

Living In The Supreme Savior

(Co 3:1)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. It is wonderful to see everyone here on this most exquisite Wednesday evening.
 - b. I would like to begin by stating my deep appreciation to this congregation for having me and my family out here today.
 - i. I am humbled at this opportunity.
2. Today we are going to look at a contextual study of Colossians chapter three.
 - a. **Co 3** is a fascinating chapter on what it means to live in the Supreme Savior.
 - b. It is here that we find the dedication it takes to live in the Supreme Savior.
3. Brief breakdown of Colossians chapter two.
 - a. The Colossians found themselves being invaded by a new heresy.
 - i. It seemed to be a mixture of Greek philosophy, Eastern religions, and elements of Judaism.
 1. **Co 2:8** "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."¹
 - ii. This would later develop into what was called Gnosticism.
4. Having warned against these things he now gives the Colossian brethren practical guidance on how to live in the Supreme Savior.
 - a. So this evening we are going to look at some practical guidelines to living with our Supreme Savior.
 - b. As Paul alludes to in verse 1, living life with our Supreme Savior really starts with death...

I. Death, Burial, & Resurrection

["If then you have been raised with Christ" (vs 1). Paul is asking whether or not the Colossians had really experienced a resurrection. Only if they had experienced first a death could they have experienced a resurrection.]

A. Death

1. The sinner through obedience puts to death the old man of sin.
 - i. **Ro 6:7** "For one who has died has been set free from sin."
 - ii. **Ga 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (NKJV)
 - iii. **Ga 5:24-25** "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
 - iv. **Lk 9:23** "And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
2. What naturally follows death is a...a burial...

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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B. Burial

1. How had the Colossians been buried?
 - i. **Co 2:12** "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."
2. Brother Bill Burk once wrote, "Through baptism we come in contact with the benefits associated with the death of Christ and we are 'united together in the likeness of his death'"
 - i. **Ro 6:5** "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection" (NASB95)
3. If then the Colossians had been buried with Christ in baptism desiring to live for Him there would be a...

C. Resurrection

1. Where they would be raised a new creation.
 - i. **II Co 5:17** "Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new." (ASV)
2. Where they would walk in a newness of life.
 - i. **Ro 6:3-4** "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (NKJV)
3. Where they become a new man having put Christ on.
 - i. **Ep 4:24** "and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." (NKJV)

[Once the death, burial, and resurrection have been experienced all Christians "should" have a "New Mindset" (vs 2). Living life with the Supreme Savior demands a...]

II. New Mindset

[Those who obey the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ will no longer think the same as they had in the past. They will...]

A. Run from those things which are of this world

1. The fleshly mind
 - i. **Ro 8:6** "For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."
2. The earthly "fleshly" desires
 - i. **I Jn 2:16** "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." (NKJV)

B. Seek those things which are above...

1. The kingdom of God
 - i. **Mt 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

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2. All spiritual blessings
 - i. **Ep 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"
3. Putting treasures above
 - i. **Mt 6:19-21** "'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

[Once Christians have a new mindset they will start building their...]

III. Supreme Character Traits

[The Christian life must be characterized as a life of action (**Ja 2:20**). Paul says "Put on..." verses 12]

- A. Tender mercies (bowls of mercy)
 1. The idea of "showing" deep care and compassion for others that don't always deserve it by their actions. It is compassion from your inwards parts.
 - i. **Ph 1:8** "For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."
- B. Kindness
 1. "It signifies "not merely goodness as a quality, rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds..." (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)
 - i. **I Th 5:15** "See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone."
- C. Humility & Meekness
 1. Humility
 - i. The idea of having a lowliness of mind.
 - ii. In other words not thinking "to" highly of ourselves.
 - a. **Lk 17:10** "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"
 2. Meekness
 - i. This is the idea of having strength under control.
 - ii. When an animal was tamed it was said to be meek in biblical times.
 - iii. An example of this can be found in the account commonly called the "adulterous woman."
 - a. **Jn 8:1-11**
- D. Longsuffering
 1. The idea of dealing with those that sin against you with the hopes of helping to correct the problem between you and them and them and God.
 - i. **Ga 6:1-2** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (NKJV)

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E. Love

1. The word “agapa” here is the idea of actively desiring the best for one's soul.
 - i. **I Co 13:4-8** "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away." (NKJV)

F. Peace of God

1. The idea of one whom we can rely on for all things at all times. Put our full hopes, dreams, and desires on His shoulders through obedience to His Word.
 - i. **Ph 4:7** "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

G. This new man will be characterized or seen as one who...

1. Diligently studies
 - i. **II Ti 2:15** "Study [be diligent (NKJV)] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (KJV)
2. Urgently teaches
 - i. **Je 20:9** "But if I say, “I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,” Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it." (NASB95)
3. Joyfully worships
 - i. **Ja 5:13** "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms." (NKJV)
 - ii. **Ps 100:1** "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!"
4. Desires precise obedience
 - i. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - ii. **Ga 1:8** "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed."

