

# PILGRIM

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## HOME CHURCH

### FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. When you think of the idea of having a new identity what does that feel like? What does that look like?
2. What has already happened to believers, and what will happen in the future, according to Paul in these verses?
3. "Set your mind on things above." What do you think this actually looks like in practice? What obstacles are there to practising this "heavenly mindedness" in your daily life?
4. Write down all the identities you possess (nationality, job, relationships, etc.). Honestly put them in the order they seem most important to you. Where does your identity in Christ sit in the list? Why is that, and how can it be made the highest priority?
5. What else does this passage provoke to you about living with Jesus in your thoughts?

### PRAYER:

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

# COLOSSIANS

## LIVE THE DREAM

### 3:1-4

#### ADJUST YOUR SETTINGS FOR REAL LIVING, 3:1-4

Michelle Obama paraphrased the Apostle Paul when she said, "When they go low, we go high"; and CS Lewis wrote, "Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither." The ability to be more present in the moment is possible when you also have the scope of eternity in your sights.

#### *Colossians 3:1-4* (CEB)

Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things above and not things on earth. <sup>3</sup> You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

#### A QUICK REVIEW

- The church is facing false teaching about a mash-up 'philosophy', focusing on angels and mystical experiences as required for true faith, also rule-keeping from Judaism.
- Paul never was at this church, writing from prison based on reports. Exercising relational-apostolic authority
- Chapters 1-2 focus on theology foundations and "so what" for them. Roughly doctrine.
- Chapters 3-4 provide more basic instructions, ethics/advice.
- "Paul never spoke other than as a pastor. His theology was a living theology, a practical theology through and through. The application is inherent in the exposition itself...[W]e can hardly avoid noting that all of Paul's letters were motivated by ethical concerns" -James Dunn (Gupta,123).

## OUTLINE: CHAPTER 3

1-4 Pursuing True Heavenly Life in Christ

5-11 Destroying and Setting Aside Earthly Ways

12-17 Cardinal Virtues of New Life In Christ: Love, Peace and Thanksgiving

### COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 PURSUING TRUE HEAVENLY LIFE IN CHRIST

- **Colossians 3:1** Receiving Christ, (2:6) we share in his death and burial, and benefit from new life in him.

- We are raised with him and with death/resurrection we are protected from the deepest evil.

- The rest of Jesus was into the realm "above" vs. what is on "earth".

- "above" is not necessarily to be understood as in outer space, but...

- **Colossians 3:1b** "seek" **zeteo** [ζητεῖτε, V-PMA-2P] a particular person or object, a desire.

*"To pursue what is above is to orient one's life and devotion to God rather than to the self or the world." Or, to quote Michelle Obama, "When they go low, we go high."*

- **Colossians 3:2** "Set your mind..." **phroneo** [φρονεῖτε, V-PMA-2P] a "comprehensive pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting".

When I (Pastor Shelby) speak of "holy imagination," it is straight out of scripture. Your imagination is being formed by what you engage with over and over, intentionally and unintentionally. The Bible calls us to take control of our minds, more than thoughts - actions, words, patterns, images.

- **Colossians 3:3** "for" God's Witness Protection Program....

Psalm 27:5

- **Colossians 3:4** The Parousia

### BIG IDEA REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS