pretty sure we can move on
  - Because there are no idolaters here right?
  - **Let's look at covetousness**
    - ◆ And after we do, I am going to make a statement that I believe to be true...
    - ◆ **The most worshipped false god in human history has been self**
    - ◆ We have worshipped ourselves... since the beginning of time...
    - ◆ And if our worship had another name or a statue, we worshipped it because of self
- **And Covetousness! He ends with covetousness... it is climactic**
  - This word is closely associated with greed
    - ◆ It is the desire of having more
  - It is the opposite of being CONTENT with what God has given you
  - **It is the 10<sup>th</sup> and final Commandment given to Moses on the Mountain**
    - ◆ **Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."**
  - **This is what happened with Adam and Eve... it was subtle though...**
    - ◆ They were not happy and content with the thousands of other tress given to them
    - ◆ They wanted what they were told they could not have
  - **The Exact Opposite of this is what we see in:**
    - ◆ **Psalm 119:36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**
- **Which is Idolatry**
  - **The first commandment for us is:**
    - **Exodus 20:3<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.**
  - **When we covet we are worshipping another God besides the only True God**
    - **"The most worshipped false god in human history is self..."**
  - **Sadly, It seems, even among those we consider the stronger Christians in churches**
    - We are guilty of covetousness which is idolatry
    - This is not a sin that is left to the weak in the faith and the outsiders...
  - **Illustration:**
    - **We are a people that worship on the inside... right?**
      - ◆ We are not usually bowing down and then up in church
      - ◆ We worship God in Spirit and in Truth...

- **Imagine we just get a Huge Picture blown up of YOU**
  - ◆ And you take it home after church and you bow down and give it your attention
  - ◆ Later on tonight you bow down to it
  - ◆ Early in the morning you bow down and sacrifice to it...
- **That is preposterous you say... right?**
  - ◆ Well... just like we say we have come today to give our hearts in worship to God
  - ◆ Many of us in here have given our hearts in worship to self
  - ◆ You do not need a golden statue or picture to bow down to, to be an idol worshipper
- **Paul cares about this Church...**
  - So he is telling them... You can not keep worshipping yourself anymore...
  - This is what Jesus meant by denying yourself...
  - This is what Paul was talking about early: You have died and are hidden in Christ
- **God Cares About what we do with our bodies...**
  - So much so that not using them rightly is linked directly to Idolatry...
    - We didn't know that did we?
  - **Think back to the connection to Romans 12:1-2**
    - Present your bodies unto God... this is Spiritual Worship...
    - Present our bodies to sin... this is idol worship
- **Paul said all of this in Ephesians as well**
  - **Ephesians 5:3-5** <sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
    - Don't let it be named among you... those like this have no inheritance in heaven...
- **He didn't stop there though: He had more for us to consider**
  - **anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.** <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another,
    - The **First** list was a very personal list... done within the person, or with the body
    - The **Second** list here is directed toward other people
  - **Anger** – great translation... intense anger that does not subside
    - This is the emotion of bitterness towards someone else
    - One definition described it as being on an epic scale... it is uncontrollable
    - It is actually the kind of anger God has toward sin...
    - **James tells us to be slow to anger**
  - **Wrath** – this is an outburst of anger... can't control yourself and you just lash out at someone
    - Those that did not like Jesus and Paul's teachings responded like this
  - **Malice** – this is a nature that means to do others harm
    - when you purposely do something evil to another person because you don't like them
  - **Slander** – comes from same word as blasphemy against God
    - Using your words to hurt others... when we speak against a person
    - We are actually speaking against God because God made that person in His image
  - **Obscene talk** – dirty and filthy talk... abusive language toward others...
    - It is like going to the Superdome for game day...
    - Be careful what you talk about and what you say...
  - **Lying** – not telling the truth
    - Consider these things in your life
- **Paul says: We must put them all away**
  - **Meaning: Get rid of it... take it off**
    - **Just like you would come in after a hard days work and discard your nasty clothes**

