

READ COLOSSIANS 2: 9-12

1. In Chapter 2 verse 12 Paul says that we are “buried” with Jesus in baptism and “raised with him” through our faith in Him who was raised from the dead

- i. What do you understand by these terms “buried with Christ” and “raised with him”?
- ii. In what way is “death” symbolised well through the act of ‘believers’ baptism’ and in what way is “resurrection” symbolised well through the faith of the believer?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-7

2. On the basis that we have been “*raised with Christ*” (2:12) Paul now says that we should set our hearts and minds on “*things above*” where Christ is, rather than on “*earthly things*” (3:1-2)

- i. What does Paul mean when he uses the term “*things above*” which they should focus on? What are the “*earthly things*” that Paul says NOT to focus on?
 - ii. Paul says to set your “*hearts*” (3:1) and set your “*minds*” (3:2) on things above. What is the difference?
3. Jesus said that He would always be with His disciples (Matthew 28:20) but Paul says that Jesus is above “*seated at the right hand of God*” (3:1). So where is Jesus now? Is He in heaven? Is He in us? Is He only present with us when 2 or 3 are gathered in His Name (Matthew 18:20)?
4. Paul says that when Christ “*appears*” those who are in Christ will “*appear with Him in glory*” (v4). This is understood to mean the second coming of Jesus. Do you ever think about Jesus’ return? If so, what do you ponder about? If not, why not?

5. In verse 5 Paul teaches the Church to “*put to death*” certain wrong behaviours associated with sex and stuff. He says that these are things that they USED to walk in before they became Christians (v7) and that these behaviours were the reason for God bringing His future wrath upon the world (v6).

- i. What does it mean to “*put to death*” something?
 - ii. If they **used** to walk in these wrong ways (v7) why is Paul telling them to **now** put them to death? (v5).
 - iii. If God’s wrath is aimed towards such behaviours, then what happens to Christians who still engage in such behaviours?
6. Paul says that greed is idolatry (v5). In what way is that the case?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:8-11

7. By becoming disciples of Jesus they had, spiritual speaking, taken their “*old self*” off and put their “*new self*” on” (v9-10) but they had to now match their lifestyle with this new “self” that Christ had given them. Paul adds to his list of sinful behaviours that they need to also “*get rid of*” their wrong use of speech (v8-9).

- i. Do you think these are not as bad or are equally bad as the sins Paul mentioned in verse 5? Why?
 - ii. Is God’s wrath aimed at these sins also? What happens to Christians who engage in them?
8. Paul includes the phrase “*filthy language from your lips*” (v8). What do you think that includes?
9. Paul also tells them to get rid of “*lying to each other*” (v9). Can lying ever be justified?
10. Paul may be highlighting in verse 11 that a number of people who worshipped in the church were different from each other and therefore may have been the focus of people’s negative words. He emphasized that they were all “in Christ”. How can we nurture a positive attitude, towards our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who think and behave differently to us?