

THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed for wisdom and read the Bible to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes below to meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Teach believers how to walk worthy of the Lord so as to please Him in all things.

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below will reveal important truths you may want to emphasize.

Introduction: Jesus Christ has ascended to Heaven and is seated on the right hand of God His Father (Col. 3:1). This is a place of honor with authority in Heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18). All creation is subject to Him. No one is exempt. Unbelievers have to accept His authority, even though they do it unwillingly. Believers willingly accepted His authority when they received Him as their Savior, but now they need to practice obedience to please Him. "That you might walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

How can a believer walk worthy of the Lord? 3:1-4

Positionally, he is raised with Christ (3:1) and is seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). Practically, he needs to live up to his heavenly position so he can please the Lord while living on earth. First, he must depend on two facts to reach his goal: his death with Christ (3:3), and his resurrection with Christ (3:1). His sins were blotted out and the power of sin in his life was destroyed by his death with Christ. His eternal life and his power to live a godly life are related to his resurrection with Christ,

Second, a believer must make the Lord Jesus Christ the center of his life to walk worthy of Him (3:4). Then the Lord will not only be the power of his life, He will be the purpose of his life. A believer needs to say with the Apostle Paul, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21; cf. Gal. 2:20).

Third, a believer must keep on obeying the two commands in this passage to walk worthy of the Lord. First, he must keep on seeking those things which are above (3:1). This will be largely accomplished by his obedience to the second command: he must keep on setting his mind ("affection" - KJV) on those things above, and not on those things of the earth (3:2). His thoughts will control the way that he lives. He must not allow his mind to dwell on the sinful things of this world (Phil 4:8).

How can a believer overcome sins in his life? 3:5-9

The believer must put to death ("mortify") the sensual thoughts and activities of his life and no longer walk in them as he did before he was saved (3:5-7). He is able to cease from all sins by the power of God through Jesus Christ. In order to do this, he must confess and forsake his sins (Prov 28:13). When he confesses his sins, God will forgive and cleanse him by the blood of Christ (1 Jn 1:7, 9). Then he must forsake his sins that have enslaved him. How is this done? Every time he is tempted to sin, he must fix his mind on the fact that the old man (his fleshly, sinful nature) was crucified with Christ when he received Him as his Savior. A dead person cannot be tempted to sin, so a believer will not yield to his sinful nature as long as he counts it to be dead. He can conquer every temptation this way. He must put off, like a dirty garment, the old man that is aroused by his fleshly emotions (3:8-9).

How can a believer please God by the way he lives? 3:10-17

He must firmly believe that God made him a new man in Christ with a divine nature (2 Pet 1:4) when he received Christ as his Savior. When he puts on the new man, he has the mighty power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead, so he is able to live a godly life that pleases the Lord (3:12-14). He also will have the peace of God to rule in his heart and the word of Christ to dwell in him teaching him all things that please the Lord (3:15-17)

How can a believer please the Lord in his treatment of other people? 3:18-4:6

Paul gives specific commands on how a believer is to live with others in his family (3:18-21), on how to conduct himself in the workplace (3:22-4:1), on how to help fellow believers (4:2-4) and on how to be a good witness among unsaved people (4:5-6). Giving careful attention and obedience to these commands will enable a believer to walk worthy of the Lord in a pleasing manner.