

BIBLE SMASH!

Study: Colossians 3:1-17

Memorize: Romans 12:1-2

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: Christian Living

Colossians 3:1-17

Colossians was written by Paul while he was in Rome at about 60 A.D. and it was written to the Christians in Colosse. The general theme of Colossians is that Christ is Lord over the entire universe. The major theological theme is that as Believers we are fully complete in Christ.

Being raised with Christ refers to us being raised through Christ at the time of his resurrection. We should be seeking knowledge that is of God's kingdom and not our own (earthly). "On high" refers to the fact that Christ is above us, and is our ruler, and the ruler of all the earth – which is below Him. We are to seek His wisdom and knowledge so that we can live as Christ lives. In doing this, when Christ returns again at the end of time, will return again with Him.

By putting to death that which is of an earthly nature Paul is telling us to have nothing at all to do with behaviors that have nothing to do with glorifying Christ or that keep us from glorifying Christ. Consider those "old habits dead so that we have nothing to do with them. Worshiping that which is unclean generally was referring to idol worship and the worship of anything that was not the worship of God. Things such as money, music, members of the opposite sex, or anything we can become obsessed with or unjustly

defensive about. We need to put our earthly unGod-centered ways behind us so that on the day of judgment we are not seen as evil doers and receive eternal punishment. We used to live an ungodly (A life without God) but now, as Christians, we don't anymore. Because we are no longer ungodly we need to act accordingly. We need to make sure that we do not get angry at each other, get even with each other, say unkind things about each other (making fun of each other or spreading rumors about each other), use swears or dirty language, or lie to each other. We have a "new" self which, with Christ, helps us be like Christ. In this new self, we are also to be kind not just to other Christians, but also to show love to our enemies and to those we once hated. As Christians we are all equal. It does not matter what our nationality is, our race, our gender, our age, or how long we have been a Christian. We are all equal in God's eyes and should be considered equal with each other in our eyes as well. As a new Christian teen you are just as important a Christian as a 90 year old pastor that has several years of theology training, a masters in teaching theology and religion and a psychology degree, as well as experience, training and more "life knowledge" but he is not more important than you, the teen.

Paul doesn't just give us a list of ways we shouldn't behave as Christians but he also gives us behaviors that we should live out. These are listed in verses 12-14: compassion (caring for others with love), kindness, humility (putting others

first, not thinking that you are better than someone else – in the time this was written it almost implies to act as a slave towards others), gentleness, patience (to endure wrong doings – showing patience towards someone that is not being kind to you), forgiving anyone that has done anything to or against you. Because God has forgiven you freely of anything that you have done against Him, he has set the example on how to forgive. When you do not behave like a Christian you hurt God and He is willing to forgive you for your actions. And above all – do everything that you do with love for God and love for each other. This will give you unity with God and all other Christians as one body.

We are to let Christ guide our actions. Because we are of the body of Christ we are one with Christ. Being thankful is a social act that shows its expression through its external form. We are not to be “static”, or non-active Christians, but we are to actively teach others what it means to be a Christian both through our actions and lifestyle as well as through the traditional teacher-student method of teaching. Let Christ guide us as we teach. Whatever we do we should do through the name of Jesus and we should continually give thanks to God our Father

Romans 12:1-2

In these verses Paul tells us that because of what God has done for us we should live a morally acceptable life for God. By asking us to live a holy life Paul is asking us to live like Christ would. If Paul is asking this of us then it must be

attainable – it would seem cruel to ask us to live in a fashion that is not possible or attainable. Do not be around sin so that you can be used by sin (commit sin), but instead, be around God so that you can be used by God. Paul uses the word “cult” as a group of Christians that follow and worship God – not as a group of misled people that do bazaar acts and worship idols and other non-Christian behaviors. It was probably used as a counterpart to the Hellenistic culture of the time (worshiping many gods and idols through sacrifices and prostitution). Do not do what you know is wrong. Let yourself be changed from the inside out, through Christ, so that you can learn the will of God the Father and know what is good in the eyes of our Lord.

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: A Prayer

Heavenly Father,

thank you for all the promises of your Word which proclaim that I will always be able to walk in your wisdom and truth. I choose to do so, and I ask you to always give me your wisdom in every situation of my life. I praise you for making me free through your truths.

**In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.**

**From "Knowing God Intimately" by Cliff & Kathleen Richards.
Page 115.**

Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

Colossians 3:1-17

- 1) What does it mean to set your hearts on things above?
- 2) Verse 3 says we have died. How have we died? How are we living today? (as Christians – as opposed to how we lived before we were Christians)
- 3) How do we put “things of an earthly nature” to death?
- 4) Do you think that all Christians treat all other Christians equal? What are some ways you have seen that we treat each other unfairly? What are some ways you have seen us treat each other fairly? What can we (you and I) do to help make sure Christians in general treat each other equally and fairly?
- 5) What makes us God's chosen people?
- 6) List at least three examples of when it is easy to forgive someone for what they have done. List at least three examples of when it is difficult to forgive someone for what they have done. Is there anything you would never forgive someone for? (stealing from you, lying to you repeatedly, cheating on you once you were married?) What are some things we can do to be able to learn to forgive someone when they have hurt us deeply?
- 7) How can we let Christ rule us from our hearts?
- 8) Why is it important for us to give thanks to God?

Romans 12:1-2

- 1) What is a living sacrifice? How does that apply to us as Christians?
- 2) What does it mean to be Holy? Can we be fully Holy?
- 3) What does it mean to be transformed by God?
- 4) What are some ways we can test that God's will is? How can we know what is right?

- 5) Are there areas of your life that you have not turned completely over to God that may be keeping you from having a full relationship with Him? What are they?
- 6) Does not having a complete relationship with God make it more difficult to know God's will for us in our lives?

Credit

Brian Bollinger
Early Youth and Junior High Youth Pastor
Wollaston Church of the Nazarene
37 East Elm Avenue
Quincy, MA 02170
617.472.5669
www.brianbollinger.com

Permission

Permission is granted to use this Bible SMASH for not-for-profit use only. You may download and photocopy this lesson for your Bible study (or other personal use). When making copies of this lesson please make sure to include the "Credits" and "Permission" sections with the copies. For permission to use this lesson in a for-profit situation or for publication please contact the person(s) listed in the "Credit" section. Thank you and enjoy the lesson.