

Respond / Reflect:

What are some examples of “things above?” What are some examples of “things below?”

Which of the three training areas for focusing on Jesus and renewing our hearts that Pastor Doug mentioned in his sermon (1. Renewing our will. 2. Monitoring our mind. 3. Spending time with Jesus through Scripture and prayer) are easiest for you? Most challenging?

What strategies have you used successfully to renew your mind and set your heart on things above?

How are you extending the grace of God that you received to those around you?

How is Jesus sticking out of you?

What is so important about the first four verses in Colossians 3?

“Try It!”

This week, set the alarm on your phone to go off three different times throughout your day. Each time the alarm goes off, pause, and read Colossians 3:1-4.

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations.

Memorize Colossians 3:17:

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

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Father, thank you for loving us so much that we can love you and each other. Thank you for beginning a work in us that you are committed to completing in our lives. Continue to transform our hearts, minds, and lives. We long for you to come and make your home in our heart. In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Loving our Neighbor

During the month of September, we prayed every day for five (one for every finger on your hand) of our neighbors and five of our coworkers/classmates by name. During the month of October, try and learn something new about 3 of these people by being present with them and asking good questions and listening well.

Colossians 3:1-10

New International Version

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

³ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your ^(a) life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ^(b) ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:1-11

The Message

He Is Your Life

³ ¹⁻² So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective.

³⁻⁴ Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real* life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. *He* is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

⁵⁻⁸ And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

⁹⁻¹¹ Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.