

## Lesson 11

### Colossians 3:1-4

Day 1

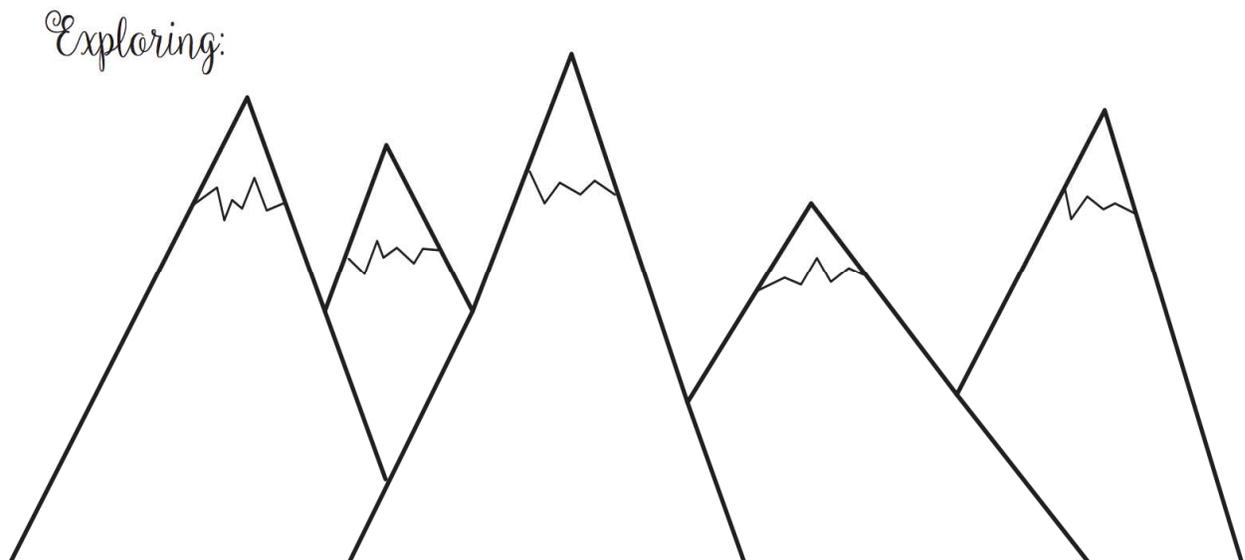
#### KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

1. Read chapter 3. How does chapter 3 relate to chapters 1 and 2? What is the “therefore” there for in Colossians 3:1? To help formulate your answer look at your paragraph summaries from chapters 1 and 2.
2. In the box below, explain verses 1-4 in only one or two sentences. Think about how you would explain it to a 10 year old child. I usually ask myself, “Who is doing what, and why is he doing it?” This is usually enough to get the main point of the thought into one or two sentences.

Verses 1-4	Verses 5-11	Verses 12-17	Verses 18-25

#### EXPLORING THE THEME

3. In all of Colossians, look for the words: DO/DO NOT. Write down the verses where you find these words and what you learn about them.



Day 2

4. Look again at Colossians 3:1-4. Write down in the appropriate column what you learn about Christ and what you learn about the believer. Note the verse reference in the first column:

Verse	What I learn about Christ	What I learn about believers

5. In this chapter Paul continues to emphasize the centrality of Christ in relationship to believers. What is the relationship of believers to Christ in the following verses? Fill in the blanks:

**Colossians 3:1** Therefore if you have been raised up \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, keep seeking the things above \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**Colossians 3:3** For you have died and your life is hidden \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in God.

**Colossians 3:4** \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed \_\_\_\_\_ Him in glory.

6. What are the three commands given to believers in Colossians 3:1-4? What condition is placed before the commands? How do you know if you meet this condition? (Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 2:20)



#### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

7. Have you been raised up with Christ? If so, how are you living out the above verses? If you are not sure, please talk with your leader after Bible study today. (2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”)

## Day 3

8. "Seeking the things above" (Col. 3:1) takes effort and is a continuous action. Imagine yourself on a scavenger hunt. Write down a list of what you and your teammates must do to seek out the things on the list.
  
9. How is this similar to what we must do spiritually, and what does "truth seeking" look like according to Psalm 105:1-5, Proverbs 2, and Matthew 6:25-33?
  
10. In Colossians 3:1 we are told to seek the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. What is significant about Christ's position? Look up Mark 16:19, Hebrews 1:1-4, Psalm 110:1, 1 Peter 3:22, and Acts 5:31 to help formulate your answer.



### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

11. What is one way you can be a more faithful seeker?

## Day 4

12. In Colossians 3:2, the phrase, “Set your mind on,” is written in the present tense and indicates continuous action. Read the following definitions for “set” (Strong’s #5426 *phroneō*).

- To have understanding, to think – adopt a view, concerned, feel, have attitude, and intent on purpose (*Exhaustive Concordance*)
- Think, judge, give one’s mind to, and set one’s mind on (*Dictionary NT Theology*)
- Act, think, be minded; an inner disposition (*Exegetical Key to Greek New Testament*)

What are the right thoughts for a believer to have when setting her mind on the things above?

Jeremiah 9:23-26

Matthew 16:23

Philippians 4:8

13. On what are we tempted to set our minds? Why is that? What theological truths from Colossians 1 and 2 refute that temptation?

