

## Christ is all the Matters

02/22/26

What really matters to you? Is it your family? Is it your job? Is it your status within the community? Is it your retirement? What really matters to you? I typed this phrase in my phone and AI gave me this answer: "what matters most in life typically centers on deeply personal, foundational values such as family, health, genuine connections with others, and personal growth. Others prioritize independence, making a significant social impact, and pursuing passions. Ultimately, it involves focusing on what brings joy and purpose, rather than what society dictates." This sounds like the American way of life. What matters most in life becomes the center for functioning as a human. One of the troubles with this is it can change on a daily basis. Retirement is center for many older people, not so much for younger people. Staying healthy was not so important when we were younger, but becomes a center issue when we get older. I worked with someone who was a health freak and their life centered around being healthy. Even though they thought they were healthy, they had a stroke that changed their whole life. For most people, what really matters in life can change many times depending on the changing environment around them. This causes much stress and anxiety in life. I can only focus on one thing at a time. When other items or events get mixed in, life becomes strenuous. Plus, if this strenuous life continues for a long period of time, we can become unsettled in our thinking and actions. We can become led astray very easily because of unsettled thinking. We're not running on all eight cylinders. We're not running on full capacity because we've lost focus on one thing and have started to focus on many things. Too many Christians today have become too concerned for earthly life. They have set their sights more and more on earthly things that they think can satisfy or please their desires. They have allowed themselves to become trained in focusing on earthly things that takes the center stage on what really matters in their life – job, retirement, being entertained, and the list can go on and on. I think we need to stop for a moment and allow the Holy Spirit to do a heart and mind check to see what really matters in our life. All true Christians should be on the same page on what really matters in life. What do I mean by this? Well, Apostle Paul gives us some guidance on this issue.

Let's turn to Colossians 3: 1-11 where we read this from Paul through the Holy Spirit, "3 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your<sup>[a]</sup> life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.<sup>[b]</sup> 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,<sup>[c]</sup> circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,<sup>[d]</sup> slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. (NLT – [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))"

Apostle Paul is trying to get the Colossian Church back on track because of some false teaching had caused some within the church to become confused or started to follow teaching that was not from Jesus. So, Paul starts off in chapter three of his letter reminding them of their new life they received from Jesus. This is so important to always remember. A true follower of Jesus starts with a new life when they become justified through faith in Jesus. Their sins have been forgiven and the human nature within becomes controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit that moves inside us when we become part of Jesus' Kingdom. We do become new people inside. We always have to remember this so we don't go back to what we were before our salvation through Jesus. This new life continues until we are called home to Heaven.

Since we have this new life, we are to set our sights on the realities of Heaven where Jesus sits at the right hand of God His Father. Another word used for "sights" is seek. The Greek term Paul uses here means to look for, to try to obtain, desire to possess (Strong's Concordance). Paul is telling the church that since they have this new life in Jesus, their sights have changed to the point where Jesus is

the target. Again, Paul is trying to get the Colossians back on track to Jesus and away from the false teaching we talked about the other week. We are to keep our sights on Jesus and we are to look for, try to obtain, and desire to have the realities of Heaven. What Paul is describing here is a mature Christian. A Christian who has grown to the point where their life is now centered around Jesus. Their daily desire is to satisfy the One who carried their own sin to the cross. This mature Christian enjoys the gift of salvation. This mature Christian realizes the truth of verse 3 – they died when Christ died and their real life is hidden with Christ in God. This is why they keep their sights on Jesus daily and they seek Him daily. The opposite of a mature Christian is a carnal Christian. Carnal means to be focused on earthly, fleshly desires rather than spiritual matters (AI-Facebook). It's a Christian who received this new life in Christ and has allowed the earthly and fleshly desires back in over time. Carnal Christian is an old term that was used by some old theologians back in the old days. The carnal Christian can't grow to be a mature Christian because they have allowed these earthly desires back in which keeps one from growing. This is a major issue within the Church today. We don't have many mature Christians. The ones we do have are old and dying off. There is no one to take their place. Many Christians today have not realized their real life is hidden with Christ. They have become ok with mixing earthly things or earthly passions into the mix. Paul gives us a list of examples of these earthly things – anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, dirty language, and lying. This is just a few of the earthly examples. So many Christians today are living this carnal way. They have become satisfied and don't really care about growing in their faith. Paul states again in verses 9 - 10 about how these earthly examples were once part of the sinful human nature that was within us before we knew Jesus. After receiving the gift of salvation through Christ, a new nature came in that was created by Jesus for us. Paul tells us in verse 10 that this new nature should be continually being renewed as we learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within us. This new nature needs to be continually renewed so we can learn more and more about Jesus. We learn more about His character and thinking. We renew our driver's license every four years or so. Think about all the things we have to renew all the time. Paul is telling the Church their brand-new

