**THE NEED TO FOCUS UPON HOLY LIVING**

Colossians 3:1-11

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**INTRODUCTION**

Colossians is one of Paul’s four prison letters, written from Rome around A.D. 60-65. Paul wrote to encourage the Christians through practical teachings and a show of love for God’s people. Last week, we examined Paul’s warning about the danger of being disconnected from the Head, Jesus Christ. Today, we will see that Paul encourages us to be both passional and rational in our focus upon holy living and the reasons for doing so. There are two verbs that shape his writing. They are “set and “put.” Let us examine Paul’s teachings.

1. **SET**
2. There is an emphasis upon **feelings**: “Set your hearts on things above.”
3. There is an emphasis upon **reason**: “Set your minds on things above.”

WHY?

Because Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Because you have died to yourself—your human desires.

Because your life is now hidden in Christ with God.

Because when He appears, we will appear with Him in glory.

*We are both passional and rational beings. We are foolish to think we can separate one from the other. They are integrally tied together and reinforce each other. Set* ***both*** *your heart* ***and*** *mind on Christ.*

1. **PUT**
2. There is an emphasis upon the **flesh**: “Put to death…your earthly nature.”

WHY?

Because these things call down the wrath of God.

Because you used to walk in these ways.

Because you must rid yourself of such things.

Because you have taken off your old self and its practices.

1. There is an emphasis upon the **spiritual**: “Put on the new self.”

WHY?

Because the new self is being renewed in knowledge.

Because the new self is being renewed in the image of the Creator.

Because Christ is all that matters.

Because Christ is in all that matters.

*Nourish the flesh; kill the spirit. Nourish the spirit; kill the flesh. Which are you doing in your life? You cannot nourish both.*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul reminds us that our focus must be upon holy living. We do that by de-emphasizing the carnal desires of the heart and mind and emphasizing the spiritual. If we are going to live holy lives, we must discipline our fleshly desires. Otherwise, we will find ourselves in compromising positions and compromise with the world, the flesh, and the devil. How are you doing in your spiritual journey?

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me. (2X)*

*Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.”*