

How To Be Victorious As A Christian (Part 1)

Study 7, Colossians 3:1-7, by James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

A. In Your Attitude – THINK HEAVENLY! (3:1-4).

1. What can accurately be said about all Christians? ¹ (3:1a).
2. Because of our position, what are we commanded to keep seeking? (3:1b).
3. What is so important about seeking the things above? (3:1c).
4. On what are we commanded to focus our minds? (3:2a).
5. On what are we forbidden to focus our minds? (3:2b).
6. Why? What happened to us the moment we trusted in Jesus? (3:3).
7. What spectacular thing will happen to us when Jesus returns to get us? (3:4. See John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
8. Do you think the TV shows, videos, DVD's, CD's, movies, and radio programs we watch and listen to, and the books we read influence us in these areas? Explain yourself.
9. What adjustments do you think you should make in your own life because of these commands?

B. In Your Lifestyle – KILL THE EARTHLY! (3:5-7).

1. Because we are commanded to focus on the heavenly, not the earthly, we are, consequently, commanded as follows, literally: “Put to death, therefore the members of the things upon the earth (author’s translation).” In other words, “Put to death those things that are associated with the earth (author’s paraphrase).” List the items Paul singles out that we are to kill: (3:5).

¹ The Bible teaches that those who believe in Jesus are united with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12-13). The mechanism by which this happens is the baptism by means of the Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; 1 Corinthians 12:13), in which Jesus uses the Holy Spirit to place believers into the Body of Christ. The immersion process in water baptism pictures the uniting of the believer with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. But it is only Spirit baptism that has sufficient power to unite believers with Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Water baptism can never do that. Similarly, in John’s baptism, water had no power to make the adherents repentant. Those who repented came to be baptized (Matt. 3:1-6), but some who came to be baptized were NOT repentant (Matt. 3:7-10). John the Baptist freely acknowledged that Jesus’ baptism by means of the Spirit was far superior to his own water baptism signifying repentance (Matt. 3:11-12).

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____ (which amounts to) _____
2. Why do you think Paul lumped these vices in the same category?
 3. What motivation are we given to kill these practices that are so deeply a part of worldly society? (3:6).
 4. (Optional question for “Extra Credit.” The phrase in 3:6 “upon the sons of disobedience” is not found in two early Greek manuscripts of this letter. This means there is at least a good possibility that Paul did not write this phrase, but it was added later. If it *was* added, what would have motivated someone to add it?)
 5. What had been the former practice of the Colossians who are now Christians? (3:7).
 6. Do you think the TV shows, videos, DVD’s, CD’s, movies, and radio programs we watch and listen to, and the books we read influence us in these areas? Explain yourself.
 7. What adjustments do you think you should make in your own life because of these commands?

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Colossians 3:1-7

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