

Christ is all and in all **Colossians 3:4-11**

Theme: Pre-eminence & sufficiency of Jesus Christ in all things—believers are complete in Him & lacking nothing for life & godliness. Yet the same problems exist today that Paul dealt w/ in the church back then.

Gnostic heresy made its way into church in Colossae w/ 2 extreme forms—**indulgence**--2:2b,3,4,8,18 unbridled fleshly indulgence. Spirit (pure) independent of body. Matter(evil)—Body appetites not affect spirit life.

The other extreme- **abstinence**-2:20-23 **excessive asceticism**(a lifestyle of self-denial & renunciation of worldly pleasures to achieve a higher spiritual state) **so severe** treatment of body, avoidance of all pleasure to achieve an elevated state of god-consciousness.

Gnostics believed a **divine spark was hidden & trapped** w/in the human body & released by mystical experiences, esoteric knowledge, transcendent secrets only the initiated could know--leading to salvation. Paul corrects Gnostic heresy

*Read—5 Therefore **mortify/put to death** consider the members of your earthly body as dead to **fornication/immorality, uncleanness/impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness/greed, which amounts to idolatry.** 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, **put off/put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy/slander, and filthy language/abusive speech from your mouth.** 9 Do not lie to one another, since you **put off the old man/laid aside the old self with its deeds/evil practices,** 10 and have put on the **new man/new self** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, & in all.*

Some of us came out of a Gnostic type heresy called the **Hippie movement** w/ many of the same elements of Gnosticism. LA times article 'How millennials (GenX,Z) replaced religion w/ astrology and crystals'

Have turned away from traditional organized religion & are embracing more spiritual beliefs & practices like Tarot, Astrology, meditation, energy healing & crystals...**same heresy different packaging.**

Christ is all and in all**Colossians 3:4-11**

Finding god thru New Age, Cosmic consciousness, astrology (**chart-cancer-moon-child-moon-landing my birthday**) spiritual enlightenment thru Yoga (**talk to frogs**) diet-vegetarianism (**perfect weight/body—judged others**) Hypnotism (**spinning razor blade**) Eastern mysticism (to conceal) **Shri Arabindo Indian mystic/prophet** (false sense of spirituality), Urantia book (**higher truth**)

TM, Maharishi, Shirley MacLaine ‘Out on a Limb’ ***I am god***, Mind altering drugs—**Marijuana**, **LSD**, **Peyote** (glistening--derived from word meaning ‘divine messenger’), Timothy Leary ***‘tune in--turn on--drop out’***.

Esoteric spirituality/Christianity (**oral tradition of 12 esoteric teachings of Jesus**) - understood by only a few w/ specialized knowledge. That was the **mystical part** of **Gnosis**(**knowledge**) heresy & at the same time it was in the so-called **age Aquarius** -‘free love’ ‘love child’, **Woodstock generation**—the no morals side of Gnosticism. The quest for god-consciousness-the same heresy circulated in Colossae self-centered, self-absorbed & nihilistic-**all values are baseless & nothing can be known/taught** demonic

Ch 1-3:4 Doctrine - 3:5 to end - Practical – Living for & walking w/ God

Colossians 3: 5 Therefore Mortify/put to death your members/consider the members of your earthly body as dead to fornication/immorality, uncleanness/impurity, passion, evil desire, & covetousness/greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Immorality-Fornication porneia—any sexual sin outside of marriage-adultery, homo, incest, one night stand—living together
Impurity-uncleanness—lewd behavior--filthy thought life – picture of a vineyard w/ lush grapes & one diseased branch--cut it off or infect other branches bearing fruit.

Passion- lustful desires that hurt others. Vile affections that dishonor & use those involved. A polluted heart from which many lustful desires pour out. **As a man thinks in his heart so is he. To the pure all things are pure but to those who are defiled & unfaithful, nothing is pure, but even their soul & conscience is defiled. Titus 1:15**

Christ is all and in all **Colossians 3:4-11**

Evil *sexual desire* –desire produces the deed--thought is seed of the act.

Jesus *'look w/ lust committed the act in heart.....Angry w/ brother guilty murder.*
Mt 5:21- 'eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning 2Pet 2:14

Greed/covetousness-wanting more although you have enough--**even others**

Idolatry- devotion to a lifestyle that is not God. Things just catalogued--are in the place of God whether doing deed or fanaticizing over it.

2:20; 3:3 Already declared us dead. Therefore, since died w/ Christ & old nature/man is out of business, it not dominate or rule over you.

