

[The Book of Colossians](#)
Chapter 3 Verses 1-17
“Seek Those Things Which Are Above”

Return To
All Commentary

Many years ago, a young man set out on a journey in Canada, to see the World Famous “Niagara Falls”.

As the train arrived at the station, he could hear the sound of the falls, but not see them.

He began to walk towards the sound of the falls, entering a large building,

All around him people were milling about. The smell of fresh popcorn filled the air, a soda machine was nearby, a gift shop, but no sign of the falls.

He was very disappointed that he had come so far but could not find Niagara Falls.

He could still hear what sounded like water cascading.

Suddenly down at the far end of the building, he noticed the largest picture that he had ever seen in his life.

The frame of the picture took up the entire end of the building.

As he approached, he realized it was a huge picture of Niagara Falls. He couldn't believe that right there somewhere near where the falls was supposed to be, was a picture of the falls on this wall.

As he approached the end of the building, the frame of the picture came into focus. He suddenly realized that through the frame, he was actually looking at the real, and awesome Niagara Falls.

Sometimes. What we are seeking, what is most important, is right there in front of us, but we don't see it.

As we approach, we see only the frame, or the picture, but not really what is there, what is behind the frame

There are people in churches every Sunday Morning, who are searching.

Some of them don't even know what they are looking for.

People are drawn to churches, sometimes not even knowing what drew them there. Some coming for answers, some for comfort, some coming looking for love and acceptance.

You and I are really Spirit Beings. What we see on the outside is a body. A body that has the capacity to express what is in the mind and in the heart of the person.

But, the real you is spirit. What the real you is longing for, craving after, is the living God. This was the purpose for which you were created. To know and have fellowship with the Living God.

The Living God gave His Word to us, so that through a study of it, we could know who He is.

My purpose in teaching you the Bible verse by verse, is that you would see what is most important.

What is most important and above everything else, is that you would see, and know, and understand, who Jesus is.

If as a teacher and a Pastor, I fail to show you who Jesus is, then I have failed.

If you, in all of your journey's in life fail to find out who Jesus is, then you have failed.

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you ... that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

The reason we come to any church.
The reason we seek any spiritual truth.
The reason that we read and study the Bible...

Is that we might know the real Jesus, and the great power of His love.

Philippians 3:10

Paul said: ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings

So, whatever the reason is that you are here this morning, even if you don't yet know, let me have the honor of telling you....IT IS SO THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHO JESUS IS!

This is the overwhelming purpose of the book of Colossians, to help you know who the real Jesus is.

1. **Chapter 1,** we discovered that **Jesus is the Eternal God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.** We learned also that many churches teach a "**Different Jesus**" than the One taught in the Bible.
2. **Chapter Two,** We understood that "**We are complete**", when we are In Jesus. There is nothing else that you need to do to be Righteous and Acceptable by God, just believe that Jesus died for you, and Accept His forgiveness.
3. **Chapter Three,** this morning, we are asked a question, "**Is Jesus First in Your life?**" Is Jesus what you are searching for, seeking to know and discover.

Because, may I say to you, if you are not seeking to know who Jesus is, then you are just wasting your time.

Jesus is the King of the Universe. Everything was made by Him and for Him. After you leave this world, you will immediately know

1. **That you should have spent your life**, trying to discover who Jesus is.
2. **You will discover that everything in the Universe** revolves around and is centered on Jesus.
3. **You will discover** that if you missed Jesus, you missed everything.
4. **If, in the midst of all of the things** that you are trying to do in your life, if Knowing who Jesus is, is not the first thing in your life, then everything else in your life will be out of balance.
5. **When knowing Jesus is the first priority of Your life**, then everything else that comes along, will be in perfect focus and in perfect balance.

Think of it in this way...

When someone wants to build their dream house, they might have the best building materials and furnishing planned for their new home.

But if the foundation is not the finest foundation they can lay, it doesn't really matter what kind of building materials and furnishing you plan.