- ◆ This resonates with me... I have worked cattle since a young age...
- ◆ And this is not a clean job... ever...
- ◆ When I am finished... I am covered... literally... in blood and manure and dirt
- ◆ Flies are all over me... medicine and fly spray have spilled all over me
- ◆ I can't wait to discard those clothes, get a bath and put on new clothes...
- **This is what we must do with our earthly desires...**
  - ◆ Jesus has saved us, He has made us Holy in the eyes of God
  - ◆ His work has justified us, made us right with God...
  - ◆ Now He is working on us while we live and practice our faith...
  - ◆ Consider your sinful and earthly ways as filthy garments...
  - ◆ Take them off, quit wearing your nasty clothes to nice places...
- **How many of you would feel comfortable wearing those clothes to church?**
  - ◆ None of us... unless you just do not care about your appearance...
  - ◆ We at least like to wear clean clothes right?
- **But, we do it all the time...**
  - ◆ We wear our sin to church every week...
  - ◆ We come in here stained with the world...
  - ◆ We are smelly and sweaty and nasty – covered in manure and blood and dirt
- **Many churches... care about that outward appearance don't they...**
  - ◆ Praise God it doesn't seem to be that way here... YET!
  - ◆ Outward appearances mean nothing...
- **Look at what Jesus tells the Laodiceans (So many great connections in this text)**
  - ◆ Whom... by the way... Paul is addressing here in this letter... **“read it in Laodicea”**
  - ◆ **Jesus says:**
    - **Revelation 3:17** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
    - **Oh buddy... they did not take Paul's word did they...**
      - When Jesus rebuked them He saw their dead bones...
      - They had not put off their earthly deeds...
      - Rather they were wretched
- **Paul uses this word elsewhere in the N.T.**
  - And the sense of the word here is to **“cast off”**
- **Romans 13:11-13** Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us **cast off** the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.
  - Wake up he says... WAKE UP! Salvation is nearer now...
  - The time is coming... CAST OFF the works of darkness...
- **How Do We Win This Battle?**
  - Worship God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength
  - **Set** your hearts attention on Jesus...
  - This is the **only** way you will win...
  - You can not win this battle by knowing the definitions of these earthly things
    - You can not win by only seeking out the enemy
    - You win first when you make Jesus your greatest Treasure!!!!

## ❖ 5) Remember How God will Handle Sin

- **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
- I will say very little about this today. I will pick up here next week.



- But you must consider this statement by Paul.
- Here is a very matter of fact statement given by God through Paul...
  - God wants us to know this...
- **Another Reason to put them to death: God hates these things...**
  - They are so bad that they are the reason His wrath is coming...
- **Do you think He would save you and allow you to remain**
  - Living in the things that are bringing about His wrath
  - Sounds counter productive doesn't it... Doesn't seem right... Because it isn't
- **Put them away from you... put them to death because God's wrath is coming for them**
- **Don't Get Comfortable Church Person...**
  - Never get comfortable in your sin...
  - God's wrath is coming on account of these things!
  - **Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

#### ❖ Finally,

- **He wrote this letter to the church in Colassae**
  - But if your read the whole letter, He asked that it be read to the church at Laodicea
  - Laodicea is a very well known church among New Testament Christians...
  - **They are the church in Revelation 3 that Jesus says:**
    - **He wanted to spew them out of His mouth**
    - **Do you know why He wanted to spew them out of His mouth?**
      - ◆ He said He knew their deeds...
      - ◆ And when He saw their deeds... they were no good
      - ◆ They had not SET themselves APART...
      - ◆ They had not set their minds on things above
      - ◆ They had not put away the sin in their lives...
      - ◆ They were living in the world
- **The Church in Laodicea had not listened to Paul's Words to the Colossians**
  - He gave them clear instructions and they did not listen...
  - So our prayer today: God, Impress upon our hearts the importance of Holy Living
    - And HELP ME... Help me to live for you

#### ❖ Invitation

- **Christians come and repent before God... You can not do this on your own**
- **Let me give you a practical plan of Action**
  - 1) Cut off your earthly desires source of life
    - starve it, cut off its air
  - 2) Give it no room to grow. Crowd it out with the Word of God
    - Paul will soon say in Colossians 3
    - **Colossians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**