



1867



1899



1905



1950



1974



2009

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TOWNSEND-SMITH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A CARING CLASS

FEBRUARY STUDY THEME: BATTLE FOR THE MIND

February 21, 2010 Lesson: "What's on Your Mind?"

Scripture Passage: Colossians 3:1-14

SET YOUR MINDS ON WHAT IS ABOVE, AND NOT ON WHAT IS ON EARTH [Col. 3:2]

The lesson for this week is about focusing our minds on Christ, removing from our lives ungodly thoughts and actions, and displaying godly character.

There is a temptation, even for Christians, to allow our lives to change and to adapt to where we are, who we are with, and what the circumstances are at the time. The persons we are around at the time can see a spiritual side and a secular side. The problem with this is that a Christian ought to be the same person wherever he goes. The very instant that we are saved Jesus comes to live on the inside of us, never, ever to depart. Jesus claims every area of our lives as His and He does not change from place to place. We should learn to live every second in a way that honors God wherever we are. We can learn to do this by practicing daily to have a biblical mind-set. Paul said that to grow as a Christian you need to start with what you set your mind on.

In Colossians 3:1-4, Paul begins with urging the Christians in Colossae to focus their minds on Christ. **So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above.** When he spoke of having been raised, he was speaking of the believer's identification with Christ in His resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is a present reality. Likewise, we were raised with Christ; that is, we were given a new life in Him, and that life is a present reality. When we were saved we found that Christ is in us, but also that we are in Christ. Since the Bible tells us that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, in heaven, making daily intercession for us. **From a positional standpoint then, we are already in heaven with Christ.**

In Colossians 3:5-11, he challenged them to living a new way of life. **Therefore**, meaning a change in behavior flows out from a new way of thinking. He said that sinful behavior must be **put to death**. We died to sin in our lives and now we must kill the sin that manifests itself in our lives.

In Colossians 3:12-14, Paul said to them that they can form new ways of relating to others. While there may be some people that we don't need to associate with after we have been saved, we can **form new ways to relate** to those with whom we still associate.



"Your Word is Truth" John 17:17

NEW WAYS OF THINKING [Col. 3:1-4]

The Life of the New Man

¹ So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. ⁴ When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

NEW WAYS OF BEHAVING [Col. 3:5]

⁵ Therefore, put to death whatever in you is worldly: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, God's wrath comes on the disobedient, ⁷ and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

NEW WAYS OF RELATING [Col. 3:12-14]

The Christian Life

¹² Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must [forgive]. ¹⁴ Above all, [put on] love—the perfect bond of unity.