

Put Away Our Sinful Past
Colossians 3:5-8
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Put to Death the Body of Sin

Colossians 3:5a (HCSB)
Therefore, **put to death** what belongs to your worldly nature. . .

- “put to death” is imperative in the Greek
- It is literally “members on the earth”
- This is a contrast with the command to “seek what is above” and an a practical application of we died (Col 3:3)
- The heavenly minded put to death what they had lived for on the earth

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Sins We Must Die To

Colossians 3:5b (HCSB)
. . . sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

- **Porneia** denotes sexual sin in general
- **Impurity** denotes moral corruption
- **Passion** as expressed in evil ways
- **Evil desires** controlled us and led to wickedness
- **Covetousness** is forbidden in the 10th commandment

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God's Wrath Is Real

Colossians 3:6 (HCSB)
Because of these, **God's wrath comes** on the disobedient

- "Comes" is a present tense verb
- The manifestation of God's wrath is yet future
- Romans 1:18 tells us God's wrath is presently "revealed"
- Wrath is not antithetical to God's love and mercy
- "disobedient" is literally "sons of disobedience"

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We Used to Live Like Those Under Wrath

Colossians 3:7 (HCSB)
and you once walked in these things when you were living in them

- **We must not live like we used to**
- God graciously delivered us and changed us
- A true work of grace always involves changed lives
- See Ephesians 2:1, 2

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We Must Rid Ourselves of the Old Sins

Colossians 3:8 (HCSB)
But now you must also **put away all the following**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.

- "Put away" is **imperative** in the Greek
- Another five vices are listed
- Christians must not speak shamefully
- We must not be full of anger and malice
- To obey this will require a change of heart

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Implications and Applications

- We must put to death the old life
- As delivered from wrath we must turn from sin and serve Christ
- We need God to change our hearts so that malice and anger are not spoken

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We Must Put to Death the Old Life

Romans 8:13 (NASB)
for if you are **living according to the flesh**, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are **putting to death the deeds of the body**, you will live.

- The present tenses denote durative action
- Two possible ways of life are contrasted
- Two different outcomes are asserted
- This is a serious warning though believers are assured that they are in the latter category

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Christ Made It Possible to Die to Sin

1Peter 2:24 (NET)
He himself **bore our sins** in his body on the tree, that we may **cease from sinning** and **live for righteousness**. By his wounds you were healed.

- This verse alludes to Isaiah 53
- “Bore” is found in the LXX of Isaiah 53:11, 12
- “Tree” alludes to Deut. 21:23
- “healed by wounds” is from Isaiah 53:5

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Delivered From God's Wrath

1Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9 (NASB)
and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, **who rescues us from the wrath to come.**

(5:9) For God has **not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- This involves "already/not yet" theology
- Being first under wrath and then saved from it is important to include in gospel preaching

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We Need Our Hearts Changed

Matthew 15:18, 19 (NASB)

"But the **things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart**, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

- Hebrews 10:22 speaks of "hearts sprinkled clean"

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Discussion Questions

1. What relationship does the command to "put to death" earthly members have with the statement in Col. 3:3 that we have died?
2. Why is being delivered from God's wrath an important part of gospel preaching?
3. What relationship does the content of our hearts have with what comes out of our mouths?

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