



fellowship
Love God. Love People. Develop Disciples.

In Acts 13 Paul demonstrates that the Scripture points beyond King David the King of Israel, to Jesus - the King of Creation. In verse 36 we see an oral epitaph of the beloved King David - brief description of David's DASH.

Acts 13:36 (ESV)

³⁶ For David, after he had **served the purpose of God in his own generation**, fell asleep...

Wouldn't that be a wonderful epitaph for OUR lives?

What are you going to do with THE DASH?

Context of Colossians 3

Paul earlier explained how followers of Jesus were buried with Jesus in baptism & raised with Him in faith (Col. 2:11-14). This is a picture of being transformed into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), dead to sin & raised to walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:4)!

Eternal Focus

Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

This is not a one time decision. **Seek** and **set your minds** is present tense and is translated "keep seeking" & "keep thinking" (v.2) by the NET.

☀ **Douglas Moo:** "*Believers "seek the things above" by deliberately and daily committing ourselves to the values of the heavenly kingdom and living out of those values.*"¹

Earlier Paul highlighted the competition between culture's earthly traditions and Christ's eternal truths when he writes this:

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

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.

When cultural earthly traditions collide with Christ's eternal truths, one must bow before the other. This means we must be aware of who Jesus is and what Jesus says.

¹ Douglas J. Moo, The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 246.

Paul's audience never heard Jesus with their own ears. Like us, they were trusting the eye-witnesses of Jesus, the ones He told "*make disciples of all nations and teach them to obey all that I have commanded.*" (Matt. 28:19-20). This is why it is VITAL to read & hear the Scriptures.



Read Scriptures Daily. Share Scriptures Weekly.

Read 1 Chapter a day. Share with 1 friend a week.

Living Forgiven

Colossians 3:2-4 (ESV)

² **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.

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

⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Our old life is DEAD! **The past is forgiven and the future is certain!** And that is why...

THE DASH

WE MUST BE
KINGDOM FOCUSED
& LIVIN' FORGIVEN

We aren't to continue to live for the things Jesus died to pay for. Instead, our lives should be characterized by THINKING & LIVING that honors our King! Those **deliberate & daily decisions to honor our returning King will deepen your sense of His Presence.**

Now Paul is not denying that forgiven followers of Jesus still have to battle against our fallen sinful desires. In fact, that's exactly why he is writing this - reminding followers of Jesus: *The way we use to live, that's not the way we do it anymore.*

Seeking Jesus means forsaking things that dishonor Jesus.

Sexual Purity & Contentment

Colossians 3:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

Put to death: similar to the words Jesus used when He talked about how to deal with sexual thoughts & actions - gouge out eyes & chop of hands (Matt. 5:27-30).

☀ **Kent Hughes** calls this "*a violent metaphor which expresses pain and effort.*"²

Sexually immoral actions & thoughts are birthed from *covetousness*: a disobedient desire to get things that aren't ours.

☀ **John MacArthur** "*The covetous, greedy person worships himself, the contented person worships God.*"³

² R. Kent Hughes, *Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, Preaching the Word* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 97.

³ John F. MacArthur Jr., *Colossians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 138.

Instead of coveting what isn't ours we are **content** with what we have.

Seeking Jesus means more than just sexual purity & contentment, it also means a gracious attitude & pure speech.

Gracious Attitude & Pure Speech

⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Put away - metaphor with idea of laying dirty clothes aside.

Anger smoldering bitterness quickly revealed when provoked

Wrath sudden outburst that boils out of the angry person.

• Like God, his followers are to be *slow to anger* (James 1:19-20).

Malice desiring and even planning to do harm to another.

Slander speaking harshly of another person intending to damage their reputation.

Obscene talk a little used Greek term also translated: 'abusive, filthy, or dirty language'.⁴

Honest Relationships

Colossians 3:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ **Do not lie to one another**, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.

Believers are **NOT to lie to one another**, but are to be **honest** with one another. Our lives are **being renewed** to know and resemble our Creator - the God of all truth.

Putting off the old and putting on the new was symbolized in the early church when a person was baptized. Before entering the water the baptismal candidate would remove their old clothes, enter the water to be baptized (by a person of the same sex), & then receive a fresh set of clothes to wear, symbolizing new life in Jesus.⁵

We must be KINGdom Focused & Livin' Forgiven



1. Read Scriptures Daily. Share Scriptures Weekly.
2. Practice purity in action, word, & thought.

Have questions and need some help?
Call or text any of our Pastoral Staff
...real soon...how about now?

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⁴ see NET, NAS (abusive), NIV (filthy), NLT (dirty)

⁵ Ben Witherington III, The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians : A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007), 176.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

1. Take a moment to have everyone write an epitaph (a brief description) of 2 departed loved ones/friends, one who was godly and the other who was not. Then share with each other.
2. **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** What does it mean to seek the things that are above & set your minds on things that are above (vv.1-2)? What does it mean that “*you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God*”? (vv.3)
3. **Read Colossians 2:8.** How can we know the difference between the culture's earthly traditions and Christ's eternal truths? What role does Scripture play in that? Share an area where you see culture communicating a different philosophy than Christ does.
4. **Read Colossians 3:5-10.** After reading this passage, what is the expectation for the follower of Jesus compared to our culture?
5. What most deeply challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching & what are you intending to do about it?
6. **FEET2FAITH CHALLENGES.** (Break into same-sex groups to discuss this)
 - **Read Scriptures Daily. Share Scriptures Weekly.** What, where, & when will you read? (make a plan or ask for suggestions) Which same-sex person (from this group) will you share what you have read (decide when you will talk this week)?
 - **Practice purity in action, word, & thought.** What sin do you need to slay or practice do you need to apply? Share with same-sex group then conclude by praying for one another.