

/Hello./ We will now begin with the fifteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Today's main passage is Colossians chapter 3./ The title of this chapter is, "The New Self."

/First, hopes and thoughts for the new self. Verses 1-4./ Second, battle with the new self. Verses 5-11./ Third, lifestyle of the new self. Verses 12-17./ Fourth, instructions for married couples. Verses 18-19./ Fifth, instructions for the fathers and children. Verses 20-21./ Sixth, instructions for masters and servants. Verses 22-25.

/Let's discuss the first point. Hopes and thoughts for the new self. Verse 1-4.

/Read verse 1./ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

/"Since, then," implies a continuation of topic from chapter 2./ That is, "following the teachings of man is the same as following the flesh."/ This "has nothing to do with the life and power supplied through Jesus Christ."

/It says, "you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above."/ We were raised with Christ when we believed Him./ Our spirits have been reborn.

/The Holy Spirit revived our spirits through the Word./ Whoever accepts Jesus Christ as Savior has been reborn./ 1 John 5:1./ It says to set our hearts on things above.

/These refer to the spiritual things./ In order for us to set our hearts on these things,/ we must desire and adore God./ Then we have to work out our salvation by receiving new power.

/It says, "where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."/ What does this mean?/ What is the meaning of "where Christ is seated at the right hand of God"?

/First, it refers to the victorious Christ who accomplished our salvation./ This means that Jesus Christ triumphed and completed our salvation on the cross and He now sits at the right hand of God.

/Second, it means that Jesus is our role model./ We must imitate Him./ Because Jesus Christ lowered Himself and obeyed to the point of His death, He sits at the right hand of God.

/We must set Jesus Christ as the standard and walk down the path of faith as He did./ Third, He prays for us./ Our Lord prays for us at the right hand of God.

/When Stephen was being stoned to death, he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God./ If we desire Christ, He will pray for us and help us.

/Believers must always set their hearts on things above,/ discover Jesus Christ who sits at the right hand of God,/ and find joy in Him.

/Verse 2./ Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

/It says, "Set your minds on things above."/ The things above refer to eternal things./ It means that we must set our minds on God's kingdom/ and his righteousness.

/It says, “not on earthly things.”/ This means that we must not desire earthly things./ Even though we live on this earth, our purpose of life must be to achieve things above.

/In whatever believers do, they must think of Jesus./ Is it acceptable to Jesus? Is it pleasing to Him?/ We must obey whatever He commands us to do./ Also, we must work for Him.

/In whatever we do, we must first think of Jesus./ Second, we must obey whatever Jesus commands us to do./ Third, we must work for Jesus.

/In verse 5, it talks about “earthly nature.”/ 3:5./ The “earthly nature” refers to our sinful nature./ We must not set our minds on the things of this earth, which means that we must not follow corrupt ways.

/Verse 3./ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

/We died in Jesus Christ./ Those who believed and accepted Jesus died with Him and received new life./ It also says, “and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

/Believers are now united with the cross, death, and resurrection of Jesus./ That is why it says it is hidden with Christ in God./ It is a mystery which unbelievers cannot know./ It refers to a relationship of spiritual life.

/Verse 4./ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

/Believers and Christ have been united in life./ “When Christ, who is your life, appears,” refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ./ At that time, “you also will appear with him in glory.”

/When Jesus returns again, we will be united with Him and appear with Him in glory./ The suffering of the cross was great, so was the glory of resurrection./ If we receive great sufferings, the glory we will receive will be great as well.

/We must faithfully overcome various sufferings and trials in hope for Jesus’ Second Coming./ There will be great glory when we suffer to obey God’s Word./ Therefore, the new self must have hope for the glorious kingdom of heaven.

/Now, the second point. Battle with the new self. Verses 5-11.

/Verse 5./ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

/It says, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.”/ This refers to the corruption of our bodies./ Even though believers have been born again,/ the corruption of the body still remains./ We must kill this corruption for our reborn spirits to grow.

