



5/27/26

A friend sent me a great song that I thought went so well with today's passage. It's called, "Hill to Die On" by Consumed by Fire. If you'd like to hear it, here's a link... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx28CzR5n8M&list=RDnx28CzR5n8M&start_radio=1

Let me know what you think!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Colossians 3:1-11

The passage Tim preached on Sunday was Colossians 3:12-17, where we learned what a heart pursuing relational oneness in the Lord looks like... what we clothe ourselves with... above all, love. But how do I get there? And what does it look like when I'm NOT clothing myself with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, tolerance, a forgiving heart, and love? O Lord, as I look at this passage today, please reveal to me any ratty clothes that you want me to replace with Your beautiful, consecrated clothes. Please make it clear to me how to do that, and where I'm not doing it. Freedom comes in allowing You full access to my heart. Praise Your name!

Vs. 1-4 ~ "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Have I been raised with Christ? Yes. I have put my faith in Jesus for salvation. I have believed that He died for my sins and was raised for my justification. I have confessed Jesus as my Lord. So, since that's true, then what? The word in the ESV is "seek" the things that are above. The Greek meaning shows me that it's more than just looking at the things that are above, like appreciating a picture. It means, "strive" for things that are above. "Desire" them, "search for" them. This is so important for me to understand because my natural tendency is to let the earthly things that I can physically see get my attention.

What's so important about things that are above? Why would I seek them? They're the things

of Jesus. They're where He is... sitting at the right hand of the Father. He is on His throne, high and lifted up, with all authority, power, wisdom, and love. To seek Him is to find "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 1:3). The real question is, "Why wouldn't I seek Him?"

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Paul takes it a step further to make it clear. SET my MIND on things above. My mind is what processes information. So... whatever my mind is set on is what gets sent to my heart, where my feelings, desires, and decisions are made. If my mind is set on Jesus, my mind sends beautiful hope filled messages to my heart.

If my mind is set on the things of earth, my heart receives dark messages of deception. Yuck. I don't want that, Lord! And yet, my flesh wants that. My flesh is hostile to God, and my flesh is so wrong. Let me not be deceived... My flesh = self-reliance = self-sabotage.

"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." I want to strive for the things above and be fixated on them where Jesus is because my old self has passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17), and my new self is hidden from Satan's deception as I abide with Jesus in God who is greater than my heart.

"When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." Here is the amazing hope and truth... Jesus is my life. He gives me life. He openly reveals Himself to me because He loves me. In fact, 1 Corinthians 2:12 tells me that the Holy Spirit who dwells in me helps me understand the things FREELY GIVEN to me by God. Someday I will be with Him in glory, and the fullness of His glory will be revealed to me and in me.

But 1 John 2:17 says that the world is passing away. Why put my attention on what is dark and passing away? O Lord, please give me an eternal perspective? This life is just a breath. Joni Eareckson Tada wrote that for Christians, this life on earth is our hell. Help me, Lord, to keep my eyes fixed on the eternal hope I have in You. You have an incredible hope of glory waiting for me, and You give me strength to withstand the brokenness of this world now. Praise Your name.

Vs. 5-11 ~ "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:" The Greek word for "put to death" is just one word, "nekroó", and it also means "render ineffective, deprive of power." So, in light of the life I have in Jesus and in light of His call for me to seek Him and set my mind on Him, the only way I can do this is by rendering powerless the things that go completely against who He is... the earthly things. James 3:16 calls these things "earthly, unspiritual, demonic." Do I get that??? That is REALLY BAD!!!

The earthly things destroy relational oneness with the Lord AND they destroy relational oneness with others. Some of these things are: "sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Sexual immorality is a false promise of oneness. It is so widely accepted as the norm now that even believers think it's no big deal. What God has for us is so much better!!! He wants a beautiful, emotionally secure intimacy between husband and wife that gives us a picture of the depth of emotional intimacy we can have with Him. For those who are not yet married, He offers that intimacy with Him that far exceeds the fake intimacy this world has to offer. God is worth the wait.

Impurity doesn't take much to taint the whole thing. It's not just about sexual impurity. It's anything that's impure before God in thought, word, or action. This is where I KNOW I need the Holy Spirit to change me. How many times have I thought, "It's not that bad. Surely God doesn't expect me to walk away from EVERYTHING impure." The problem when I think that is that I'm viewing God through the wrong lens. He absolutely wants me to put to death everything impure... not because He wants to withhold good from me, but because He wants to lavish His goodness on me!

Passion is inordinate affection for something or someone other than the Lord. Even good things become earthly things when I want them more than I want God.

Evil desire so often veils itself as something good. My SELF desires are opposed to the Spirit, hostile to God. I can't give them power AND let the power and love of Christ have rule over my heart. I can't have two masters. "Either I will hate the one and love the other, or I will be devoted to one and despise the other" (Matthew 6:24). O Lord, please help me to love You and be devoted to You!

Covetousness, which is idolatry, always wanting MORE is idolatry because it is always saying, "God, You are not enough." Oh boy, have I struggled with this!!! I BLAMED God! I ACCUSED God! I wanted some things so badly that I accused Him of not loving me. If He did, He would have fulfilled that desire of mine!!! Oh, but it was His love that REFUSED to give me what I was demanding from Him... even when I thought what I was demanding was good! But when I want what I view as good and demand it from God, I'm functionally saying that I'm god!!! Nothing good comes from that. O Lord, You have PRIED open my fingers to help me release the things that I loved more than I loved You. I'm sure there's more to go. But please, Lord, help me to keep my fingers open so that You don't have to PRY them. As Amy Carmichael wrote in a poem, let it be my prayer as well...

*"And shall I pray Thee change THY will, my Father,
Until it be according to MINE?
But, no, Lord, no, that shall never be, rather
I pray Thee blend my human will with Thine."*

"On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them." All these things that I once set my mind on and lived in are the reason Jesus had to die. They are the reason His wrath will be poured out on all those who reject Jesus' call, "Come to Me all who are weary, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." The first list of things to put to death were what some would call "the big sins." This list is more subtle, more hidden. I can muscle keeping them from coming out of my mouth for a long time. But eventually, if I have not allowed God to change my heart, they will eventually be disclosed. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

Even if I stay quiet, but I hold these things in my heart, they WILL destroy relational oneness. Even though anger and wrath and malice feel powerful, it's a lie. May I not lie to myself and may I not lie to others.

My old self would do all these things. My old self celebrated all these things. But Paul reminds me again... I have been crucified with Christ and now Christ lives in me. Remove, render ineffective and powerless, the things that Jesus hates, the things for which the wrath of God is coming. By the power of the Holy Spirit working in my life, clothe myself with what Jesus loves, who Jesus is! The Holy Spirit renews my mind so that I know Jesus more and more. The more I see Him, the more I will be like Him. Praise His name!!!

"Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all." Here... where Jesus is and where the Spirit is at work, relational oneness can come because I recognize that I am not master of my destiny. I am one with Christ and one with His body. When Jesus is ALL to me, I no longer separate myself from others. I no longer choose who I will love and who I will avoid. Inasmuch as it depends on me, I will pursue peace with others because Jesus has pursued peace with me (Romans 12:18). O Lord, please make it so. It starts with where I set my mind... on You.