14. What does “setting your mind on the things on earth” look like according to Colossians 3:5-9?

15. As women, our minds are a battlefield for our thoughts. Pastor John MacArthur gives encouragement to us from his sermon “Living the Risen Life.”  
(<https://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/2145/living-the-risen-life>)

Seek those things which are above; literally, continually be seeking those things which are above. Make it the pattern of your life to be preoccupied with heaven. Now Paul is not offering another kind of asceticism, he is not inviting us to be spaced out spiritually. He is not inviting us to walk around, you know, in a fog, he is not telling us to sit in a corner like Buddhists and contemplate your navel until you wind up in Nirvana. That isn't the idea. The spirit of God is not telling us to do something weird and strange, he is simply saying, “Let your preoccupation with heaven govern your earthly responses.” Now I am going to give you even more practice. You know what it means to think on heavenly things? You can't just think about heaven. You have to think about who is there, right?

...

The idea is not a preoccupation with what makes up the city, but the ideas to think heavenly thoughts is to be preoccupied with the One who reigns in the city, the Lord Jesus Christ. Since you have this reminder you have also a responsibility, he says. Continue to seek the things that are above. You know what the world needs? You know what would really change this world? What would change this world would be a heavenly set of values, wouldn't it? Wouldn't it be great to see things and people and events the way Jesus sees them? We entered in the heavenlies when we were saved. But you know what happens? It happens to me, it happens to you. We just have a hard time shoving our hearts up there, don't we? We get preoccupied with how much money we have, preoccupied with what our house looks like, what our clothes look like, whether we are keeping up with the society around us. Preoccupied with all the piddly, mundane stuff in our world, and so we can't really offer to the world anything about a heavenly dimension because we are not too sure what it is yet. And then some joker comes along and intimidates us by telling us about some weird experience that you can reach out and get kind of spiritually spaced out, and we're the first ones to grab onto it because we really don't understand anything out there anyway. The verb here is to be constantly seeking. Jesus put it this way, “Seek ye first...” what?... the kingdom of God and his righteousness,...and what will happen?...all the other things will follow and be added. That's not a new principle. You can look in the Old Testament. Check out 1 Chronicles 22:19, you'll find it there too. What are the things above? See what it says; seek the things which are above. What are they? Well the spiritual values that are embedded in the heart of the glorified Christ, realities like tenderness, kindness, loveliness, meekness, long-suffering, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, most of all love. Those are the bounties of heaven. Those are the things that fill the heart of Jesus, and those are the things that, if you spend enough time with Him, are going to fill your heart.

16. From what you just read, as a daughter of the King what are at least two practical reasons for setting your mind on the things above?



#### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

17. Practice setting your mind on things above by reading through Psalm 145. As you come across an attribute of God, stop and think about what it means. When you are done, write down which attribute most helped you set your mind on things above, and why.

## Day 5

18. Colossians 3:3 reminds us that not only have we died (Lesson 9, Day 5), but the life we are living is “hidden with Christ in God.” What are some encouragements of being hidden with Christ in God?

John 10:28

Romans 8:31-39

2 Peter 1:4

19. When you think of being “hidden” what comes to your mind? What word picture came to the psalmist’s mind in Psalm 27:5-6?

20. Colossians 3:4 isn’t the only place that teaches us that Jesus Christ is our life. What illustration is given of this in John 15:1-5, and what does it mean for the believer?

21. Lastly, a most exciting reminder is given to us in Colossians 3:4. Christ is going to be revealed at a future point in time! What a wonderful event to think about, ladies. How will Christ be revealed according to Revelation 19:11-16, and when will this happen (Matthew 24:27)?

22. How will believers be revealed with Him according to Colossians 3:4, Romans 8:29-30, and 1 John 3:2?



## GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

23. The promise that one glorious day we will be revealed with Christ in His glory is amazing. What a wonderful motivation for us to live our lives with that end goal in mind! Pastor Greg Laurie encourages us to stay on track with that goal in the following devotion: (<https://www.harvest.org/devotional/archive/devotion/2012-11-20.html>)

### *Not Simply a Destination*

Warren Wiersbe said, “For the Christian, heaven isn’t simply a destination. It’s a motivation.”

We need to stop thinking of heaven in a mystical way, in sort of the cartoon version that has been handed down to us through numerous movies, books, and commercials, where people are lying around on clouds, strumming on harps. The Bible does speak of music and worship in heaven, but heaven is an actual place; it is not a mere state of mind. Jesus said, “I am going to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am” (John 14:2–3). In fact, the Bible describes heaven as “a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God” (Hebrews 11:10). Cities are places. Cities have buildings. They have culture. They have art. They have music. They have goods. They have services. I am not going to be sitting around on a cloud in heaven; I am going to be in heaven in a city. That is what the Bible promises. Heaven is also described in the Bible as a country: “But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:16).

Paul used the word, “paradise,” to describe heaven (see 2 Corinthians 12:2–4). So heaven is a paradise. It is a city. It is a country. It is a place. And when we get to heaven, we are going to receive new bodies. The blueprints of our glorified body are in the bodies we now possess. So what is heaven? Heaven is a place. And heaven is the earthly life of the believer, glorified and perfected.

24. In what ways does this devotion encourage you to live out Colossians 3:1-4?