/To kill it means to control it./ It means to suppress and control it./ When we are controlled by the born again spirit, we will have good hearts.

/However, when we are controlled by our corruptive bodies, we will have evil hearts./ It says we must put to death our earthly natures./ This refers to sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed.

/Sexual immorality refers to sexual sins and immoral acts./ Lust refers to anger or envy resulting from a self-centered mind./ Greed is referred to as idolatry,/ and if we love money, money becomes our idol.

/An idol is something that we love or rely on more than God./ If we love money, it becomes our idol and we are controlled by it./ Then, we no longer rely on God, but on money.

/Whoever is full of greed is doomed to be destroyed due to greed./ Man's life is not in wealth./ It is in God and his Word./ Living a spiritual life in God's Word is a precious life.

/All things of this earth will pass away but the Word of God will eternally remain./ Also, God promised that whoever seeks the kingdom of God, everything else would be added on to them.

/Verse 6./ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

/It means that the wrath of God is coming as a result of sin./ Jesus Christ paid the price of our sins on the cross.

/Some people claim that we can live in any way we want to/ because we have been saved by Jesus' work./ However, that is wrong./ Even though we have been saved by grace through faith,/ it is still sin if we do not live by the Word of God.

/Then God's wrath will be on us./ In order for us to lessen God's anger, we must obey his commandments./ The Israelites were chosen people.

/There was a temple in Jerusalem./ It was the center of religion./ The Israelites served God./ However, when they sinned against God, he disciplined them through the Babylonians and the Assyrians.

/Is the church all right because God is in the church?/ Of course not. If we sin, the wrath of God will punish us, just as a single stone was not left on another in Jerusalem.

/If God does not punish sin, then he is not a fair and just God./ We love our God of love./ However, we must know that God is just.

/He strictly disciplines and punishes sin./ Also, it says that God looks for a righteous person./ If one person stands in faith and repents, the wrath of God will decrease.

/Therefore, we must be believers who repent of our sins and practice righteousness that will lessen the wrath of God./ We must remember that the wrath of God is the result of sin./ Therefore, we must fight our sinful natures.

/Verse 7./ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

/All believers lived in sin before they believed in Christ./ Yet now, we must break free from those sins.

/Verse 8./ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips

/We must get rid of these sins./ Here, Paul talks about sin regarding other people,/ or relational sins./ They are anger,/ rage,/ malice,/ slander,/ and filthy language./ We must get rid of these things.

/Verse 9./ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

/It says do not lie to each other./ Before we believed in Jesus, we lied a lot./ However, because we have been born again through faith in Christ,/ we must be truthful.

/In order for believers to live as new selves, they must get rid of lies./ It says here, “since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”/ The old self refers to corruption./ We must put away our corruption./ We must clothe ourselves with the new self.

/Verse 10./ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

/The new self is a reborn spirit./ The new self must be morally clean and holy./ Then we must put on God’s morality./ They are values such as righteousness and goodness,/ holiness and love,/ and truthfulness.

/We must put on these characteristics of God’s morality./ The new self must be holy and have morals./ We must conform to the image of God.

/When we conform to the image of God, there are twelve attributes of God’s image./ First is self-existence./ In another words, it is independence./ Second, infiniteness./ God is an infinite God.

/Third, unchangeableness./ It is perfectness./ Fourth, consistency./ Fifth, wisdom./ Sixth, knowledge./ Seventh, righteousness./ Eighth, goodness./ Ninth, holiness./ Tenth, love./ Eleventh, truthfulness./ Twelfth, power.

/In systematic theology, we learn about the twelve attributes of God./ “Which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” We must become like the image of God./ We must continually be like the image of God.

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

/To believe in Christ and become a new self/ means that there is no discrimination, whether one is a Greek or a Jew./ There is no religious discrimination, whether one is circumcised or uncircumcised./ There is no cultural discrimination, whether one is a barbarian or Scythian.

