

Committed In the Work of God Colossians 3

What's a grandfather supposed to do when it's 1:00 in the afternoon, 105°, not a breath of air and he's got two grandchildren oblivious to the heat who want to ride the zipline, ride the go-cart over the crisp, brown grass, and brush the donkey in the barn? You promise them ice cream, a root beer slushy and popcorn at the longest movie you can find. It worked!

And the movie? An exhilarating, G-rated documentary on NASA's space program involving the height of technology necessary to rescue fellow astronauts and actually save the inhabitants on an unnamed planet (for security reasons I'm sure) in another galaxy. The movie is called *Space Chimps*. Although it is for 10-year-olds and under, I personally found it unbelievably stimulating as well as entertaining. It did help to have my granddaughter by my side to tell me what would happen next. She had seen it before, but we were out of the heat.

At the expense of quelling the intrigue of the drama, the basic story line is that Ham, content with being daily shot out of a cannon at the circus, Luna with whom Ham falls in love during the space flight and Titan are selected to go on a mission too dangerous for humans. In flight they are sucked into the "wormhole," miraculously survive due to Ham's cannon experience, and discover this incredible, colorful mushroom paradise that brought thoughts of heaven. Complimenting the breath-taking planet was the unusually shaped but pleasant citizening. All was well until they were confronted with Zartog, a native gone bad who was bound to destroy the planet and its inhabitants. Enough said to make the point. See the movie.

The thought occurred, if a person were to face and pass through the "wormhole" in *our* galaxy and find themselves gazing at our "planet," perhaps at our church, what would they see? What would capture their attention? Would it be a place that was attractive, inviting, and distinct compared to their "galaxy"? Or would they see a people who are influenced or living under the fear and control of "Zartog"?

Are we a people of such inner character, people who are so controlled by "Christ in us the hope of glory" that they would want to remain and experience the fullness of Christ having been made complete in Him?

The Apostle Paul is writing to a very special people, praising them for their expression of faith in Christ, magnetic love for each other and anticipation of the future in a less than encouraging culture. He is concerned that they are in jeopardy of losing the rich testimony to their city and their influence on those around them. In a sense, there was a "Zartog" type influence that was distorting their vision and the centrality of Christ. In chapter three, Paul presents the power to overcome the "Zartog" influence and he details the resulting character that would draw others to Christ and His people.

LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on Colossians 3:2; 17, "*Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*"
 - (a) How is our thinking reflected in what we do?
 - (b) To what extent can we agree that all of what a person observes or perceives in our lives is a true reflection of what we think about God.
2. Study the specific areas of moral and personal sins listed in Col. 3:5-9. Many of these are committed in "private" or become a habit. What affect do these sins have on your relationship with God and those around you? How are they eventually expressed publicly?
3. List 3 or 4 of your most critical relationships that are directly impacted by either "putting off" or "putting on" the practices listed in verses 5-25? Whose responsibility is it to exercise these practices? What are the results in contrast to the consequences of your obedience?
4. What do we know from Col 3:1-4 that gives us the confidence that we can practice His will in relationships?
5. This week continue to pray the prayer of Paul in Col. 1:9-12 as a personal prayer. As a prayer for your family. As a prayer for your church.

“And in His will is our peace.” - Dante

The Prayer of an Excellent Church

Col. 1:9 “to be filled with the knowledge of His will”
Col. 1:10 . . . that we “may walk in a manner of the Lord to please Him in all respects”
Col. 1:11 . . . that we may “**bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God; strengthened with power for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience.**”

We ask that we will “be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please You in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to Your glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

Colossians 1:9-12

Chapter 1: Confident in the Will of God

“that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”

THE PERSON OF CHRIST His deity (1:15) He is

Chapter 2: Conviction in the Walk in God

“that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects bearing fruit in every good work”

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST (2:9-10) In Him

Chapter 3: Commitment in the Work of God

“increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for attaining all steadfastness and patience”

THE PRACTICE OF CHRIST

THE POWER TO WORK IN CONVICTION

A Theological Foundation

Baptism
Redemption
Identification
Superiority/Sovereignty
Glorification
Omnipresence
Omnipotence

THE PRACTICE OF WORKING IN CONVICTION

Personal Authenticity *Bring out the Round-Up* “Put to death” / Mortify

- Morality: Kill/Put to death
 - Immorality
 - Impurity
 - Passion
 - Evil desire
 - Greed (Idolatry)

- Personality: “Put off”
 - Anger
 - Wrath
 - Malice
 - Slander
 - Abusive speech
 - Lying

Relational Authenticity *Put on the fertilizer*

- Work in Character

 - “Put on” “New Self”

 - Heart of Compassion

 - Kindness

 - Humility

 - Gentleness

 - Patience

 - Forbearance

 - Forgiveness

 - Love

Col. 3:15-16

And trust in the work of God’s grace

Let peace “rule”

Let the Word “dwell”

Col. 3:17

The preeminence of Christ

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

The Most Visible Reflection of Authenticity

- Work in our Family

 - Wives – responsive to husband in the spirit of Christ

 - Husbands – love unconditionally/sacrificially

 - Children – obedient in all things

 - “Parents” – stop nagging - say it once then . . .

- Work in our Profession

 - Carry out your responsibilities with pride/integrity

 - Envision yourself serving Christ in your work