

What the New Self is to Do (Colossians 15-17)

Introduction:

- I. We studied this morning about putting off the old self and putting on the new self.
 - a. We studied the types of qualities that we should obtain after putting off the old self.
 - b. We studied the actions and thoughts to put off from ourselves.
 - c. We studied about what it means to seek the things above.
- II. Tonight, we will study about some things that the new man does after putting on the qualities of selflessness and thankfulness.
 - a. We will study about letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
 - b. We will study about letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly.
 - c. We will study about letting all we do be done in the name of Christ..

Discussion:

- I. The Peace of Christ.
 - a. Philippians 4:7 – ***“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***
 - i. Have you ever known someone who will not go to the doctor because they just don’t think the doctor will help them? If we do not let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, we are like that person who refuses to go to the doctor. We are preventing ourselves from receiving the care that our hearts and minds need.
 - b. We were called to it in one body.
 - i. Ephesians 2:13-16 – ***“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”***
 - ii. Jesus, through his death and resurrection brought all men who would follow him under the grace and mercy of God.
 - iii. Now there is only one way.
 - iv. There is no conflict of the body, the Spirit, hope, lordship, faith, baptism, or God, for there is only one of each of these (Ephesians 4:4-6).
 - c. Be thankful.
 - i. How do we get this peace that surpasses all understanding?
 1. Do not be anxious about anything.
 2. In everything by prayer and supplication with thankfulness let your requests be known to God (Philippians 4:6).
 - ii. You know the song we sing, “Count Your Many Blessings.”
 1. “When upon life’s billows you are tempest-tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name

them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.”

2. How many times have you felt worried or upset, and then remembered what you have?
 - a. You have God
 - b. You have the church
 - c. You have hope
 - d. You have a purpose for living.
 - e. None of these can be taken away by any man. They are gifts from God. We should be thankful.

II. The Word of Christ.

- a. John 15:3-8 – ***“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”***
 - i. If we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly:
 1. We will bear much fruit.
 2. God will answer our requests.
 3. God will be glorified
 4. We will prove to be disciples of Christ
 - ii. How do we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly?
 1. The one who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked (I John 2:6).
 - a. We imitate Christ
 2. We are to be sanctified by the truth, which is the word of God (John 17:17).
 - a. How are we sanctified by the Bible?
 - i. Love it.
 - ii. Study it.
 - iii. Know it.
 - iv. Follow it.
 - iii. In Greek, what is translated “word” can mean several things:
 1. The account, or story, of Christ.
 2. The thinking, or mind, of Christ.
 3. Consideration, or for the reason, of Christ
 4. The sayings of Christ.
 5. Rather than trying to come up with which one the writer had in mind, we can look at these and see that to have all of them in your heart is authorized by other places in scripture.
 6. John 14:25-26 – ***“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father***

will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

7. Philippians 2:5 – *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”*
8. Hebrews 10:19 – *“Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus...Let us draw near...”*
9. I Corinthians 2:2 – *“...For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*

- b. Teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
 - i. God has been more than merciful by sending his Son to die for us.
 1. We must teach and admonish one another with thankfulness in our hearts to God.
 - ii. True thankfulness for what he has given us requires passing it on and encouraging one another toward him.
 1. Hebrews 10:24 – *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

III. The Name of Christ

- a. Whatever we do, whether said or done, is to be in the name of Christ.
 - i. What does this mean?
 1. We work hard, as though Christ was a literal boss like you may have at work. (Colossians 3:23)
 2. If you eat or drink, do it with thankfulness, and to God’s glory, not your own.
 - a. I Corinthians 10:30-31 – *“If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*
 - b. This means that when we eat, we do not eat selfishly, with the “I’m doing the right thing” attitude, but considerately, with the “I’m doing the right thing, and placing the conscience of the people around me above my own desires.”
 - c. Notice again how this command deals with denouncing selfishness and advocating discipline (self-control).
 3. Be thankful.
 - a. Again, as in both of the previous verses, thanksgiving is commanded.
 - b. Notice in Ephesians 5:20 (which comes after the other verse that tells us to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another).
 - i. *Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - ii. We give thanks in the name of Christ.

Conclusion:

- I. Hopefully this lesson has helped you in some way to know what you should do once you have put away sinful practices.
 - a. If you have put those things away, begin adding these to your life, being thankful always for what has been done for you.
 - i. I would like to encourage you, especially you younger men, to designate a specific area where you can serve and help the church to grow.
 - ii. Any man in this room has the capability to lead a prayer. Most of you can lead singing very well. Many of you have great public speaking skills and can teach classes very well. All of you can be friendly and greet visitors and encourage one another. Those are what you are expected to do, because you are a Christian.
 - iii. I want to encourage you to do more. You younger ones have a better opportunity to dedicate your life to do more. Pick a specific passage or biblical topic, and become an expert on that. Research it, grow in that area. Do you know how much that will help out Bible classes?
 - iv. Who knows? Maybe you could gather so many resources and dedicate your life to that to the extent that you publish a handbook or a pamphlet on your topic.
 - v. Do you think that N. B. Hardeman grew up planning to found a Christian college? Do you think that Thomas B. Warren grew up thinking of what he would later put in his books? No. You can do something as well. You may not found a Christian college or write a book, but you can always do more to grow and to help those around you to grow.
 - b. If you have yet to release those things that are burdening your soul and keeping you from being fruitful for Christ, I urge you to do that now. Take hold of the confidence that is in the Gospel. The time will come when it is no longer offered to you. But you can come and be cleansed now.
 - c. What need have you? What must you do to begin working heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23)?
 - d. Do that and if you need help, ask for help. If you lack wisdom, ask God who gives to all generously and with out reproach.
 - e. What do you want to do now? If you have decided to change your life and rid yourself of hindrances so that you may work for Christ, you can let the church know right now. Do you need to be baptized? Whatever you need, take care of it now as we stand and sing.