

Agape Baptist Church – October 15, 2017

Sing the Word, Teach the Word

Colossians 3:15-17

- Scripture anticipates and commands a behavioral distinction between those who are in Christ and those who are not.

***If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above...Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...In these you too once walked...but now you must put them all away...put off the old self with its practices...put on the new self which is being renewed...
Colossians 3***

- ***Life-Truth:*** Invisible spiritual forces rule and have dominion over every person.
 - o Absolute spiritual freedom is a myth.

Let not sin reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions...Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey...When you were slaves to sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus... Romans 6

- Out of Christ, a person is a slave to sin.
 - They do not control sin, *it controls them*. They do not use sin for their pleasure, *sin uses them for its pleasure*.
 - They work for sin and their wage is destruction.
- In Christ, a person is a slave to righteousness.

...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure... Philippians 2:12-13

- God works in them to give renewed desires and to supply the power to obey those desires – leading to His good pleasure.
 - God is *sovereign*. We are *responsible*.
- God works for their sanctification, and their free gift is eternal life.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God... 2 Cor 5:21

- **Further reading:** Romans 6, Phil 1:6, 1 Cor 1:8, Ps 138

Question for going deeper: How do I obey the command to **put to death what is earthly in me**, while simultaneously resting in God's promise to **work in me His good pleasure**?

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and

hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- The call of Christ to salvation, is simultaneously a call to community.
 - You are one with anyone who receives Christ, so choose peace.
 - Relate to other Christians primarily by Christ, not by your differences.
 - Isolation is a breeding ground for sin.
- See to it that the message of Christ inhabits the church abundantly.
 - Aim to continually advance in hearing and obeying the word.
 - Aim to love each other through wise multiplication of the word.
 - **Be Wise:** Discern the time, the place, the person, and the situation.
 - **Further reading:** Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3
- Our singing should be derived from the word and should further our instruction about Christ.
 - Pay attention to what you hear: Music is powerful and words have meaning.
 - Songs are sermons put to music.
- **Life-Truth:** Always act in accordance with the character of Christ. Any action or attitude that cannot be associated with His name, has no place in the life of the Christian.