/There are no differences in status or ranking, whether one is a slave or free./ There are ranks in the army,/ yet, there are no ranks in saunas where people gather to wash.

/There is no discrimination among those who are new selves in Christ./ There must not be discrimination among believers in the church./ The Romans thought highly of themselves.

/The Greeks considered others barbarians./ However, in Jesus Christ, there is no discrimination and all are one./ It further says, “but Christ is all, and is in all.”

/ Christ is in all of creation, He rises above them, and He reigns over them./ That is why there is no discrimination in Christ./ The same goes for the church.

/When wealthy believers enter the church, they are greeted with, "Please, sit here," and when poor believers enter the church, they are greeted with, "It doesn't matter where you sit; do as you want." /This is wrong. /Everyone is one in Christ. /There is no discrimination.

/Now, the third point./ Lifestyle of the new self. Verses 12-17.

/How must we live?

/Verse 12./ Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

/Believers have been chosen by God./ We are holy./ We have been clothed with God's love./ Therefore, we must show compassion to others./ We must show mercy.

/Also, it says, "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."/ We wear good clothes when we go somewhere special./ Today, I chose my finest suit because I needed to record lectures.

/In this way, we must show compassion and mercy to others./ Are we humble? Are we gentle?/ Our new selves must become like the image of Christ.

/In verse 13,/ Paul says to forgive one another./ Those who live for Christ forgives other's wrongdoings and shows mercy./ Matthew 18:22./ Jesus said to forgive seventy-seven times.

/However, it does not mean that we should forgive 490 times and not forgive any more than that./ In Matthew 18:23,/ there is a person who had a debt of ten thousand talents,/ and a man who had a debt of a hundred denarii.

/There, the person whose debt of ten thousand talents was canceled did not forgive the person who owed him one hundred denarii,/ and Jesus rebuked him for it./ Thus, the forgiveness of our sins by God is like the canceling of a debt of ten thousand talents.

/It is wrong for us to not forgive other's mistakes./ If someone does not forgive another, he has a small heart./ He will have pain in his own heart.

/However, if we forgive others, the kingdom of heaven will be poured out in our hearts./ The ocean accepts all the dirty water and sewage the flows into it from numerous rivers.

/Still, an ocean always maintains its blue color./ As such, we believers must have generous hearts./ We must forgive and accept./ We must show compassion and mercy.

/We must love our neighbors as God loved us./ We must show patience to others just as God did the same for us./ When we forgive, the kingdom of God is poured in our hearts.

/There is joy and peace./ A forgiving person receives grace./ It says that a person who shares wealth is a blessed person./ We must forgive others.

/Verse 14./ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

/"And over all these" refers to the morals that were stated earlier./ It says that we must put on love above all those things./ Love binds them all together in perfect unity./ When we wear clothes, we must properly fasten our belts.

/That is how important love is./ Even though we may be moral, there is no life if we do not have love./ There is no fruit of spiritual life/ in external morals.

/We believers must have morality, but we also must have love./ Then we must shine the light of love onto others./ Also, it says that it binds them all together in perfect unity,/ and this means that everything becomes complete when there is love.

/The goal of our lives is to conform to the image of God./ God is love./ We believers must always be filled with love./ Hence, we will use the love of a grandfather as an example.

/Grandfathers truly love their grandchildren./ Even if they pull his beard, he accepts it and still loves them./ Yet, discipline is most certainly necessary.

/What would happen if the grandchildren are not disciplined and they become stronger than their grandfathers?/ We can know that grandfathers truly love their grandchildren./ We believers must love all other believers in the same way.

/Verse 15./ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

/It says, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."/ The hearts of believers must be abundant with the peace of Christ./ This is not worldly peace./ This is peace that comes from God/ that the world cannot know.

/We may gain this peace when we pray hard/ and enter into the spiritual world./ Even though there are many trials, sufferings, and anxieties in this world,/ we can be thankful if we trust in the sovereignty of God.