If after you build your dream home, the ground shifts and the foundation collapses, then everything else will also collapse.

But if that foundation is solid and built correctly, the house and all of the dreams and hopes you have, become possible.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.** But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

As I this morning am laying the correct foundation for you, that Jesus is to be first and foremost in your life, you must build on this foundation.

As I teach you from God's Word, about who Jesus is, this in turn becomes the foundation for you to build your life upon, if you build everything else upon Jesus, then everything else that comes after Jesus, will stand.

But if you build your life on a foundation of what you think is most important, and this is not upon Jesus, at the end of your life, I can promise you that you will be disappointed

In this world, everyday, there are people, with an endless amount of words, ideas and Philosophies that will seek to draw you away from Jesus.

- **They will try to pull you away from the simple truth** of who the Bible declares that Jesus is.
- **The world will encourage you to join it**, in its pursuit of pleasure and satisfaction.
- **The world does not build** on the foundation of Jesus.
- **That is why everything in this world** eventually becomes disappointing and empty.

But you can be different this morning, if you are ready.

If you are serious.

If you are determined...In these verses by verse studies in God's Word, to find Jesus, then...

1. Your priorities will be right.
2. Your focus will be clear.
3. You will have a balanced, happy and satisfying life.

Colossians 3

1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

1. **First question**, “**Were you raised with Jesus when He rose from the dead?**”
 - First, before you can be raised from the old life, you have to die.
 - All of the old goals have to die.
 - All of the “You” has to die.
 - All The You, has to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus in your life.
2. **If you have determined to do** this, then you are to from this point on, Verse 1, “**Seek those things that are Above...**”

Above everything **that is in this life.**

Above everything **that man has to say.**

Above everything **that this world says is important and valuable.**

“Where Jesus is...” Is where we want to be. Every word, every action, every place we go, we want it to be where Jesus is.

1. Are these words, where Jesus is?
2. Is this action, where Jesus is?
3. Is this place that I am at or am going, where Jesus is?

If anything is not where Jesus is, then I don't want to **say it**, I don't want to **do it**, I don't want to **be there** or **go there**.

Colossians 3:2

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1. **“Set”**: Greek **“Phroneo”**, to Exercise.
2. **In other words**, “Exercise your mind on things above”.
3. **Did you know** that your mind is a muscle? **Well in a technical sense it is not a muscle**, but in regards to your new life in Jesus, your mind has to be exercised just like a muscle.
4. **Your mind has to be exercised** by spiritual things, ie. The word, prayer, fellowship.
5. **Verse 2**, Set, exercise your mind on things above, not on the things on the earth,
6. **This is hard**, because the entire world is doing just the opposite. The whole world is exercising it’s mind on all of the things that are in this world.
7. **You, if you claim to believe in and follow Jesus**, are not to set your mind of the things of the earth, but instead focus your mind on those things that Jesus is focused on.

Philippians 2:5-10

5 **Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
7 but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and **became obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
9 **Therefore God also has highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

1. **Make yourself of no reputation**. Don’t think highly of yourself, but think of yourself as nothing.
2. **Take the form of a servant**. Become one who serves other people.
3. **Humble yourself**.
4. **Become obedient**.

If you do, God will exalt you, you will be great in god’s kingdom.

Mark 9:35

And Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, **“If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”**

Matthew 18:1-4

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, **“Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”**
2 Then **Jesus called a little child to Him**, set him in the midst of them,
3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, **unless you are converted and become as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven

There is something that happens to us when we become adults, we lose our humility.

1. We start thinking that we know something.
2. We start looking at our self as better than other people.
3. We become hard, calloused, untrusting, stubborn.

Humility is the opposite of that:

1. **We know that we really don't know anything**, so we trust Jesus with everything.
2. **We see other believers in Jesus as Brothers and sisters** that have been forgiven much, even as we have been forgiven much.
3. **We see other believers as more important than our self**. Other believers as taking priority over self.
4. **We see those who do not know Jesus** through eyes of compassion.
 - We have patience with them.
 - We forgive their bad attitudes.
 - We overlook their faults.
 - We have compassion on them, because we understand that if they could just know and accept Jesus in their life, everything would change.

