

DISCUSSION IDEAS
SEEK THE THINGS ABOVE

Colossians 3:1-17

July 31st, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: GOD'S GOAL FOR ME IS TO BECOME LIKE JESUS. WHAT IS MY GOAL??**

Am I REALLY willing to do what it takes to become like Jesus?

Or is this just a nice thing to claim, but I do not want to have to work at it?

Am I not just a "sinner saved by grace" who will remain so until I go to Heaven?

Does God really expect me to have to work at following Him?

Read through Colossians 3:1-17, and note the number of times we are given a command to obey.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHO IS DOING THE WORK HERE?**

If I AM willing to make the effort, how do I go about doing that?

What about the statement, "Misunderstanding the process and attempting behavior modification by willpower alone often leads to the conclusion that becoming like Jesus is impossible."?

If the secret of becoming like Jesus is to realize that when I change the inside, the outside will follow,

how is that different from just willing myself to change?

Just before this passage, Col. 2:20-23 talks about "self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body" that is of "no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh".

Compare this to Col. 3:1-17.

WHO are you now? What has changed?

What kinds of actions AM I supposed to take?

What does it mean "seek the things that are above"?

What about "Set your minds on"? How do I do that?

What is it that we are to put to death? How?

What are we to put on? How?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST?**

At the end of these notes is a copy of a list named "Who I Am In Christ".

Take a quick look right now, and note a few resources that God has given you. Later on, at home, study these passages carefully.

Your "quiet time" just got busy! :-)

Are you sure of who you are?

How does that have anything to do with my life at home or at work this week?

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♦ **FOR MEDITATION: AT HOME THIS WEEK:**

WHAT EFFORT DO I NEED TO MAKE?

Consider the following thoughts:

"The path of spiritual growth in the riches of Christ is not a passive one. **Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning.** Effort is action. Earning is attitude. You have never seen people more active than those who have been set on fire by the grace of God."

Dallas Willard, <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=5>

▶ **IF I CHANGE THE INSIDE, THE OUTSIDE WILL FOLLOW.**

From Sunday's message:

"We first must have a vision of the skill we want to master.

Then we commit to pursue that skill.

Then we engage in the steps towards mastering that skill.

This is true whether it be music, art, writing, athletics, cooking, counseling, acquiring a new language, whatever the case may be.

This also is true of becoming like Jesus.

We first must have a vision for ourselves of becoming like Jesus.

Hopefully this vision drives a desire to become like Jesus.

Thus motivated we participate in the steps that lead to Christlikeness."

Read, re-read and meditate on Colossians 3:1-17.

Study through the passages listed in the "Who I Am In Christ" page.

DECIDE on what you should be doing – then FOLLOW THROUGH.

Who gives you the power to do this?

Are you going to ask Him for help?

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

ORIGINALLY COMPILED BY NEIL ANDERSON

I AM ACCEPTED...

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>John 1:12</i> | I am God's child. |
| <i>John 15:15</i> | As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ. |
| <i>Romans 5:1</i> | I have been justified (declared righteous). |
| <i>1 Corinthians 6:17</i> | I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit. |
| <i>1 Corinthians 6:19-20</i> | I have been bought with a price and I belong to God. |
| <i>1 Corinthians 12:27</i> | I am a member of Christ's body. |
| <i>Ephesians 1:3-8</i> | I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child. |
| <i>Colossians 1:13-14</i> | I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. |
| <i>Colossians 2:9-10</i> | I am complete in Christ. |
| <i>Hebrews 4:14-16</i> | I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ. |

I AM SECURE...

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Romans 8:1-2</i> | I am free from condemnation. |
| <i>Romans 8:28</i> | I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances. |
| <i>Romans 8:31-39</i> | I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God. |
| <i>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</i> | I have been established, anointed and sealed by God. |
| <i>Colossians 3:1-4</i> | I am hidden with Christ in God. |
| <i>Philippians 1:6</i> | I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me. |
| <i>Philippians 3:20</i> | I am a citizen of heaven. |
| <i>2 Timothy 1:7</i> | I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. |
| <i>1 John 5:18</i> | I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me. |

I AM SIGNIFICANT...

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>John 15:5</i> | I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life. |
| <i>John 15:16</i> | I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. |
| <i>1 Corinthians 3:16</i> | I am God's temple. |
| <i>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</i> | I am a minister of reconciliation for God. |
| <i>Ephesians 2:6</i> | I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm. |
| <i>Ephesians 2:10</i> | I am God's workmanship. |
| <i>Ephesians 3:12</i> | I may approach God with freedom and confidence. |
| <i>Philippians 4:13</i> | I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. |

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they prepare their home for caring for John's mother.

Pray too for wisdom and peace and health as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Thank God for the available Helicopter!

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.