/Parents punish their children because of they love them./ Because children know how much their parents love them, they run into their parents arms saying, "I am sorry."

/Therefore, even though there are difficulties and sufferings in this world, we can have peace and realize that it is the love of God, if we trust in God's sovereignty./ "Ah! God is disciplining me because He loves me!"

/That is why we do not lose hope in the midst of sufferings and difficulties./ In 2 Corinthians 6:10,/ it says "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."/ Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

/From a worldly viewpoint, there may seem to be anxieties and worries./ However, even though Paul was imprisoned, he urges others to "be at peace, be thankful and rejoice."

/That is how we can see that Paul was in a very peaceful state in the spiritual world./ Next, Paul writes about the purpose for why God saved us.

/The purpose of our redemption is, “Since as members of one body you were called to peace.”/ We believers must be at peace./ We must thank God for peace.

/We must hand over our worries and anxieties to God and we must receive God’s peace./ If we obey God’s will, he will solve all our problems and grant us peace.

/We may attempt to accomplish things on our own, but if we leave it to God he will make things better./ Jesus said that we must turn our left cheek if someone strikes our right cheek./ This means that even if we are greatly insulted, we must not let our enemies take away the peace of Christ.

/Also, when someone forces us to go one mile, we should go two miles with them, and we must not lose peace./ Satan constantly tries to take away the peace of Christ through different ways.

/I quarreled and fought/ because I did not want to have a financial loss/ and I did not want to be insulted./ However, I lost the peace of Christ./ If that happens, I have failed.

/Even though we have financial losses and are insulted, if we did not lose the peace of Christ in us, we have succeeded./ We must examine ourselves/ and see if the peace of Christ is in us.

/Verse 16./ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

/Here, it says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”/ We must read the Bible daily./ We eat three meals a day./ When we miss a meal, we look for food to eat.

/However, how often do we read spiritual bread, the bread of life?/ If we do not read the Bible, our spiritual lives become weak./ We must read Bible a lot./ We must meditate on God’s Word and pray.

/We must also be bound by the Word./ Paul was bound by the Word and preached the gospel./ Peter trusted God’s Word and threw his net into the sea./ Faith is going forward and staying put according to the Word.

/Next, it says, “as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.”/ “Wisdom” refers to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit./ Pastors must teach God’s Word by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

/He must also properly teach and encourage believers with God’s Word./ The old believers must teach new believers and others./ Also, it says, “and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.”/ This is the lifestyle of the new self.

/We must sing psalms and hymns to God./ It also says to sing spiritual songs./ Some people sing in the right tune and right beat with beautiful voices.

/It is good to hear and is a blessing./ Then a grandmother sings out of tune and offbeat.

/However, if that grandmother sings praises with a thankful heart for God’s grace,/ it can be considered a spiritual song.

/If someone sings praises while harboring sin and greed, he is not singing a spiritual song even if it may sound good for people to hear./ Therefore, we must be believers who sing spiritual songs that are pleasing to God.

/We must sing praises to God by being filled with thanksgiving to God.

/Verse 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.

/It says, “whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”/ We must speak appropriately./ Does it glorify Jesus?/ It says, “do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

/We must speak like Jesus and become like Jesus./ It means that Jesus must be glorified by what believers say./ There are certain people who begin their sentences with curses and end with curses.

/There are people who only speak curse words./ Believers of Jesus Christ must not be like that./ We must speak for the glory of Jesus./ We must not speak if it does not glorify God.

/We must speak words that glorify Jesus./ When we speak/ or when we act,/ other people must see Christ through us/ and say, “Ah! A Christian is truly different!”

/Next, it says, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”/ We must always be strengthened by Jesus Christ./ As a result, we may can live lives that thank God.

/At this time, we talked about the “lifestyle of the new self of us believers.”/ Our lives must truly glorify God and constantly thank him.

/With this, we will conclude the fifteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you and God bless you.