

Sunday, March 5, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Raised With Christ, Therefore ...

Series: Growing in Our Walk,
a Journey Through Colossians...6

Text: Colossians 3:1 - 11

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to take control of what they FOCUS their thoughts upon.

Introduction:

**Review of last week's devotional -
Contending for the Faith**

~ 1. Considering Ephesians 2:17 - 22 ~ 2. Jude 1:1 - 25
~ 2 Corinthians 10:4 - 6, "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (6) being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete."

~ Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

~ Colossians 3:1, "If then you have been raised with Christ,"
- this is a conclusion based on Colossians 2:12, 13, 20 and compare with Galatians 2:19 & 20 and Ephesians 2:5 & 6

1. Seek:

~ Colossians 3:1, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Seek (G2212): to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after, require, demand, to crave

~ Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple."

seek (H1245, baqas): a primitive root; to search out (by any method, specifically in worship or prayer); by implication, to strive after: --ask, beg beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek (for).

~ Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

~ Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

~ 2 Corinthians 4:18, "as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

~ Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

~ Philippians 4:8 & 9, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (9) What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

This is not a passive action; this is a determined SEEKING as to how God is at work in my life and how he would have me respond.

~ Philippians 3:7 - 16

Paul was seeking a fullness of Christ Jesus in his life. What am I seeking?

2. Set:

~ Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Set (G5426), to exercise the mind, i.e. entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience): set the affection on, regard, savour, think

~ Mark 8:33, "But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

~ Romans 8:5, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."

~ Philippians 2:5, "Have this mind (attitude) among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

See Philippians 2:12 & 13

How to SET my mind:

~ 2 Timothy 2:15, READ - STUDY

~ Psalm 1:1 - 3, MEDITATE

~ James 5:16, ACCOUNTABILITY - CONFESSION

3. Slay What is Earthly in You:

~ Colossians 3:5, "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you,"

death (G3499) to deaden, to subdue: be dead, mortify. Used three times: Rom. 4:19 (Abraham 100 years old and promise of a son), Hebrews 11:12

Consider the list of what the Holy Spirit says we need to slay in Colossians 3:5 - 9

~ Matthew 18:9, "And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell of fire."

Am I prepared to acknowledge the earthly practices in my life and take serious steps to put them to death or do I keep giving life to them?

Conclusion:

Communion