

Set Your Mind!

Oak Ridge Church of Christ

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REFERENCE

Colossians 3

READING

Colossians 3:1-4

OBJECTIVE

Our minds must be set on heavenly things rather than earthly if we are to be successful as Christians.

KEY POINTS

Men have an amazing ability to set their minds on what they choose to do.

The need to set our minds indicates that the largest part of the Christians battle takes place in their heads!

We must set our minds on the actions of a follower of Christ rather than a son of disobedience.

We must set our minds on proper speech also. Great damage is caused by worldly speech.

I. Introduction

A. After Paul finishes warning the Colossians in chapter two of men who try to do physical things with spiritual benefit, (self-mutilation and circumcision), he admonishes them at Colossians 3:1-2 to **set their minds** on the spiritual.

B. Set Your Mind?

1. Setting our minds is something that every good mother tells her children to do. "Son, you can do whatever you set your mind to do!" How many times have we all heard that from a parent?
2. My mom probably should have waited a little later to tell my brother this as he tended to set his mind to things that made her pull her hair!
3. Next to the house in which we grew up in Jasper is a farm road that stays pretty busy with log trucks. We lived on a dirt road off that farm road. We could ride bikes and such on the dirt road, but were not allowed on the pavement under any circumstances. Our dirt road was at the bottom of a hill on that farm road. My brother apparently had set his mind to ride his bike down that hill. It consumed him! One day, when the moment was right, he pushed his bike to the top of that hill. Of course, he forgot that we lived in the time when neighbors could get you in just the same trouble as if mom and dad saw you. Our neighbor saw Matthew pushing his bike up that hill and called my mom. The second unfortunate thing for my brother was that momma was in the kitchen when she got the call. Kitchens are well known as weapon stores for moms to use against kids. Momma got to the end of the road just as Matthew came speeding down the hill. He looked like he was having the time of his life, right up until he made eye contact with momma...

C. Adults, like children, often set their minds to do things that they should not!

1. At Genesis 9:6-7, Noah and his family were told to go out into the world, be fruitful and multiply, and populate the earth.
2. However, at Genesis 11, God had to teach mankind another lesson. They had decided to build a tower to Heaven so that they would make a name and avoid being scattered over the earth. (Genesis 11:4)
3. Notice God's words at Genesis 11:5-9. They would be able to accomplish anything the "purposed in their hearts to do" or set their minds to do.
4. God had given a command for the people to set their mind to, populate the earth. However, man decided to set his mind to his own pursuit. God confused their language and humbled this people who sought to exalt themselves.

D. We have the same options upon which we may set our mind! (Colossians 3)

1. Paul tells us to set our minds on the things above, not below.
2. Why? Because we have died with Christ and our life is hidden in Him. We are dead to this world! If we have put to death our fleshly self, then we should no longer set our minds on such things.
3. What then are these "above" things and how do we set our minds?

II. Set Your Mind

A. We must purify our minds.

1. As Paul speaks of the need to set our minds, he acknowledges that the biggest part of the battle is in our heads. So often we try to deal with various sins and have a great struggle in doing so. The reason is because we have not started with the source, our mind.
 - a. Sin starts in our head as mentioned by Jesus.
 - b. Look at Matthew 5. At 5:21 He tells us that murder is not the problem. Hate is. When we allow ourselves to hate, the symptom of murder comes forth. At 5:27 He tells us that adultery is not the problem. Lust is. When we allow ourselves to lust, the symptom of adultery comes forth. If we do away with the root causes in our minds, we will not end up committing the action!
2. II Samuel 13 records the wickedness of Amnon. He lusted after Tamar to such a degree that it made him sick until he violated her and ruined both of their lives!
3. So often we try to figure out why we have such a hard time doing what is right. But then when we look at what is being fed into our minds and it is little wonder. We spend our time watching sexualized and violent things on television. We spend our time looking through worldly magazines and filling our head with all the “news” that is generally nothing more than reports of the vile things that men do to one another. Then we wonder why we have such a problem doing what is right!
4. May we all honor Paul’s words at Philippians 4:8 and remember that the battle begins in our heads!

B. We must set our minds to do what is right.

1. At Colossians 3:5 Paul lists various actions from which the Colossians must abstain. Immorality (fornication), impurity (uncleanness), passion, evil desire, and greed (covetousness) which amounts to idolatry. As he told the Corinthians, they used to walk in these various sins (vs 7), but they were no longer to do so. God’s wrath would come upon those sons of disobedience!
2. We must set our mind to do what is right! There are Bible studies to be had with my family, bible studies to have with my friends, acquaintances and coworkers, there are people I know that are in need that I should be helping, there is the church here at Mauriceville that needs you to fill your role as a member and not only be here to worship, but also to help with the teaching, maintenance, and evangelistic efforts.
3. The point being this, there is so much good that needs to be done, but it will only get done if we set our minds to do what is right rather than to continue our focus on what is wrong!
4. I know it takes a lot of energy to change paths, but let’s set our minds to do so!

C. We must set our minds to say what is right.

1. At Colossians 3:8 Paul shifts his focus to the speech of the Colossians. Just as important on setting our minds to do what is right, so it is important to say what is right!
2. I remember at my first work there was a young man there who constantly tried to argue that words were just words and they did not matter. Thus he figured he could talk like he wanted!
3. Words matter! Not because I say so, but because Paul inspired by the Spirit say so!
 - a. Uncontrolled anger and malice would lead to slander, abusive speech and lying.
 - b. Some of the greatest damage that can be done is not done with hands but with our tongues!
 - c. The lying tongue of Satan brought the downfall of mankind. (Genesis 3)
 - d. The slanderous words of false witnesses put Jesus on the cross. (Matthew 27)
4. We must learn to control our tongues before we do irreparable harm! If we set our minds that we will say only those things that are good and fitting, then we will be successful! At Colossians 4:6 Paul tells the brethren to let their speech be seasoned with salt, speaking only things that are fitting. That is my desire in life, to learn when to keep silent, when to speak, and what to say when I do!
4. Let’s set our minds to speak righteously!

III. Conclusion - Verse 4 tells us that if we set our minds on the things above, then one day we will be revealed along with Christ in glory! Verses 10-11 says we have put on a new self. Is every thought of our mind Heaven or this earth?