

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — APRIL 26

OPEN

1. Seeing that one of Paul's central ideas in Colossians is growing in the faith (cf. 2:6-7), what are 1 or 2 key things you've learned so far about Christian maturity from our study?

In chapter 2, Paul emphasized union with Christ in response to false teaching by pointing to the saving work of Jesus' death & resurrection. In chapter 3, Paul continues unpacking the significance of this union by more fully and concretely describing what true spiritual transformation looks like. READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-4.

DISCUSS

2. Here, Paul (as he often does) describes our Christian experience as living in the gap between the *already* and the *not yet*. We have (already) experienced a "spiritual" resurrection in Christ (v. 1) but still wait (not yet) for our full and ultimate resurrection when Christ returns in glory (v. 4).
 - a. How have you personally experienced being "made alive" (cf. 2:13) in Christ? In other words, what changes have you seen in yourself as you've walked with Jesus?
 - b. How can the knowledge of Christ's return and the resurrection of the dead impact how you are experiencing grief, loss, and suffering in this season (and every season)?
3. There are two key verbs (i.e., commands) in this passage: *seek* (v.1) and *set (your mind)* (v.2). These two words get at our *desires* (seek) and our *dispositions* (set your mind).
 - a. What obstacles do you *personally* face in pursuing Christ? (Recall Pastor Curtis describing "earthly things" as "sins that enslave, systems that substitute, and suckas that seduce.")
 - b. How can you cultivate a more intentional posture of seeking Christ?
 - c. What is one thing you can do in this next week to orient yourself more to Christ?
4. The verb Paul uses here for "set your mind" also appears in Philippians 2 where he writes, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. *Have this mind* among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant..." (vv. 3-7b).
 - a. How is the Spirit leading you to seek and set your mind on others as an expression of walking with Christ? Where do you feel compelled to serve right now?

PRAY

Ask the Spirit for strength to overcome complacency and weariness to pursue Christ more intentionally and passionately in this season. Ask the Spirit for wisdom in knowing how to serve and courage to follow-through on his leading. Pray for protection for our region as certain counties begin to "reopen."