

The Human Potential

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I. Introduction. Text: Colossians 3:1-11.

II. In the midst of troubles the believer is to remember that Christ—his hidden resource—is always available to him.

A. Christ is in us—He makes the fullness of deity available to us now.

B. This is the announcement of Christian faith.

C. The believer is to remember this.

III. The believer is to set his mind upon things above.

A. Paul is dealing in the realm of choices.

B. The believer is to choose to obey what God wants for him.

C. Remember who you are (in Christ), who you once were (the old godless self) and who you will be in the future.

1. This is walking in the Spirit.

2. The new man is to be put on and the old man is to be put off.

3. Putting off refers to putting to death the old immoral way.

a. Sexual immorality.

b. Lusts.

c. Evil desires.

d. Greed for another person's body. This is idolatry.

4. Reasons these things must be avoided.

a. The wrath of God keeps coming. The wrath of God is His judicial reaction to evil. (Romans 1)

b. To revert to these practices is to try to be who one no longer is. We must not do these things because we can choose to stop. (Romans 6:14)

5. The believer must put off wrong attitudes as well.

a. Anger expressed in the wrong way through insult.

- b. Rage.
- c. Malice.
- d. Fowl talk.
- e. Deceit.

D. We are one in the Lord.

E. There is no excuse—the believer is not what he was anymore because Christ is in him and he belongs to Him.

Application questions:

1. Have you found victory over any of the wrong actions and attitudes Paul has described? What is your story?

2. Why does the believer have no excuse for sinful practices?

3. Who in your life is an outstanding example of putting off the old self? What makes them effective in their Christian walk?
