

Honduras Devotions

February 11-18, 2020

Day One – Wednesday, February 12

Colossians 3:2-17 New International Version (NIV)

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We must learn to live with an eternal focus, Paul commands us to put to death whatever is worldly in us. There are some specific things — some habits, attitudes, practices and sins — in our worldly wardrobe that need to go. We must begin to remove and separate ourselves from any destructive behavior or attitudes associated with the flesh.

Additional Scriptures:

Galatians 5:24

“And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Matthew 5:29-30

“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

In other words, sin has no place in our lives. This week, we are going to study Colossians 3 and look at what we must “take off” and “put on” as followers of Christ.

For Discussion:

- In verse 2 Paul instructs us to set our hearts and minds on things above and not on the things of this world. Paul knows that what we desire and focus our attention on usually determines what we do. What are some practical ways we can strive to set our minds on things above?

- As believers in Christ, we are called to live a life that is distinctly different from the world around us. What are some steps we can take to accomplish this?

Day Two – Thursday, February 13

Let's look at what we must take off:

- **SINS OF THE FLESH**
 - sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed

Some Additional Scriptures:

Galatians 5:17

“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Mark 7:20-23

“What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- **EVIL ATTITUDES**
 - anger, rage, malice

Additional Scripture:

Ephesians 4:31

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

For Discussion:

- Which of these do you most struggle with?
- What are some practical things you can do to “put to death” such things?

More of what we are to take off tomorrow:

Day Three – Friday, February 14

What we must take off (continued)

- **Evil speech:** slander, and filthy language

Additional Scripture:

James 1:26

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.”

- **Deception:** Do not lie

Additional Scripture:

Psalms 34:13

“Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.”

The list of ***what not to wear*** is long, and all these things are contrary to who we are in Christ. By faith, we must put off the old habits and sins that had us bound and put on the character of Christ.

For Discussion:

- Which of these do you most struggle with?
- What are some practical things you can do to “put to death” such things?

Day Four – Saturday, February 15

What do those who belong to Christ wear?

- **Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**

Colossians 3:12

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience”

- **Forgiveness**

Colossians 3:13

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

For Discussion:

It is hard to do any of the above in our own strength. We must rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish these attitudes and behaviors in our life.

- Which of these characteristics is the hardest for you?
- Share an example of when you put into practice one of the above characteristics and you KNOW it was the Holy Spirit prompting you to act in this manner (and not doing it in your own strength)?

DAY 5 – Monday, February 17

LOVE, PEACE AND THANKFULNESS

Colossians 3:14

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

The love of Christ is the outer garment that binds all these virtues (that we talked about yesterday) together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:15

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

As believers in Christ, these virtues should radiate from our lives. As we spend time alone with God and study His Word daily, these actions and attitudes will automatically flow out from us.

In Matthew 12:34, Jesus tells us: “For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.”

And, St. Paul reminds us that we are to be the *fragrance of Christ*. II Corinthians 2:15 says: “For we are the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”

For Discussion:

- Love is easy to talk about, but how can we take steps to incorporate Agape love (self-sacrificial love) into practice in our daily lives?
- Where is God calling you to be the “aroma of Christ” (in your home, your workplace, your neighborhood)?
- Read thru I Corinthians 13 and insert your name in place of Love and it:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.