


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Jesus is Life, Set Your Hearts on Him

¹ 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.

Q1. How were we, who believe, “raised with Christ”?

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Q2. Paul admonishes the reader to “set your hearts on things above”. What might “things above” reference?

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Q3. Regarding the phrase “set your hearts on things above”: if my heart is not “set . . . on things above,” then on what might my heart be set?


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Q4. In verse 1 Paul asks us to “set your hearts,” and in verse 2, he asks “Set your minds”. Why the distinction? And how can we direct our heart and mind to dwell upon specific things? (It seems, sometimes, that my mind has a will of its own. For example, an ‘ear-worm’ — a song that plays in my mind, over-and-over-and-over.)
Distinction?

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How can we direct our minds/hearts?

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.....


 The following verse(s) is repeated for your convenience.

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

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.

Q5. If you are reading this, you are alive! What does Paul mean, “For you died”?

Q6. “Your life is now hidden with Christ in God”: Paul’s comment is interesting. How do you interpret it?

 “Hidden means concealed and safe. This is not only a future hope, but an accomplished fact right now. Our service and conduct do not earn our salvation, but they are results of our salvation. Take heart that your salvation is sure, and live each day for Christ.” [©1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, *The Life Application® Bible*, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved. Page 2165]

Q7. [Personal] Is Christ in “your life”? How would your closest friend answer this question for you?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

John 3:1-2, 11-18 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus is speaking with Nicodemus – a Pharisee, a religious leader.]

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” . . .

¹¹ [Jesus is speaking:] “I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up [on the cross], ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Q8. [Personal] Do you believe that “you also will appear with him in glory”?


Yes? } Why?
No? }

Revelation 21:1-7 [NIV-1984]

¹ Then I [the Apostle John] saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He [the Messiah Christ Jesus, the Judge, see Matthew 25:31] who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and [they] will be my [children]."

Day 2

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^{5a} Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: ^{5b} 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. ^{8a} But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: ^{8b} anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Q9. [Personal] As you read through the list of examples, do you have any sins that are not listed in verses ^{5b} and ^{8b}?

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Q10. How might we “Put to death . . . whatever belongs to [our] earthly nature[s]” and those sins that comprise it?

Q11. If we want to “Put to death . . . [our] earthly nature[s],” what is the first thing we must do?

[Hint: see the question that follows.]

C ___ ___ ___ ___ E TO DO SO.

Q12. [Personal] Is the decision to “Put to death . . . [our] earthly nature” an easy choice? Once we make the choice to “put [it] to death”, does it seem to be “one-and-done,” or an endless cycle?

[Our] earthly nature? Yes? No? Thoughts?

One-and-done, or an endless cycle? Thoughts?

Q13. Does “your earthly nature” want to hold-on to these traits?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

 Even the Apostle Paul struggled with the sinful, earthly nature:

Romans 7:15, 17-18, 20 [(NIV-1984)]

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. . . ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Q14. [Verse 6] ‘I thought God is love!’ Why does Paul promise: “Because of these, the wrath of God is coming”?

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17


Q15. [Verse 7] What does Paul mean when he writes: “You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived”? What was the “life you once lived”? What behavioral traits marked the “[way] in the life you once lived”?

What was the “life you once lived”?

What were your behavioral traits back then?


Summarize verse 7 (if not already answered):


Day 3

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⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Q16. Why did the Apostle Paul insert a reminder to “Do not lie to each other”? Isn’t that inherent in our belief?

 Frankly, it is one of those traits of the earthly nature that is difficult to overcome. How often do I tell a ‘little white lie’? Or a ‘partial truth’? Or a ‘shade of truth’? so that I can avoid repercussion, sadness, a perceived loss of respect (loss of face), or a confrontation. Paul is instructing the Colossians, and us, to tell the truth and nothing but the truth! Sometimes, telling the unvarnished, plain-old truth will hurt, but we are to be truth-tellers! We, who believe, are to be trusted. Our utterances are to be trusted!

 Paul also wrote a similar instruction to the Ephesians in his Letter to the Ephesians. The Ephesians 4:25 verse is repeated below. The Commentator Albert Barnes wrote a short essay on the Ephesians 4:25 verse and I have included his words at the end of this StudySheet. Mr. Barnes had profound insight into Paul’s rationale for emphasizing the prohibition against “lying” for Believers.

Ephesians 4:25 [NIV-1984]

Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Exodus 20:16 [NIV-1984]

[The ninth commandment in the Ten Commandments:]

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Q17. What are four synonyms for 'lying'? (Synonym: Words that have the same or nearly the same meaning)

Q18. What are four synonyms for 'gossip'? Can gossip ever be good?

Can gossip be good? Yes? No? Why?

Q19. How do lies affect a relationship, a partnership?

Q20. How might lies affect a church?

Q21. [Verse 10] What is the "new self"? What is meant by "put on the new self"?

"New self"?

"Put on the new self"?

Q22. [Verse 10] How do you explain, "the new self . . . is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator"?

'Being renewed'?

'In knowledge'?


Who's the 'Creator'?

Whose 'image'?

Additional thoughts?


Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Day 4

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¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.


Q23. Paul, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote verse 11. Are there any circumstances in which divisions within the church are acceptable?

 Unrepentant sin may divide the Church. It is hard to believe that a church body, today, might embrace the sin instead of excising it; however, egregious sin occurred as documented in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 5. Paul was appalled and called-out the man's sin, as well as that of the Corinthian church.