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

As I shared with you before, we have to see all those who do not know Jesus yet as though they are a two year old.

1. **We can let a lot of things go that a two year old says** and does, because we understand it is just a two year old, they don't know or understand what we know and understand.
2. **We have love and compassion for a two year old**, because we know all that they can be once they grow up.
3. **We don't yell at, or beat up or get angry** with a two year old, because we understand that everything they do is based upon a very limited knowledge that they have.

We cannot exhaust this subject of "Set your mind on things above" in one study, but this gives you an idea of what we are to be doing....ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT!

And why are we seeking to set our mind on things above, because...

Colossians 3:3

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

If you are following Jesus and believing in Him this morning, did you know that you died?

1. **A person who has died**, is not affected by the things in this world: Worry, Fear...

2. **A person who has died does not have** a U haul behind them with all of their STUFF in it.
3. **A person who has died is not thinking** no longer has the same priorities that every once else on the earth has.

Do you think that a person who has died wishes they had spent more time while they are alive making money, accumulating things, and experiencing pleasure?

Many years ago, they asked people who were in the final days of their life, what they would do if they had more time...

1. **They would have** spent more time on **spiritual things**.
2. **They would have** spent **more time with their families**.
3. **They would have** loved people more, forgiven people more.
4. **They would have** taken more chances.

Not one of them said that they would have spent more time on their job, tried to make more money, or sought to accumulate more personal possessions.

Jesus gave us an example of this in Luke chapter 16

Luke 16:19-31

19 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,
21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 So it was that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.**

23 And **being in torments in Hades**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

What exactly was it that tormented him?

1. **Most people** think that it was the flames.
2. **Yes, that is true**, He appears to be fully conscious and has the capacity to feel pain, **but most people miss what else this man said....**
3. **In verse 27, he speaks of his regret that he missed out on what was most important**, and his desire to make sure the members of his house didn’t make the same mistake he made...
4. **The constant never ending regret** of spending his whole life on things that he knows now are meaningless.

24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may **dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.**’

25 But Abraham said, “Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

26 And besides all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.**

27 “Then he said, **I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house,**

28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.

29 Abraham said to him, **“They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.”**

30 And he said, “No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.”

31 But he said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.”

The importance of building your life right now on that foundation that is most important.

1. **Finding Jesus in this life**, instead of regretting missing him in the next life.
2. **Finding the joy and satisfaction** is following and serving Jesus now, instead of regretting that we didn’t later.

Colossians 3:4

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him** in glory.

When Jesus returns from heaven to the earth, all of those who have chosen Him now, will come with Jesus.

Jude 1:14

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes **with ten thousands of His saints**,

Revelation 19:11-14

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and **on His head were many crowns**. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

14 And **the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

Next Sunday we will finish the book of Colossians, we will then begin the book of 1 Thessalonians where we will spend some time exploring the doctrine of The Rapture of the Church”.

Colossians 3:4 is not speaking of the Rapture, but the event that happens 7 years later when Jesus along with all of us who believe in Him, return to the earth where Jesus will establish a kingdom for 1,000 years.

Because we are waiting right now for Jesus to remove us from the earth at the Rapture, it has a purifying effect upon us.

Because we know that Jesus could come at any moment, we are living our lives in such a way that when He returns He will find us following Him, and living our lives for Him.

Colossians 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

All 5 of these deal with Sexual Sin

1. **Fornication**, “**Porneia**” Where we got our English word Pornography, here it mean any sexual relationship outside of the marriage of one man and one woman.
2. **Uncleanness**, “**Akatharsia**”, Moral uncleanness, maybe no sexual act, but being crude, dirty jokes, making sexual comments or innuendos.
3. **Passion**, “**Pathos**”, Sexual perversion, uncontrolled lust.
4. **Evil desire**, “**Epithumia**”, Wanting Something to satisfy personal desire.
5. **Covetousness**, **Pleonexia**”, in this context, desire sexually for someone else’s wife.