[If Christians start developing Supreme character traits it will carry over to creating a Supreme Home]

IV. Supreme Home

[Homes governed by the Supreme Savior will consist of...]

A. Submissive wives (18)

1. **Ep 5:20-24** "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands."

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2. A submissive wife is not inferior to her husband anymore than Christ is to the Father.
 - i. It simply means she is "under" her husband's authority.
 - ii. In the same the church submits to Christ's authority.
- B. Loving husbands (19)
 1. **Ep 5:25-28** "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."
 2. A loving husband makes it easy for his wife to submit and thus fulfill her biblical role.
 - i. He is not overbearing or abusive in any manner.
 - a. We never see Christ overbearing or abusive with the church.
 - ii. Husbands be willing to give your life for your wife.
- C. Obedient children (20-21)
 1. **Ep 6:1-4** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
 - i. Too often we give kids a pass for not "training" their kids as they should.
 - a. Don't get me wrong parents are too often "friends" instead of trainers and teachers of their kids.
 - ii. But remember kids have a responsibility at the age of accountability and will answer for their own actions.
 - a. Children need to know this and parents need to teach them this.

[A supreme home will develop an attitude that extends outside of the home to the work force. This helps Christians to have a...]

V. Supreme Work Experience

[Not every job in one's life will be pleasant but the attitude taken to the job should be just that, pleasant because you are working, "as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward." (23-24)]

- A. Slaves/Employees obey your bosses
 1. This does not mean over Christ's Law
 - i. **I Co 7:15** "But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace."
 - a. **Ac 5:29** "But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

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2. This is dealing with attitude
 - i. **Ec 9:10a** "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..."
- B. Masters/Bosses treat your employees as you wish to be treated
 1. Not just as you wish to be treated but as you wish Christ to treat you.
 - i. **Mt 7:7-12** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! 12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

[So what we see is the importance of a Christian lifestyle. With that context in mind let us look closer at what it means sing Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs.]

VI. Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs

- A. Context deals with the Christian lifestyle
 1. New mindset
 2. New character traits
 3. New work and home life
- B. Singing (P.H.SS) is a part of the Christian lifestyle because...
 1. It applies to the Christian inside and outside these walls here today.
 - i. Like all the other Christian traits.
 - ii. Just like a Christian is not one just inside the building walls where he/she meets with other Christians but is supposed to be one at all times.
 - a. **Ro 2:28-29** "For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God."
 2. It is worshipping God.
 - i. You can't sing worship songs without worshipping.
 - ii. You might be worshipping in vain if not worshipping correctly but you are still worshipping.
 - a. **Mt 15:9** "in vain do they worship me..."
 3. It teaches and admonishes
 - i. It is yet another way of influencing a lost and dying world.
 - a. **Mt 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

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- C. Singing (P.H.SS) is a part of the Christian lifestyle and therefore must...
 - 1. Have scriptural accuracy.
 - i. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - ii. This eliminates the use of mechanical instruments in all songs of worship
 - a. **He 7:14** "For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests."
 - 2. Have understanding.
 - i. **I Co 14:15** "What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also."
 - ii. Too often people sing with no understanding of what they are teaching
 - a. Ebon Pinion, Ebenezer
 - 1. Night came on "dark wings of a bird"
 - 2. **I Sa 7:12** God is the "stone of help"

CONCLUSION

- 1. Edward Bedore once said, "The knowledge of Christ's love for us should cause us to love Him in such a way that it is demonstrated in our attitude, conduct, and commitment to serve God. Spiritual maturity is marked by spiritual knowledge being put into action."
 - a. God through Paul in Colossians chapter three teaches us this very idea.
- 2. My deepest hope this evening is that each of us pays special attention to our Christian character as ones who are "hidden in Christ."
- 3. Invitation