

# Heavenly-Minded

Colossians 3

Some have said you can be so heavenly-minded you are no earthly good - but here we see that to be heavenly-minded actually does a LOT of good regarding my life on earth.

## Set your heart and mind on things above

Col 3:1-25 NIV Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, ***set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*** (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.

- This is an IF/THEN statement - If RAISED (Col 2:12 in baptism) - then SET your heart and mind
- Set your heart on things above
  - **to SEEK something that is hidden**
- Set your mind on things above
  - **to exercise the mind**, that is, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience):

## **Our way of life is connected to what we set our mind on**

- Rom 8:5-8 ESV For those who live according to the flesh ***set their minds on the things of the flesh***, but those who live according to the Spirit ***set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*** (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For ***the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*** (8) ***Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

## The heavenly-minded think about our earthly nature the way God does

Col 3:5 ***Put to death***, therefore, ***whatever belongs to your earthly nature***: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (6) Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. (7) You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. (8) But now you must also ***rid yourselves of all such things*** as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. (9) Do not lie to each other, ***since you have taken off your old self with its practices***

**Put to Death** = to Deaden or Subdue - to deprive a thing of its power, to destroy its strength

- vs 5 these belong to my earthly nature - I am a new creation in Christ 2 Cor 5:7
  - Psa 97:10 ESV O you who love the LORD, hate evil!...
- vs 6 because of these the wrath of God is coming
  - Rom 5:9 ESV Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be ***saved by him from the wrath of God.***
- vs 7 these are remnants of my life BEFORE Christ

## The heavenly-minded seek to be Christ-like in relationships with others

Col 3:10 and have ***put on the new self***, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. (11) Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. (12) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, ***clothe yourselves*** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (13) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (14) And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (15) ***Let the peace of Christ*** rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

### **Put on the new self**

- being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator
- ***Here [i.e. In Christ]*** this is no difference, no room for prejudice - **Christ is ALL and IN ALL**

### **Clothe ourselves with virtues that promote unity**

- Forgive as HE forgave you
- Basically treat others as HE has treated us - Treat others as if they are Christ

### **Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts** [SINCE we are members of one body]

- Eph 2:14-17 ESV For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility (15) by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, (16) and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (17) And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

## The heavenly-minded build their lives on God's word

(16) ***Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly*** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (17) And ***whatever you do***, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- ***The Word of Christ*** is our source for teaching and instructing one another
- ***The reputation of Christ*** becomes the motivation for what we say and do

## The heavenly-minded build families God's way

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (18) **Wives, submit** yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (19) **Husbands, love** your wives and do not be harsh with them. (20) **Children, obey** your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (21) **Fathers, do not embitter your children**, or they will become discouraged.

## Family

- vs 18 - Wives submit
- vs 19 Husbands love your wives
- vs 19-20 Children obey
- vs 21 Fathers do not embitter your children or they will become discouraged

## The heavenly-minded have a work ethic that makes them “earthly good”

Col 3:22 **Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything**; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, (24) since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (25) Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

We still LIVE IN THE WORLD - tho NOT OF IT - we have earthly masters

- Not only when they are watching as a people pleaser
- With sincerity of heart and reverence for the LORD
- Work at it with all your heart as working for the LORD
- From the LORD you receive the inheritance as your reward
- It is the Lord Christ you are serving
- The wrongdoer will be paid back...there is no partiality