



DROP THE BAG OF RELIGION AND **EMBRACE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

Colossians 3:1-17 (NLT2) ¹ *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.* ² *Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.* ³ *For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ *And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.* ⁵ *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.* ⁶ *Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.* ⁷ *You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.* ⁸ *But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.* ⁹ *Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.* ¹⁰ *Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.* ¹¹ *In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.* ¹² *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.* ¹³ *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.* ¹⁴ *Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in*

perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

1. The letter to the Colossians was written around **60 AD**.
2. Colossae was a city **120 miles from Ephesus** and was part of the triad cities with Laodicea and Hierapolis.
3. False teachers had mingled **Gnosticism** with Christianity resulting in polluted faith.
4. **Paul had never been to Colossae** but know of them from his friends.
5. The devil is continual presenting **distractions** to derail believers in their faith.

1. YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE

1. This statement is true of **all** who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.
 2. We can be **confident** of God's power of salvation.
 3. If you are living in Christ, resist the enemies attempts to cause doubt.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT2)** *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*
- Romans 8:35-39 (NLT2)** ³⁵ *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?* ³⁶ *(As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")* ³⁷ *No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.* ³⁸ *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.* ³⁹ *No power in the sky*

above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. SET YOUR SIGHTS ON HEAVEN

1. The first command is to **seek** Jesus with all your heart. Daily, diligently, devotedly
2. The next command is to **set** your mind to do things that please God.
3. The third command is do not to set your mind to gratify your human nature. (the rest of the passage will deal with this in detail)

3. CHRIST WILL BE REVEALED

1. The believer **died** in Christ.
2. The believer is **hid** with Christ in God.
3. Christ is the **very life** of the believer.
4. Christ shall **appear** from Heaven.
5. The **glorification** of the believer will occur in heaven.