Mortify-neckroo-dead body, corpse (KJV), **put to death** (NKJ), **consider dead** (NASB)--accounting terms. **Deaden what has died, put to death what is already dead** or consider it to be so – put it to your account the fact that earthly body of sin is dead to these things (**Practicing faith**)...**Banking \$100**
By faith we put to our account the fact that our old self died w/ Christ. Since dead we don't have to live any longer in the old condition of sin.

*Romans makes clear 6:6 **knowing this**, that our old man/self was crucified w/ Christ, that our body of sin might be done away w/, that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. **Fact in heaven** 8 Now if we have died w/ Christ, we believe that we shall also live w/ Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so **consider reckon** yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. In faith **put to your account** **Faith in the fact** 12 Therefore do not let sin reign **mortify** in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but **present** yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, & your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

Feelings no longer dictate behavior **but** put faith in the fact & present yourself to spiritual things that build up & reckon as death carnal things that tear down.

*Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death – As we **live** in the spirit we will **walk** in the spirit and keep seeking the things above 3:1... **Gravity**_{sin nature}/**Aerodynamic thrust***

Gnostic heresy of attaining spirituality thru Asceticism (severe self discipline) 2:21-23 Bogus

*Rom 10:6 **But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'** (that is, to bring Christ down)*

Christ is all and in all **Colossians 3:4-11**

Climbing the esoteric ladder of hidden knowledge-Gnosis to attain spiritual light & discover God. We tried it-New age-cosmic consc-Hippie-love child.

7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

Severe treatment of body, deprivation of self-Asceticism-suppression normal bodily functions **sleep, eat, wash, hair, finger nails, self-mutilation** (Ramadan, Elijah & Prophets of Baal **shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed 1 Kings 18:28.**) . **John & wife tide pools--emaciated-gaunt-wasting away**

We are raised up w/ Christ **3:1** in new life, new identity so seek things above, go all out for the spiritual life—feed the spirit.

: 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,:7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

God will interrupt wicked plans of **sons of disobedience** when they least expect it. And call mankind to account...every idle word spoken

Zeph 1:14,15 "That terrible day of the LORD is near. Swiftly it comes— a day of bitter tears, a day when even strong men will cry out. 15 It will be a day when the LORD's anger is poured out— a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness,

We once walked...our manner of life...but no more. We may **stumble** but we no longer walk as in them we don't live in that neighborhood anymore. What you live in---you walk in.

Like weeds in garden-want to take over if we don't kill the weeds. So to the enemy wants to take over spiritual life by enticing the old sin nature.

:8 But now you also, put them all aside put off: anger, wrath, malice, slander blasphemy, and abusive filthy language speech from your mouth. :9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self put off the old man with its evil practices:10 and have put on the new self new man who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.

Paul counters the heresy by dealing w/ inner life & attitudes **contrary** to the **new self**. Using Image of changing garments **old** filthy for **new** clean & forgiven

Christ is all and in all**Colossians 3:4-11**

Anger- **orge** a state of mind-**desire to hurt**-smoldering bitterness (settled heart condition) from which **Wrath**-sudden, unpredictable outbursts erupt like a volcano. *Put it off*---

Malice-habit of evil & sees all things w/ evil overtones & suspects evil of others. Sees malice to actions of others *Speaks rashly like the thrust of a sword*
prov 12:18 'contentions are like the bars of a castle 18:19

Slander- giving evil report to injure a persons good name.

Abusive speech--filthy communication--from filthy mind-defiling hearers.

Lies-following the--devil a liar & the father of lies Jn 8:44. Lies ruin faith & friendships. **Lay aside** 2 X's 1 X **Neckroo**-dead, keep buried--don't

Frankenstein your faith by bringing to life what is dead (Franks monster).

Not just negative **'put off'** but positive **'put on'** – Aorist tense—an event in past affecting present & future. *Change of identity*; You put off once for all the old filthy garment--sinful life after believing in Christ—now born new

And put on the new self, made in the image of Jesus Christ w/ true biblical knowledge not false esoteric, worldly, Gnostic heresy. .

Being **renewed** says that the change is dynamic & ongoing--in contrast to what we put off, the old & dead self – New quality of life which is centered & generated by God Himself.—more & more in the image of Jesus.

:11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

All sinners saved by grace-none better none worse--*so much good in worst of us & so much bad in the best of us it behoves the rest of us not to judge the least of us*

Can't be prejudice in Body of Christ – we are one—a part of each other—**Barbarian**--a harmful term, unsophisticated, bar-bar unintelligible chatter – **Scythians** – even worse, lowest of lows, northern coast of Black Sea known for violence, uneducated, uncivilized, inferior. **Slave/Free** social barriers gone no distinction.