

Can You Be So  
Heavenly Minded That  
You're No Earthly  
Good?

---

Colossians 3:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Can you be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good? <sup>2</sup>

This statement is sometimes used for people involved in a cult or is a very Fundamentalist type Christian who is attempting to prove that he has all the right answers all the time. <sup>3</sup> He may be someone who can quote the Bible for just about everything but who lives an inconsistent life to back it up. <sup>4</sup>

But is that what this scripture is really saying? <sup>5</sup> Let's look at it. It is Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 1 through 8, which says, **Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.** <sup>1</sup> <sup>6</sup>

**Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil**

---

<sup>1</sup> v1-4.

desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>2</sup> 7

It's a matter of focus. You are to focus on what's ultimately important; eternal life in heaven; that which is "above", not "on earthly things". 8

This passage answers a couple of questions for us. The first is . . .

## I. What Does It Mean to Focus? - v1-2

What does it mean to focus? 9

First of all, it means putting effort into **focusing on the Lord and the benefits He provides.** 10

---

<sup>2</sup> v5-8.



**In verse 2, the phrase "set your minds" <sup>3</sup> means "to think, exercise your mind". <sup>11</sup>**

**In verse 1, the phrase "set your hearts" <sup>4</sup> means to "look for passionately, to earnestly covet something". So, when you focus on heavenly things, God wants your emotions as well as your intellect.**

**When you have your quiet time each day, try to imagine being in heaven and what that must be like. You are in a heavenly body free of disease and pain. Everything around you is more beautiful than anything you have previously seen. You have immediate and unlimited access to the Lord's presence and love. Think and feel that experience.**

**Also remember that the Lord has supplied you with every good and perfect gift in this lifetime. Everything you love and cherish has been provided by Him. He is so gracious, and He loves you so much. Focus on these things. <sup>12</sup>**

---

<sup>3</sup> φρονέω.

<sup>4</sup> ζητέω.

Now, **focus on the Lord's authority**, His lordship. <sup>13</sup>  
Notice the phrase in verse 1 "right hand of God". <sup>5</sup> In ancient times, that phrase referred to the king's chief advisor, his right-hand man. He sat in a chair at the king's right side to give him advice. Lord Jesus is to the Father what the right-hand person was to the king. Lord Jesus is the CEO of heaven! <sup>14</sup> So, focusing as God's child means being quick to obey everything you know to be God's will!

The next question this scripture answers is . . . <sup>15</sup>

## II. How Do You Focus? - v3-8

How do you focus? It's the same answer as what's supposed to happen to your life when you decide to become a Christian. <sup>16</sup> **In order to live for Christ you have to die to your old life!** Most of us are tempted to drag our old life along with us. The Lord says there has to be a complete break. So, how do you die to the old life? <sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> δεξι τοῦ θεώ.

**You die to the old life by crucifying it! Galatians, Chapter 6, verse 14, May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 18**

**That's what the ceremony of Christian baptism is all about. You symbolically bury the old life so you can begin a new Christ centered one. Romans, Chapter 6, verses 3 through 8 describes this, Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that**



**we will also live with him.** When you die to the old life, you identify with the Lord and He with you! <sup>19</sup>

That's what it means in verse 3 of our passage today <sup>6</sup> when it says **to be hidden with Christ in God.** <sup>7</sup> It's like God being a file cabinet. <sup>20</sup>



**Lord Jesus is a file folder.** <sup>21</sup>

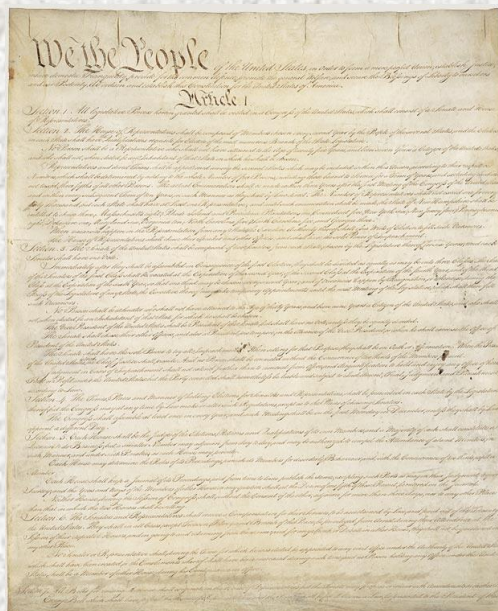
---

<sup>6</sup> v3 - For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>7</sup> κέκρυπται σύν τώ Χριστος έν τώ Θεώ.



**You are the document inside the file folder.**



**Does that make sense? So, how do you do it? <sup>22</sup>**

**Verse 5 tells you that dying to the old life means putting to death attitudes associated with the old life.**



**Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.**

**What are some of these attitudes? <sup>23</sup>**

**"Sexual immorality" <sup>8</sup> is fornication. This is where we get our English word "pornography". <sup>24</sup>**

**"Impurity" <sup>9</sup> means, literally, to be unclean, like a dirty house. It means to have unclean thoughts. <sup>25</sup>**

**"Lust" <sup>10</sup> is an affection for, or a passion, for something that is impure. <sup>26</sup>**

**"Evil desires" <sup>11</sup> is a general term for a longing for something that is forbidden. <sup>27</sup>**

**You might identify with this next word, "greed" <sup>12</sup> which is simply the desire to always have more, covetousness. <sup>28</sup>**

---

<sup>8</sup> πορνεία.

<sup>9</sup> ἀκάθαρσία.

<sup>10</sup> πάθος.

<sup>11</sup> ἐπιθυμίαν κακήν.

<sup>12</sup> πλεονεξίαν.

Now, verse 8 gives us the key. The way to overcome these attitudes is to **forsake the actions associated with them**, But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

So, let's define each of these actions we should overcome to put to death those attitudes. <sup>29</sup>

"Anger" <sup>13</sup> is a desire that excites the mind. So, it's unrestrained, undisciplined. We get our word "orgy" from this term. <sup>30</sup>

"Rage" <sup>14</sup> is anger that has reached the boiling point.

<sup>31</sup>

"Malice" <sup>15</sup> is a desire to injure. It's a vicious character.

<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> ὀργή.

<sup>14</sup> θῦμός.

<sup>15</sup> κακία.

**"Slander" <sup>16</sup> is the biblical word "blasphemy". It means speech that is intended to injure someone. <sup>33</sup>**

**"Filthy language" <sup>17</sup> is just that, obscenity, foul mouthed.**

**If you can get a handle on these actions, you will have come a long way toward putting to death your old worldly life attitudes 34**

**Why focus on the Lord and His benefits? Everything you experience in this life is temporary. Everything!**

**Everything God has for you in heaven is permanent!**

**It's only when you focus on that which is "from above" that you can become like the Lord.**

**Focus on Him!**

---

<sup>16</sup> βλασφημία.

<sup>17</sup> αίσχρολογία.



<http://biblelifemessages.org/>