



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – April 14, 2024

Sermon Series:Now What?
Sermon Title: The New You
Scripture: Colossians 3:1-17
Preacher: Rev. Jeff Wagner

Theme/Concept: Identity / Inheritance... Our living hope is not just for some day long from now. The resurrection ushers in an entirely new identity for followers of Christ. It reorients how we see God, ourselves and others. It fuels our priorities and directs our obedience.

Icebreaker: (if with a small group) Do you have any outfits or clothing that have special meaning to you? What are they? Why?

Reflections on the sermon: What points will you most remember from the sermon?

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-17 (New International Version)

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. What does it mean in verse 1 to be 'raised with Christ'? (See also Romans 6:4; Galatians 2:20)
2. Where are we instructed to set our hearts and minds? Why are we to do this? (Verses 1-4)
3. Why should believers look forward to Christ's return? (Verses 3-4)
4. What does Paul admonish us to do in verse 5?
5. In verses 8-9, what changes must we make to our earthly nature?
6. Who is salvation for? (Verse 11)
7. What qualities are we urged to have? (Verses 12-14)

8. Why did Paul call on the believers to be peaceful and thankful? (Verses 15-16)

9. What one principle should guide all that we do? (Verse 17)

Going deeper:

1. Is your life different because of Easter? Why should the resurrection make such a difference in our lives?
2. If you consistently set your sights on Christ and heaven, how would your life be different?
3. Which of the Christian values set forth in verses 12-14 is most challenging for you? How can you begin to change? What steps are involved in replacing old habits with new ones?
4. What does it mean to 'do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus'? (Verse 17) How can you apply this to your life?
5. What are some of the ways the message of Christ can permeate our lives? How can we show our gratitude through singing? Consider singing as a group the song, 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.' (lyrics below)

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord-

We know that Christ did not suffer death on the cross and rise again so that our lives would stay the same but yet, we linger in our old habits. Help us, Father, to cast off any of our desires and actions that are not pleasing to you. We thank you for your forgiveness when we fail and we ask that you help us truly act in love, showing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and forgiving others as you have forgiven us.

In Jesus name, AMEN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Music by Timothy Lee Bandy, Based on the tune Nettleton
Easter lyrics by Christopher Wordsworth