

Sermon Series: True Spirituality

Sermon Title: How to Be Heavenly Minded, part 2

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:5-17

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Pray
- Read Colossians 3:5-17
- What stands out to you from this text?
- Remind yourself of the importance of hearing from God's Word
- Think about what you would normally do if you really wanted to learn and come prepared to do that

Discussion Questions: This will help you think through the passage and what you heard in the message.

- What is the basic question we've been asking the past few weeks?
- What is the danger we face as we go to answer that question?
- What is the threat the Colossians faced and that we face?
- How is Paul's approach to the Christian life both simpler and more difficult than the approach of the false teachers?
- What command in Colossians 3:1-4 did we focus on recently and what was Paul calling on us to do in that command?
- We said in verses 5-17 we find three helps for setting our mind on things above. What are the three things Paul identifies we must do?
- What does it mean to put to death what is earthly in you? What would it look like for someone to do that?
- Why do you think Paul went here after telling us to set our minds on things above?
- What is the similarity between this kind of worldliness and religious worldliness?
- Why does Paul tell us to put away anger, malice and these other kinds of sins?
- What is the old self and the new self?
- How is anger, wrath, malice etc. tied to there being Greek, Jew, etc. in the old self?
- How does putting away these kinds of things and putting on the other character qualities connect to setting our mind on things above?
- What is Paul assuming in verses 15-17 about you?
- If you contrast verses 3:15-17 with the kind of religion we find in verses 2:16-18, what are some of the differences?

Sermon in a Nutshell: A sermon has a lot of words, and this short summary may help you quickly understand what it was all about.

How do you become the kind of person who is setting their mind on things above? We are going to look at Colossians 3:5-17 and see how Paul gives ordinary people like us specific, practical help for setting our minds on things above and becoming truly Christ-focused individuals.

Thinking It Through: The following quotes and verses are intended to help you think a little about the message today and how to apply it.

- Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." What might this tell you about doing theology?
- "The sight of God's glory, and impurity of heart, are not compatible in the same subject. Where spiritual defilement holds possession of the heart, it is impossible that the divine light which discovers God's glory should enter. How can he, who is under the power of enmity against God, and who only hates God, see his beauty and loveliness at the same time? Sin, so long as it has the government and possession of the soul, will blind the mind and maintain darkness. As long as sin keeps possession, the heart will be blinded through its deceitfulness." Jonathan Edwards
- John says, "If anyone says, 'I love God' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." What does this tell us about our relationship with God and our relationship with others?
- Peter says, "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." What does this teach you about our relationships with others and our relationship with God?
- The point here is that if we are setting our minds on things above, it will evidence itself in transformed relationships and actually setting our minds on things above, requires applying the gospel to the way we do relationships.
- "Theology must be taught according to a certain method, and it must be the kind of method in which theory and practice always walk in step together. In fact, they must walk together in such a way that theory precedes and practice follows in every one of theology's articles." Petrus Van Mastricht
- "Theology is doctrine or teaching of living to God. John 6:68, "The words of eternal life..."; Acts 5:20, "The words of this life..."; Romans 6:11, "Consider yourselves...alive to God." It is called doctrine, not to separate it from understanding, knowledge, wisdom, art, or prudence—for these go with every exact discipline, and most of all with theology—but to mark it as a discipline, and most of all with theology—but to mark it as a discipline which derives not from nature and human inquiry like others, but from divine revelation and appointment. Isaiah 51:4, "Doctrine shall go forth from Me..."; Galatians 1:11-12, "The Gospel...is not according to man. For neither I received it from man, nor was taught it, but it came through a revelation." Since the highest kind of life for a human being is that which approaches most closely the living and life-giving God, the nature of theological life is living to God." William Ames

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.