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. Neither **fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,**

Revelation 22:14-15

14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and **may enter through the gates into the city.**

But **outside are dogs** and sorcerers and **sexually immoral** and murderers and idolaters, and **whoever loves and practices a lie.**

Verse 3 says that when Jesus died on that Roman Cross, so did we.

1. **It is an interesting thing, crucifixion.** Death comes very slowly and through great pain and agony.
2. **When Jesus died**, so also we died on that same cross, in the Greek language, the was this is written it means you died 2,000 years ago..
3. **Here in verse 5** we see that we are to put to death “**Our Members**”, these are the members of our body, we are not to let them control us any longer.
4. **All of these old problems that we all struggle with, anger, impatience, sexual temptation, coveting material things** and many others, they died a death by crucifixion.
5. **Remember, crucifixion** is a slow painful death.
6. **The victory over these struggles** with your flesh will not die in a single day.
7. **It will be a slow** agonizing painful death.

8. **But they will die**, this is the promise here that the Lord makes to us.
9. **What a victory it is**, when you have struggled for years with a terrible temper, or sexual temptation or sin, and after fighting against it, praying, crying out to the Lord, finally one day, you begin to have victory over these.

Notice in verses 5-7 though, you are to consciously make the determination to “Put these things to death”.

Acts 14:22

... “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Colossians 3:6-7

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,
7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Make no mistake about it, there is a judgment coming for those who reject Jesus and His great Sacrifice.

1. **Here in verse 6**, they are described as “**The sons of disobedience**.”
2. **Those that refuse to be controlled by the Holy Spirit**, and instead choose to do whatever their own flesh demands.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who **says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’** shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father** in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”

23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, **you who practice lawlessness!**”

Colossians 3:7

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Notice “**You yourselves once walked when you lived in them**”.

Many of us here this morning also once walked a life totally controlled by our flesh. Since you have given your life to Jesus now, you are not controlled by the flesh, yes you still make mistakes, you are still on the Cross being crucified, but you no longer willingly live that kind of life.

Colossians 3:8-11

8 But now you yourselves are to **put off all these**: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 **Do not lie to one another**, since you have **put off the old man** with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Now, since we have given our lives to Jesus, we are on the cross, being crucified, dying to the old way of life, we are to begin to not tolerate these in our life anymore:

1. **Anger**, “**Orge**” (**or-gay**) emotion of anger that is a continuous attitude of hatred bottled up within a person.
2. **Wrath**, “**Thumos**” (**thoo-mos**) Fierce anger to the point of being out of control that burst forth for selfish reasons.
3. **Malice**, “**Kakia**” pre planned harm towards another person.
4. **Slander or Blasphemy**, “**Blasphemia**”, Destroying a persons reputation by lies, gossip or rumors. Malice is manifested through slander.
5. **Filthy language**, “**Aisxrologia**”, (**ahee-skhrol-og-ee-ah**) Crude talk, abrasive language, Expletives, (4 letter words) and mild cuss words, (Darn, Dangit) should be caught and stopped before it is said.

All of these kinds of things were a part of our old life that was crucified with Jesus and has no place in our new life.

1. **Don't excuse them** or put up when they, FIGHT THEM.
2. **Notice that we are to “Put Off”** these, the term you would use in describing the changing of clothes. **We are to change from the clothing of these 5 things and Verse 9, “Put On” the new mans clothes of verse 12-17**

Colossians 3:12-17 post these on your frig!

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on **tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;**

13 **bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**

14 But above all these things **put on love**, which is the bond of perfection.

15 And let **the peace of God** rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you** richly in all wisdom, **teaching** and **admonishing one another** in **psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual songs, singing with grace** in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And **whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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