

## LESSON 9

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### THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, PART 1, 2a

#### SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE (3:1–4)

In Colossians, as in most of his letters to churches, Paul first laid down a foundation and then described the type of life that should be built on the doctrinal considerations. After explaining why the Colossians were not to serve the philosophy and elementary principles of the world in 2:20–23, he gave positive and negative reasons for what Christians should and should not do in 3:1–14.

1. What was Paul's intention in telling the Colossians to seek "things above"?
2. What are the contrasts between the manner of life in the realm above and the earthly realm?
3. What does the word "hidden" mean in verse 3?
4. In what senses can we say that Christ "is our Life"?
5. What meaning might the phrase "is revealed" in verse 4 have?
6. What will happen to our bodies and souls on the last day?

#### PUTTING TO DEATH THEIR IMMORAL PAST (3:7–7)

Bodily passions were to be put to death and thus no longer permitted to control these Christians. Paul wanted them to recognize the earth's hollowness and fruitlessness, to realize that the world has nothing to offer. They needed to look toward heavenly realities and see the glories to be reached and enjoyed. After planting this view of life in their minds, Paul presented to them down-to-earth qualities to develop and practices to eliminate in order to reach the heavenly glories.

7. What good and bad acts are carried out by various “members” of the “earthly body”?
8. Is the body in itself evil? Explain.
9. What connotations does the word translated “immorality” in verse 5 usually carry?
10. What is the general meaning of the word translated “passion” in verse 5, and how does Paul mean it here?
11. Is the desire to sin the same thing as sinning? Why or why not?
12. How does greed lead to idolatry?
13. Is God’s wrath seen in the Old Testament different from his wrath in the New Testament and today?
14. Who are the “sons of disobedience” of verse 6?

### **PUTTING OFF UNGODLY CHARACTER**

**(3:8, 9)**

Even though the Colossians had died to their past lives, their former lifestyles needed to be discarded and replaced by another way of living. In a sense, they were to clean out their closets and begin wearing new clothing.

15. How are the traits in verse 8 linked to each other?
16. Can anger ever be good? Under what circumstances?
17. How is malice different from anger and wrath?
18. How is abusive speech different from slander?
19. In what context were the phrases translated “laid aside” and “put on” usually used?