The identification of an egregious sin must be based on Scripture. It must not be based on a 'disputable' principle or belief (Romans 14:1 ↓). We must ensure that our own church body is clean (Matthew 7:3-5). Before calling-out another's sin in judgment (discernment + consequence), we must follow the Lord's instructions (Matthew 18:15-17). We must be empathetic, not legalistic. We must remember that some Believers are mature and others are infants (1 Corinthians 3:1, 14:20; Ephesians 4:14). In other words, we must be prayerful, Scriptural, deliberate, and careful as we contemplate breaking the unity of Christ's Church. Bottom-line, egregious, unrepentant sin must be excised.

Romans 14:1 [NIV-1984]

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

 Verse 11 is about inclusivity. Think about all the people in this world and their differences: gender, nationality, skin color, vocations, educational levels, wealth, celebrity, power, religious beliefs, etc. The next three questions examine these differences:

Q24. Do you think Jesus sees these differences (↑) as barriers to belief in Him?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

James 2:1-9 [NIV-1984]

[The Book of James was written by the Lord's half-brother James, whose mother was Mary and father was Joseph the carpenter.]

¹ My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.


Q25. Are we, who believe, instructed to erect barriers within our church-bodies to exclude (or conversely include) certain people or people-groups?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q26. Do we, who believe, demonstrate favoritism within our church? How might we inadvertently do so? (For example, are there cliques within our church body?)

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Day 5

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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 whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Q27. [Verse 12] In this verse, who are "God's chosen people"?

Ephesians 1:4-8 [NIV-1984]

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Q28. Do you believe that you are “holy and dearly loved” by God?

Are you “holy and dearly loved”? Yes? No? Why?

Q29. Thinking about the phrase: “holy and dearly loved”. Do you seek Him in prayer? In Scripture? In obedient action?

Do you seek Him in prayer? Yes? No? Why?

Do you seek Him in Scripture? Yes? No? Why?

Do you seek Him in obedient action? Yes? No? Why?

Q30. Thinking about the phrase: “holy and dearly loved”. Is it God’s responsibility to make a Believer feel “holy and dearly loved”? Or does the Believer need to meet Him part-way? Who takes the first step and why?

God’s responsibility? And why?

Believer’s responsibility? And why?

Who takes the 1st step: God or the Believer? And why?

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Q31. How do you define (or describe) “the peace of Christ”?


Q32. Think about your answer to the previous question. Have you been “called to peace”?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

Q33. Are you “thankful”?

Day 6

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¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 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.

Q34. [Verse 16] Briefly, how should we fulfill Paul’s admonition?

Q35. [Verse 17] If we devoted ourselves to “whatever you do . . . do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus”, what effect might that have on our behavior, propensity to sin, and ministry? If you do not do this already, how might you implement this devotion?

What effect: do it all in the name?

Implement?

 RE: Colossians 3:9 (& Ephesians 4:25): the following is a short essay written by the Commentator Albert Barnes.

“It may seem strange that the apostle should seriously exhort Christians to put away ‘lying,’ implying that they were in the habit of indulging in falsehood. But we are to remember:

“(1) that lying is the universal vice of the pagan world. Among the ancient pagans, as among the moderns, it was almost universally practiced. It has been remarked by a distinguished jurist who had spent much time in India, that he would not believe a Hindu on his oath. The same testimony is borne by almost all the missionaries, of the

Lesson 5: Colossians 3:1-17

character of pagans everywhere. No confidence can be placed in their statements; and, where there is the slightest temptation to falsehood, they practice it without remorse.

“(2) the Ephesians had been recently converted, and were, to a great extent, ignorant of the requirements of the gospel. A conscience has to be ‘created’ when pagans are converted, and it is long before they see the evils of many things which appear to us to be palpably wrong.

“(3) the effects of former habits abide long, often, after a man is converted. He who has been in the habit of profane swearing, finds it difficult to avoid it; and he who has been all his life practicing deception, will find himself tempted to practice it still. It was for reasons such as these, probably, that the apostle exhorted the Ephesians to put away ‘lying,’ and to speak the truth only.

“Nor is the exhortation now inappropriate to Christians, and there are many classes to whom it would now be proper – such as the following:

“(1) He who is in the habit of concealing the defects of an article in trade, or of commending it for more than its real value – ‘let him put away lying.’

“(2) he, or she, who instructs a servant to say that they are not at home, when they are at home: or that they are sick, when they are not sick or that they are engaged, when they are not engaged – ‘let them put away lying.’

“(3) he that is in the habit of giving a coloring to his narratives; of conveying a false impression by the introduction or the suppression of circumstances that are important to the right understanding of an account – ‘let him put away lying.’

“(4) he that is at no pains to ascertain the exact truth in regard to any facts that may affect his neighbor; that catches up flying rumors without investigating them, and that circulates them as undoubted truth, though they may seriously affect the character and peace of another – ‘let him put away lying.’

“(5) he that is in the habit of making promises only to disregard them – ‘let him put away lying.’

“The community is full of falsehoods of that kind, and they are not all confined to the people of the world. Nothing is more important in a community than simple ‘truth’ – and yet, it is to be feared that nothing is more habitually disregarded. No professing Christian can do any good who has not an unimpeachable character for integrity and truth – and yet who can lay his hand on his breast and say before God that he is in all cases a man that speaks the simple and unvarnished truth?

“For we are members one of another – We belong to one body – the church – which is the body of Christ; see the [Barnes] notes [under] Romans 5:12. The idea is, that falsehood tends to loosen the bonds of brotherhood. In the ‘human body’ harmony is observed. The eye never deceives the hand, nor the hand the foot, nor the heart the lungs. The whole move harmoniously as if the one could put the utmost confidence in the other – and falsehood in the church is as ruinous to its interests as it would be to the body if one member was perpetually practicing a deception on another.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ephesians/4-25.htm>]

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