

LIVE STRONG . . . FOCUS ON GODLINESS

Colossians 3:1-11

- **In our LIVE STRONG series we've learned how to deepen our relationship with Jesus and live strong, vibrant and victorious lives (Colossians 2:1-23).**
- **Life is a constant battle with the Devil, the world (other people), and our sinful nature (1 Peter 5:8-9, 1 John 2:16, Romans 8:5-8).**
- *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand."* (Colossians 3:1)
- **When Jesus became our Savior, He began the process of "raising us to a new way of life" so we can have victory over the Devil, the world, and our sinful nature (Colossians 2:11-13).**
- ***What does it take to live a transformed life?***

Living A Transformed Life Requires:

CHOOSING TO <u>THINK</u> RIGHTEOUSLY

- *"Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth."* (Colossians 3:2)
- **Our thoughts determine the decisions we make and the attitudes, ambitions and actions of our lives (Proverbs 4:23, 23:7).**
- **We can either think about life from a "heavenly perspective" or an "earthly perspective" (Colossians 3:2).**
- *"The enemies of the cross of Christ . . . they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth."* (Philippians 3:18-19)
- **We should want to think differently than the rest of the world because of the *Realities of Heaven.***
    - *"Set your sights on the <u>realities of heaven</u>, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand."* (Colossians 3:1b)
    - **Heaven is a place where we will be: 1) amazed by its beauty and glory (Revelation 21-22), 2) judged and rewarded regarding how we**

lived on Planet Earth (2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Timothy 4:7-8), 3) reunited with loved ones who have trusted the Lord and gone on before us (Genesis 25), 4) blessed with great assignments (Matthew 25:21), and 5) united with our Savior (Revelation 21:4).

- **We should want to think differently than the rest of the world because of the *Resources we have on Earth.***
    - *"For you died to this life, and <u>your real life is hidden with Christ</u> in God.* (Colossians 3:3)
    - **When we accept Jesus as our Savior He: 1) graces us with His presence (Matthew 28:20, John 14:16-17), 2) guarantees us His power (Acts 1:8, Philippians 4:13), 3) grants to us His peace (John 14:27), and 4) gives to us His provision (Philippians 4:19).**
- **We should want to think differently than the rest of the world because of the *Rewards that await us in Heaven*.**
    - *"When Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory."* (Colossians 3:4)
    - Paul - *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His glorious return."* (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- ***What do I need to be constantly thinking about in order to live a godly life?***

Living A Transformed Life Requires:

COMMITTING TO <u>LIVE</u> RIGHTEOUSLY

- *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ . . ."* (Colossians 3:1)
- **Living a righteous life requires *Overcoming Ungodly Desires.***
    - *"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world."* (Colossians 3:5-7)
    - ***Why would the Lord want to keep us from lust, immorality or greed?***
    - *" Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."* (James 1:14-15)
    - *"No immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God."* (Ephesians 5:5)
- **Living a righteous life requires *Overcoming Ungodly Behaviors.***

    - *“But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.”* (Colossians 3:8-10)
    - ***Which of the above behaviors help my relationships with the Lord and others?***
- ***How do we overcome ungodly desires and behaviors?***
- **We overcome ungodly desires and behaviors by: 1) Praying daily (Matthew 6:9-13), 2) Thinking godly (Philippians 4:8), 3) Fleeing quickly (1 Corinthians 6:18), and 4) Surrendering daily (Galatians 2:20).**
    - *“Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people - none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

- *“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.”* (Colossians 3:10)
- **If we will just access a “new nature,” we will experience a new kind of life.**
- *“In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.”* (Colossians 3:11)
- ***What steps do I need to take in order to come to the place where “Jesus is all that really matters” in my life?***