

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

COLOSSIANS: KEEPING THE MAIN ONE THE MAIN THING

Colossians 3:1-4

DISCUSSION 1: RAISED WITH CHRIST

1. Read Rom. 6:10-11; 8:9-11; Col. 2:11-15; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:6. What are some of the ways we've been raised with Christ? What does it mean that we are united with him, died with him, and are now raised and even seated with him?
2. When you wake up, what would it look like to see yourself and present yourself to God as one who has died and been raised with Christ? How do you do that intentionally? Then how do you continue to walk in it or remind yourself of it throughout the day?
3. How does 3:1-4 answer the problem raised in 2:16-23 about the limits of our self-empowered rules and practices to fight the desires of the flesh? In other words, why is what Paul suggests in 3:1-4 a better answer than what the false teachers were suggesting (2:16-23) when it comes to changing and growing?

DISCUSSION 2: SEEK AND SET

1. What comes to mind—doesn't have to be a "spiritual" answer—when you hear the actions of "seeking after" and "setting your mind on"? What do those activities bring to mind for you?
2. Read Ps. 27:4; 63:1; Jer. 29:13; Matt. 6:33; Luke 11:9-10. What do you think it means or looks like to "seek" after God?
3. What's the connection between setting our minds on Christ and seeking the things above?
4. On a spectrum of running from God, remaining distant from Him, sitting back and waiting for Him, or actively seeking Him, where would you say you are right now? And why?
5. What are one or two things you can do this week to seek after Christ and set your mind on him?

DISCUSSION 3: PERSPECTIVE

1. Why is it easier to think about and be caught up with the things of this earth rather than things above? What are symptoms of being caught up in the things of this world to the neglect of the things of Christ?
2. Since Paul rejects (2:16-23) a non-material spirituality that avoids creation, vocation, roles, earthly needs, and joys or sorrows, what do you think Paul is cautioning and encouraging us about when it comes to having a "heavenly" or Christ-centered focus? What does it look like to be on earth and engaged in the things of the earth while doing so with a heavenly mindset?
3. How can both an eternal and a heavenly mindset be helpful when we're focused on the challenges, busyness, and even the good things of earth?