

Lesson 4 February 13th Colossians 3:1-4:1

Icebreaker question: Have you ever felt like “fish out of water”... when you felt like you just did not belong? There is an expression: “some days are silver and some days are gold”. What is a “golden day” for you?

Quick reminder: I- Interpretation question A- application question

As you do these questions and application thoughts, you may not have all the answers. This is fine. Do what you can and come as a group and work on them together. ALSO, please come up with your own questions and thoughts to bring to your group. It is the working of the Word together in the leading of the Holy Spirit that we grow in the Lord!! ‘Let the Word of God dwell in you RICHLY!! 3:16

Part 1 *Review 2:12-14- What has happened to us? How did that happen? Who did it?

V1 If =is giving us a true fact= since we have _____ (this has to happen first-Romans 6:3-4)

What is our command?

I- What other words could we use here –dictionary, other translations?

I-Is this a one time action or on going action?

I- What are the **things** that are above? (Eph 1:3) Song: All I Have is Christ ! Hebrews 12:2

A- What would be the earthly things we would seek? (generally or personally) Are earthly things bad?

Where is Christ now?

Optional I-Find other scripture that says the same thing?

I-What is Christ doing there? Hebrews 1:3, 11: 11-14, Romans 10:9-10, 2 Cor 5:21 (glorious!)

How does that comfort you?

V2-What are we to do with our minds- positive and negative?

A- When you are alone or resting or can’t sleep in the middle of the night, what do you think about? Where does your “mind go”? What truths can you speak to yourself during this time?

V3 Why can we think on things above now?

What has died? (2 Cor 5:17)

Where is your life? (John 17:20-26)

A-What does this word make you think of? (Rock of ages...let me hide myself in thee) Spend some time thinking of what does it mean to you. How are you comforted?

V4 What will happen to believers when Christ appears?

Why will we be with Christ? (Phil 3:21, 1 John 2:28)

Part 2 (The **therefore** is there...)Because of _____, (v 1)

V5 What is the command? **See the amplified here**

A- How do these command ideas (also called imperatives) make you think about scripture and your life decisions?

V6 What do these earthly traits cause from God and to whom?

V7 Who also HAD committed these things? When? (Titus 3:3-4)

A- How does this make us think about ourselves as we see unbelievers around us?

V8 Important first word!! _____ What is the strong warning here?

A- Maybe you thought you dodged a bullet on verse 5 but look out for verses 8-9.

Sooo which one (s) do you struggle with? Are there sins here that you feel that you have seen growth in your walk with the Lord?

This might be a good time to just stop and confess and even ask someone else to pray for and with you to change these sins in your life?

V9-10 How do we know we are able to put them off? See verse 3

A-What do you imagine when you think of “put on” and “put off”. Isa 61:10

What is **happening** to the new self? (2 Cor 5:17) How is this being done? (maybe look up “renew”) **Eph 3:16-20**

I- What is this knowledge?

Where does this come from? Whose image?

A- Does this give you hope or make you feel overwhelmed? How are you seeking this knowledge? It is one thing to know and to believe... but do you trust?

V11 I-What is Paul telling the Colossians here?

A-What does the last phrase mean to you? Imagine what the world thinks when they see so many unlike people coming together... people who would not usually be together be united through Christ!! **Eph. 2:11-22**

Part 3 How we are to live out our Christian Walk

V12-13 What is the “then” referring to? What is our standing with God? (Rom 8:29 and others)

Choose 2 or 3 of the words and find scripture for them... concordance, study Bible (google ;)

A- Let's spend some time talking about these words and what areas we personally need to commit to the Lord.

V14-What is the most important characteristic God commands? (1 Cor 13, 1 John 3, 1 John 4...)

V15- What are we to allow/let? (see amplified)

What have we been called to be?

A- What ways are you thankful to be part of a/the body of believers? Do you tell your fellow believers? How is our church doing in these things?

V16-What are we to do as a body of believers? **See amplified** Who is to do these things?

I-How would you describe the word “richly”?

A- How do we go about letting the “word of God dwell... have its home in us (amp) in a rich way?

What is our attitude in all of these?

A- Paul talks about the “one another” in this verse. How is God using **you** in particular for these things in the **body**?

V17-What is the “whatever” referring to here?

A-If we do this in His name, we are submitting to Christ. How do you need to be more dependent on Christ?

A- How often do you thank God for what He has done?

V18-22 – Ruth will spend a lot of time in her study in lesson 4 on this area

V23-4:1- This section is tied into the previous verses as to bondservants and work.

What encouragement do you get from this? What can you pass on to others who are discouraged in their work?

How about if you or your spouse is the “master” or employer?

Question: "What does it mean to be in Christ?"

Answer: Galatians 3:26-28 gives us insight into the phrase "in Christ" and what it means. "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Paul is speaking to the Christians in Galatia, reminding them of their new identity since they placed their faith in Jesus Christ. To be "baptized into Christ" means that they were identified with Christ, having left their old sinful lives and fully embracing the new life in Christ (Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). When we respond to the Holy Spirit's drawing, He "baptizes" us into the family of God. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

Several places in Scripture refer to the believer's being "in Christ" (1 Peter 5:14; Philippians 1:1; Romans 8:1). Colossians 3:3 says, "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." God is perfect justice. He cannot simply overlook or excuse our sin; that would not be just. Sin had to be paid for. All the wrath God holds toward evil was poured out on His own Son. When Jesus took our place on the cross, He suffered the punishment our sin deserves. His last words before He died were, "It is finished" (John 19:30). What was finished? Not merely His earthly life. As He proved three days later, that was not finished (Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:6; 1 Corinthians 15:6). What He finished on the cross was God's plan to redeem His fallen world. When Jesus said, "It is finished," He was stating that He had successfully paid in full for every act of rebellion, past, present, and future.

To be "in Christ" means we have accepted His sacrifice as payment for our own sin. Our rap sheets contain every sinful thought, attitude or action we have ever committed. No amount of self-cleansing can make us pure enough to warrant forgiveness and a relationship with a holy God (Romans 3:10-12). The Bible says that in our natural sinful state we are enemies of God (Romans 5:10). When we accept His sacrifice on our behalf, He switches accounts with us. He exchanges our list of sins for His perfect account that is totally pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:21). A Divine Exchange takes place at the foot of the cross: our old sin nature for His perfect one (2 Corinthians 5:17).

To enter the presence of a holy God, we must be hidden in the righteousness of Christ. To be "in Christ" means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son (Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 8:12). Only "in Christ" is our sin debt cancelled, our relationship with God restored, and our eternity secured (John 3:16-18, 20:31).