

The Hope of Glory:

An Exposition of Colossians

November 1, 2020

*Sermon 13: Obedience and the hope of glory, sermon 3
Colossians 3:12-17*

Opening Point: Imagine you are preparing to go out for the evening and you are standing in your closet and trying to figure out what to wear. You see a bunch of things that are obviously inappropriate, like your “I went to the Grand Canyon and all I got was this lousy t-shirt” t-shirt. You realize that you can’t simply wear the jeans you have been wearing all day while you were working in your garden. So you take off your dirty clothes and now one simple question looms over you: Ok, so now what do I put ON? You realize that you have to put something on. Nakedness is not an option. You took off the dirty clothes and threw them in the hamper (or on the floor). What is the appropriate thing to put on?

Our theme for Colossians 3: *The focus of our lives reveals the nature of our hope of glory.*

I. Introduction/Review

A. Review—What did we talk about last time [a month ago!]

1. The mortification of sin. [That’s putting it in negative terms]
 - a. What do we mean when we use the term “mortification” of sin?
 - i. We mean putting sinful patterns and habits to death. (hence the term)
 - ii. We mean fighting every sinful impulse and every sinful habit.
2. The importance of clarity in terms of the Christian life!
 - a. “Be good” simply will not get it done in our lives!

B. What will be our focus for today?

1. Obedience is not just about what we avoid. It is also about what we pursue.
 - a. It is not enough to take off our dirty clothes.
 - b. We need to put something on. We need to develop a life of obedience.

II. Why Pursue Obedience?—Colossians 3:12a

A. Because of what we are in Christ—*It is important to note that this is talking to actual Christians!*

1. We are chosen
 - a. Don’t let this word scare you!
 - i. This is not a topic to be argued over. It is a reality that is to be the means of rejoicing.
 - a) **John 15:16** "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit...
 - b) **Ephesians 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
 - b. Don’t let this puff you up!
 - i. We don’t know exactly why we are chosen, but we do know that it is not because of anything good in us.
 - a) Some examples: Paul, Abraham, etc.
 - b) Invite people to the new Evening series “Great Commissions.”
 - c) **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** (Ask the congregation to turn there.)
2. We are holy
 - a. Are we? How are we holy?

- i. **Colossians 1:22** yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--
 - b. We know that we are not holy because of anything in us.
 - i. Remind the people of what the Bible says about humanity (Romans 1 & 3, etc.)
- 3. We are beloved
 - a. Don't just assume this...let this bless you! Let this amaze you!
 - i. **Malachi 1:2-3** "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;³ but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

Transition: Because of this identity, what is to be our pursuit? In light of who we are in Christ and what are said to be in Christ, what character traits should be the emphasis of our lives?

III. What must we pursue?—Colossians 3:12b-16

A. We are to develop a proper view of ourselves.

- 1. Humility

B. We are to develop a gracious affection for others.

Point: Just like we did with the things listed that we are to do away with in our lives, we won't go into great specifics on the things listed here. Instead, we will let these things hit us all at once and hopefully see the big picture.

- 1. heart of compassion,
 - a. This means that you sincerely feel for people.
- 2. kindness,
- 3. gentleness
- 4. patience;
- 5. bearing with one another

ILL: I love that this is in the Bible! Sometimes, in dealing with people, you simply have to put up with them. You just have to endure their little quirks and personal idiosyncrasies. What does this imply? That people can be annoying sometimes!

- 6. forgiving each other,
 - a. whoever has a complaint against anyone;
 - b. just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Point: We should grow more and more willing to forgive, the more we grow in Christ. This isn't easy, but that's ok. Let me ask you, "Are you quicker to forgive than you used to be?"

- 7. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
 - a. Notice that this is the most important thing.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 13:13** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- 8. Teach and admonish people with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs!
 - a. What does this mean?
 - i. Does this mean that we should sing to one another like we are in a musical?
 - ii. No, this means that everything to do should be seasoned with grace.
 - a) **Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Point: How do you treat people? How do you feel about people? As you grow in Christ, are you getting gentler or less gentle? Is your view of deeper Christian a louder Christian or a more soft-spoken, patient Christian?

ILL: Do you live for the fight, or do you long for peace? For me, the longer I walk with Christ, the less I am looking to argue. I think I can also say that the people who have had the biggest impact on my life are not those who were always looking to “win” a debate, but those who calmly endured my idiosyncrasies with patience and love.

C. We are to develop a faithful submission in our circumstances.

1. Let the peace of Christ rule in you.
2. Be thankful

IV. What should be our focus?—Colossians 3:17

A. Whatever we do, we should do in Jesus’ name.

1. What does this mean?
 - a. This means that we live as representatives of Jesus.
 - b. This means that we live for the glory of Jesus.

B. Whatever we do, we should do with grateful hearts.

V. Conclusions

A. Obedience is not just about what we avoid. It is also about what we pursue.

B. What if I am not yet a Christian?

1. Gospel presentation