

Study 8

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

A DIFFERENT VISION

Have you ever heard the criticism of someone that they were “So *heavenly* minded they were of no *earthly* good!”? It’s usually directed toward people who use their spirituality as an excuse for avoiding their practical responsibilities around their home or in the workplace. But the expression of this type of criticism is misguided, because, the more heavenly-minded a person becomes, the more practical and responsible they become. The greatest example of this was Jesus.

1. What kind of vision (of Christ) is the Apostle Paul encouraging believers to have in Colossians 3:1?
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When motorcyclists undertake an advanced rider training program, one of the most important things the trainers will emphasise is that when a motorcyclist was faced with a dangerous situation, they need to look where they are going—not at the danger in front of them. “Look where you want to go!” is the motorcyclist’s mantra to keep them safe on the road. There is a spiritual parallel to this. The enemy of our soul wants to distract us; but, the Holy Spirit leads us to focus on God. This is why *w _____ of God* is so important for *our* spiritual health.

2. How did Christ model this, based on Hebrews 12:2? What are believers encouraged to do in this context based on Hebrews 12:3?
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3. Consider Colossians 3:2. Does this verse mean that the believer no longer needs to concern themselves with such mundane *earthly* things as house cleaning, washing their car, or weeding their garden? Discuss.
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Christianity is marked by a *conversion*.

4. How does Ephesians 2:1-5 describe conversion to Christianity? Does Colossians 3:3 support this concept?
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Eschatology (“es-kat-ology”) is the study of what the Bible teaches about *last things*. This is sometimes referred to as *end times*, or *last days* (note John 6:39-44).

5. Read Hebrews 1:2 and note the time-frame the writer of Hebrews stated for “these last days”?
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Colossians 3:4 is an *eschatological* statement. Paul is telling the Colossians two important things about the future. Firstly, Christ will return (the Greek word means *will be revealed*), and secondly, when Christ returns the righteous will be resurrected. This would have been a major attack on what the Gnostics taught about the value of the human body (since they taught that it was inherently evil).

6. Based on the Apostle’s allusion to the believer’s resurrection in Colossians 3:4, does this mean that there is no point in spending time and effort on improving our physical health and condition? (Note First Timothy 4:8) Discuss.
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May God grant us each a fresh and clearer vision of His supremacy and Lordship.

Amen.