

# Complete In Christ

A study in the book of Colossians

## Lesson Five

### “Looking To A Heavenly Perspective”

In 2 Corinthians 6:17, Paul quotes Isaiah 52:11 as part of a plea to the Corinthian church not to receive the grace of God in vain. **“Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.”** Each one of us who belong to Christ have been called to come out from the rest of the world to be separate. As **called out ones**, we are called to be **different**. Different from the way we were before we followed Christ, and different from the rest of the world that doesn't follow Him. Our perspective is to shift from the temporal to the eternal, from the worldly to the heavenly.

Read Colossians 3:1-11

The opening verses of this chapter start out with this exhortation: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Verses 1 & 2)

- 1) In what areas do you feel your “gear shift” is “stuck” in trying to shift your focus from things on earth to those things above that are eternal?

To “set” means to **fix firmly**. It implies a **determined, unwavering** direction of our thoughts.

- 2) How do you think setting our minds in a heavenly perspective will affect the immediate daily routines of our lives?



- 7) Look up the following verses for further insight into why we must “put off all these.” 2 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Hebrews 12:13-15; 1 Peter 3:15-16. Share which Scriptures are most meaningful to you.

Paul continues the conversation in verses 9 & 10 saying, “.....since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new.....”

- 8) Putting off the old, putting on the new.....we clearly see here a **conscious act of our will**. What characteristics of the “**old man**” do you personally see you need to “put off?”

- a. What characteristics of the “**new man**” do you feel you most need to “put on?”

- 9) **Challenge Question:** If someone came to you for Godly counsel concerning the very things you've listed above, what advise would you give them as to how to put off the old and put on the new? Share from your heart in a personal way using Scripture to back up what you say. Try to use at least 2 or 3 Scripture references.

Verse 10 continues, stating that this “new man” is “...**renewed** in knowledge according to the image of Him Who created him.”

- 10) If we have already come into a **knowledge** of the Truth, then why must we be “**renewed**” in knowledge? How is this done? What insights do you see in Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Ephesians 4:17-24 and Titus 3:5?

Verse 11 tells us that our “renewed knowledge” is one where “...there is neither Greek nor Jew.....but Christ is all and in all.”

God’s Word is very clear that He is no respecter of persons. The color of our skin, our financial status, how well-educated we are, and any of the other things that may open or close doors for us in this life are of little importance to God. This was a real eye-opener for the first century disciples. Read Acts 10:9-48. Can you imagine Peter’s shock at the Lord’s request for him to share the Gospel with the uncircumcised Gentiles? Can you imagine how much more shocking it must have been for him to see the Holy Spirit fall upon these “foreigners” as they listened to him speak, for they experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in exactly the same way he himself had experienced. Things are still the same in our world today. We often react to certain groups of people in exactly the same way Peter did. And yet, Christ has abolished the distinctions between “Jew and Greek, rich and poor, slave and free”. These distinctions have **no place** in the body of Christ. In the church, **Jesus Christ is All.....and in all believers**. “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”. (1 Samuel 16:7)

- 11) As you have grown in your relationship with God, what kind of walls has He broken down in your pre-judgments, or pre-conceived ideas about other people? Can you share how the Lord has changed your heart and outlook from what it was before? (See 2 Corinthians 10:7)

A light shines in the darkness because it is **different**. If it were not different it would just blend in, completely unnoticed. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 5:16, “**Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:9 that we are, “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a **peculiar people**; that you should show forth the praises of Him who **called you out** of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Are we different than we were before? Are we different from the world?

12) Share what ministered most to your heart in this lesson.

“Let us never imagine that to fear the Lord and find joy in His commandments make no real difference in the world. They matter. One man’s godliness may well make the difference between another’s shipwreck and his reaching the harbor, for a man who actually **enjoys** obeying God is a beacon in darkness for honest men.” **Elizabeth Elliott**

**“Brightly beams our Father’s mercy, from His lighthouse evermore, but to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore. Let the lower lights be burning, send a gleam across the waves, some poor struggling, fainting seaman, you may rescue, you may save.”**

Gospel hymn by P.P. Bliss