

The Heavenly Minded Life, Colossians 3:5-11 – July 7th, 2019

- I want to talk with you today about that which marks and characterizes the life of a Christian that's lived in light of eternity future.
- This is what Paul describes in the text that we have before us after writing about setting our hearts and minds on things above.
- He's saying because of what God did in the past, and what He has in store in heaven, this is how our life will be here on earth.

1. The earthly nature is put to death (Verses 5-6)

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.

- Here the Apostle Paul lists that which belongs to our earthly nature, and says it's because of these that God's wrath is coming.
- The problem is that we still have to put to death the earthly nature, which is still very much alive even after we come to Christ.
- When we come to Christ, it's out with the old and in with the new because we have a new nature as a new creation in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2. We don't live as we once did (Verses 7-8)

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.

- This is very interesting for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that the onus is on us to rid ourselves of these things.
- The reason being is that often times we're prone to cooperate with the old nature, instead of cooperating with the Holy Spirit.
- It's when we cooperate with the old nature that our lives are characterized by anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language.

3. There will be identifiable change (Verses 9-11)

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. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

- While Paul will expound more on this in the following verses, he's explaining how we take off the old self and put on the new.
- The idea is that of changing clothes such that, when we clothe ourselves with Christ, we'll be identified as belonging to Christ.
- By that I mean, you can tell a lot about someone by the way they are dressed, and so too is this true for us clothed in Christ.

- I'll bring it to a close by asking a question that I think all of us, myself included, would do well to ask ourselves in this regard.
- Do we live our Christian lives in such a way that those who are not Christians take notice and want to have what we have?
- Perhaps you've heard it asked, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"