nature has to be renewed continuously. This means allowing the Holy Spirit have free reign inside us. This means to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our thinking. This means to allow this new thinking continue to dig into the knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ. A new poll came out that stated only 30% of Christians read their Bibles and the % is less for those who read it every day. Sounds like not many Christians want to learn more about Jesus. Sounds like many Christians don't want a renewing of the human nature by the Holy Spirit. Sounds like there is a lot of carnal Christians out there who are happy being a lukewarm Christian. Sounds like there are many Christians who don't want to know more about Jesus – which is a life long learning process. This must mean they don't love Jesus with all their strength and all their desire. This describes a carnal Christian. They have allowed too much of this world into their life and they don't even realize it or want to realize it. This is why we must allow the Holy Spirit to do inspections on our human nature to make sure it is still anew. "Anew" is an interesting word. I found this in AI on the definition of "anew": "often translated from Greek words like anothēn or anagennaō signifies a profound spiritual rebirth, renewal, and transformation, meaning to be born 'from above' by the Holy Spirit, not a physical second birth, to enter the Kingdom of God, a process initiated by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. It's a radical, divine change of identity and nature, creating a 'new creation' in Christ, contrasting with our earthly, fleshly origin. (AI)" Part of "anew" is renewal. Paul knew we needed to allow the Holy Spirit to do a continuous check on our human nature to make sure we are not allowing earthly desires to seep in. This new nature within us is to stay anew – always. Why?

After Paul tells the Colossian Church that it didn't matter if they were Jew or Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised (physical), because all that matters is Christ. Christ is all that matters. There are groups of people who call themselves Christians who have replaced Jesus with doing good deeds or with doing social justice. They have put the cart before the horse. So, when you take away resources that help them to do good deeds or social justice, they become filled with rage and hate. They say they don't hate, but they preach the ingredients of hate. Their life is no longer center on Jesus because Jesus is not about hate. I

don't like their actions and I think it's wrong, but I pray the Lord helps me to not hate them. We are to love our enemies as Jesus does. You know, it takes a lifetime to learn about the love of Jesus and even that is not enough time to understand the depth of such love. It takes renewal of the Holy Spirit to keep me in the right mind set to be able to love my enemies. Paul is reminding us that Jesus Christ is all that matters and He lives in all of us through His Spirit. Some are teaching that for us to have utopia on this earth; we need government control. They no longer preach or teach that the only freedom or utopia that can be found is through Jesus – the gift of salvation that came with great cost on the cross. Jesus is all that matters. We have to remind ourselves of this because if Jesus is all that matters in our life and our human nature keeps focused on that, everything else flows through that – our relationship with God, relationships with people, and our relationship with this world which is only temporary. Our relationship with Jesus is eternal, which should make it our top priority. To the world, this seems radical, to the Lord it is not because this is what He created us for. This means we have to stop focusing so much on people and narrow our focus on Jesus because He is all that matters in our life, which again, will put everything else in the right perspective. When mature Christians die, we may say who is going to pray for us or who is going to be an example for us. We too, must strive to become a mature Christian so the race Jesus has put before us can continue. We should not want to become a carnal Christian or stay as a carnal Christian. Paul is telling us through the Holy Spirit Jesus should be all that matters in our life and we should want our human nature to stay anew in Jesus. I've said this before – this world does not love you, but Jesus does. Why do we cling so much to this world? What really matters to you? Is it Jesus or the things of this world? Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to refocus on Jesus and to help you not to cling to the things of this world.

*The Strongest Strong's Concordance.* Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001