

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 11)

TEXT: Col. 3:1-4

INTRO: “The first two chapters of Colossians are filled with theological and doctrinal truths about Jesus Christ. Beginning in chapter 3, Paul draws out the implication of these truths for our daily lives. Out of doctrine comes duty. Out of biblical content comes godly character...there must be biblical content before there can be biblical conduct... Once again, the key to it all is Jesus Christ...” *David Jeremiah*

I. (vs. 1-4) The believer is a new person.

A. Notice the three “withs” in this passage.

NOTE: The word *with* is a preposition and refers to the believer’s relationship with Christ.

B. Notice the three different tenses (past, present, and future).

II. (vs. 1, 3) Our past has been changed.

A. Before we can be raised we must first die.

B. At the time of our salvation we are identified with Christ at His death.

NOTE: Col. 2:20; Rom. 6:1-13; Gal 2:20

C. We are also identified with Christ at His resurrection.

NOTE: “If” in the KJV is translated “Since” in the NIV. Col. 2:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17

III. (vs. 3) Our present has been changed.

A. At the time of our salvation we are “hid with Christ in God.”

B. Our relationship with Christ is secure.

NOTE: The word *hid* refers to the eternal life we have in Christ which is concealed in Christ who is in the Father. See John 10:27-29

C. There is an aspect of the believer’s life the world does not comprehend.

IV. (vs. 4) Our future has been changed.

A. A great revelation is coming!

NOTE: Phil. 2:9-11

B. Today we are hidden with Christ. The day is coming when we will be revealed with Christ!

NOTE: I John 3:1-2 “The veil which now shrouds your higher life from others, will then be withdrawn. The world which now persecutes, despises, ignores now, will then be blinded with the dazzling glory of the revelation.” *Lightfoot*

V. (vs. 1-2) In Christ we have new priorities.

A. We are commanded to set our hearts on things above.

NOTE: “When we set our heart on something, it motivates us, changes us, and energizes us.” *D. Jeremiah* See Phil. 3:20 “Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven, but citizens of heaven making their way through this world.” *Vance Havner*

B. We are commanded to set our affection (mind) “on things above, not on things on the earth.”