**Colossians Family Worship Devotions – Week 3**

Congratulations! We are halfway through the book of Colossians. What are some things which have stood out to you as you studied the first two chapters? [Ask your family and share those things which you learned]

This week we begin chapter 3. Again, there are four devotionals. Each devotional has a scripture reading, as well as some thoughts, questions, song suggestions, and prayer ideas. Let’s begin!

**Day 1: Thinking Heavenly**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:1-2)

The world has a pull on us. We are often more concerned about what others think than how we ought to live. We get sucked into the rat race of trying the get the latest and greatest thing. We even get weighed down by the burdens and worries of life. How do we break free of all of this? By turning our attention to Jesus and developing a heavenly mindset.

***Read Colossians 3:1-4***

Questions

* There are five actions when it comes to developing a heavenly mindset. The first action is considering our identity in Jesus (v. 1). We have been raised with him into the heavenly places (Eph.2:6). How should this influence the way we live? (cf. Heb. 11:13-16;13:14)
* The second action is consistently setting our mind on the realities of heaven (vv. 1-2). We aren’t to think merely of heavenly things, but we are to look at the world through a heavenly lens. We are to look at it through the lens of scripture. Where does your mind usually settle during the day?
* The third action is considering that we have died with Jesus (v. 3). How does this help us break free from the pull of the world?
* The fourth action is considering that we are hidden in Jesus (v.3). Think of a treasure that is locked up in a chest. It is protected. How does the fact that we are hidden in Christ influence the way we live today?
* The final action is considering our future (v. 4). What is our future as Christians? How does this influence the way we live our life today? (cf. 1 John 3:1-3)

**Suggested Songs**

* Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus – <https://youtu.be/F2tKVqZZiI4>
* Be Thou My Vision - <https://youtu.be/HBDFOlaIJaU>
* Joy - <https://youtu.be/6Gva6lGpiiI> [For Kids]

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will help you have a heavenly mindset as you live here on earth.

**Day 2: Put off, Put on**

I want you to imagine two pairs of clothing. One pair is filthy, crusted with mud, and smells like manure. The other pair is clean, spotless, and smells fresh and pleasant. Which one would you want to wear?

In these verses Paul has in mind two different garments. One is called the old self, the second is called the new self. The old self is like the first pair of clothes I mentioned – filthy, crusty, stinky. The new self is like the second pair of clothes – clean, spotless, pleasant.

***Read Colossians 3:5-14***

**Questions**

* As Christians we have put off the old self (v. 9). However, we know from experience, the old self seems to have a way of showing up. Whenever it emerges, we need to put it to death. Look at verses 5-9 and indicate what attitudes and behaviors you need to put to death.
* As Christians we have put on the new self (v. 10). How is the new self renewed? (v. 10)

* Notice that our identity in Christ is the motivation for putting on the new self. What is our identity?

* Look at the list of attitudes and behaviors in verses 13-14. All of them reflect Jesus and the way he lived. Share some ways Jesus showed compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience and forgiveness.
* What is the thing which binds all the attitudes and behaviors of verses 13-14 together in perfect harmony?

**Suggested Songs**

* Bind Us Together - <https://youtu.be/wRwfTS_Ne0o>
* Put on Love – <https://youtu.be/kN5sdqms2Lg>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will show you those areas in your life that you need to put to death.
* Pray that God will cause you to grow in your understanding of who you are in Jesus so that you may grow in the attitudes and behavior of the new self.

**Day 3: Instructions to the Gathering**

As Paul is writing about the new way of living, he has in mind not simply individuals but the community of believers. We know this because the words “your” and “you” is in the plural case indicating a group.

As Christians, we belong to a gathering, and that gathering is important in our day-to-day life of walking with Jesus. If we isolate ourselves from the rest of the church, then we do harm to ourselves. Even more, we deprive others of the influences they need to be spurred on to love and good works.

There are a few instructions given to the church as a corporate body in the following verses:

***Read Colossians 3:15-17***

**Questions**

* There are three things which we are commanded to do as a church gathering. What are they?
* What is the peace of Christ, and how does it differ from the peace that the world offers?
* The word of Christ not only dwells in the church gathering as we hear the bible read and preached, but also when we sing together as a congregation. What would happen if a church gathering didn’t sing together? What would they be missing?
* In bible times a name stood for a person’s character and reputation. With that thought in mind, what does it mean to do everything as a church gathering in the name of the Lord Jesus?
* One attitude that is weaved throughout these two verses is thankfulness. What are some things we can thank God for?

**Suggested Songs**

* All About Jesus - <https://youtu.be/ugjVHxU5108>
* A cheerful heart - <https://youtu.be/J64kxjAd7Z8>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Spend some time thanking God for things he has done for you this week.

**Day 4: The Household Code**

On the wall in some homes you may see a poster or frame with a list of family rules. Sometimes it’s simply a decoration, but sometimes it speaks of the desires and values that the family has.

We had one in our home when we lived in the Annapolis Valley. It went like this, “In our home, we count our blessings, work hard, never give up, carry each others burdens, comfort one another, and have fun!”

It’s neat to see these posters/frames hanging on the walls. There are some similarities in each, yet each one is also a little different. Maybe next time you go to someone’s house, you can see if they have one hanging up?

Just like different families have rules they live by, God’s family has rules which they are to follow. And that is what we see in the following verses?

***Read Colossians 3:18-4:1***

**Questions**

* The first two instructions deal with the relationship between a wife and husband. How is the husband to treat his wife? How is his wife to respond to her husband?
* The next two deal with the relationship between parents and their children. What are the parents (especially the father) instructed to do? How are the children to respond to their parents?
* The final two deal with work relationships. The servant is told to obey their master and work heartily for them. Why?

**Suggested Songs**

* All Ears - <https://youtu.be/YNCnZLxkZpM>
* The Servant Song - <https://youtu.be/unFFWcUIUvU>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will give you the wisdom, strength, and patience to live the way he wants you to live as a couple, family, and worker.