

Set Your Mind

12-5-21

Colossians 3:2 (ESV)

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Don't get wrapped up in religion.

Colossians 2:21–23 (ESV)

²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Basically, all such human attempts at religion are worthless—**they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.** Very insightful on the failure of religion, rules, and regulations. They do not empower people.

Maclaren says it with characteristic force: “There is only one thing that will put the collar on the neck of the animal within us, and that is the power of the indwelling Christ”.

As believers, we receive the person of Christ. Christ indwells us through the person of the Holy Spirit. Only when we walk by the Spirit can we avoid carrying out the desires of the lower nature.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, walk (be occupied) by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Therefore, we decide to be occupied with the Holy Spirit. Thus, we do away with the earthly things by setting our minds on the things of God. The decision is with us, but the power is from God through the Holy Spirit. This is the Christian walk.

Colossians 3:5 (ESV)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: which is idolatry.

When we see sin as idolatry, we have a deeper insight as to why it is so damaging to the believer. An idol is something people give their devotion, treasure, and time to. Bottom line an idol is something that we put before God. Therefore, it becomes a hindrance in our hearts to our total devotion to God. Ezekiel clearly points this out.

Ezekiel 14:3 (NASB)

Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts. Should I be consulted by them at all?

God says why are you coming to me. Your heart is full of idols that you depend on. Therefore, to hear me, put to death what is earthly in you: which is idolatry.

We all grow in our walk with Jesus. He continues to teach us as we grow in faith, grace, and love. We continue to put to dispose of those idols in our heart that stand between us and our pure devotion to Christ. Then having our hearts focused on Christ we have peace with Christ.

Colossians 3:15 (ESV)

And let the peace of Christ “rule” in your hearts!

In a practical sense, this is being at one with Christ without any idols in our heart. This helps us living life and making decisions in our life. The word for “rule” is an expressive term used only here in the NT. It literally means “to act as umpire, to arbitrate, to decide.” Therefore, we have a big decision to make, let the peace of Christ umpire, arbitrate, decide. How often have you hear a Christian say, “I have a real peace about this decision?” This is a Biblical approach. The opposite is also true. “I don’t have a peace about this.” Also, we can see that if we allow any idols in our hearts, we cannot accurately discern Christ’s peace.

Brothers and sisters, therefore our personal relationship with the living Christ is so important in our day to day living.

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