**Colossians Week One – Living in the Kingdom**

Homework: Read Colossians – Who is Paul addressing in his letter to the Colossians (1:2)?

What does knowing the audience mean when you consider the doctrine and practices Paul is presenting?

We will be looking at Colossians 3:1 through 4:5 more intently during our four weeks. Verse 3:1 says “Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ…”. The “therefore” at the beginning of this verse is setting in contrast what Paul is about to say against what he has just said. Look at chapter 2 in general and verses 20-23 specifically. How would sum up the errors that Paul is laying out in chapter 2?

The word “if” in 3:1 can be translated as “since”. The contrast that Paul is setting up as goes into chapter 3 is the contrast between our life in the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the world and life that has been “raised up with Christ.” What are some areas that the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the world still rule your behavior? *Think of terms of the areas in which you seek significance, satisfaction, and security from the world instead of from your position in Christ.*

Read and meditate on verses 3:1-11 and the think about the following questions:

What are “the things above” that you seek? Can you name them? How do you seek these things in your daily life? Read Romans 8:5-8

What are some of the “glittery” things that are on the earth that distract you? Do you know the “pitfalls” and hindrances that you need to leave behind (Hebrews 12:1)?

What would your walk with Christ look like if you considered your “earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, evil desire, and greed” (v. 5)? Can you envision that for yourself? Someone said that the root of sin is selfishness. If this is true then the struggle is between “thy will” and “I will”. If this is all true then who is the idol that Paul refers to in verse 5?

Look at 3:7. Paul uses the past tense, “once walked”, in referring to the things in verse 5. Make a mental list of the things you “once walked in”. Do you purposefully, consciously, and daily recognize that these things are gone because you have been raised up with Christ? Spend some time in thanksgiving to God for the grace he has bestowed upon you to overcome these things. Be specific in naming these things that you have overcome in Him.

Read 3:11. What do you think Paul means he writes “… there is no distinction between…”. Paul is saying that in the church there is no distinction by nationality (*Jew and Greek*), former religious difference (*circumcised and* uncircumcised), culture (*barbarian,* Scythian), or economics and politics (*slave and* freeman). Who do you make distinctions between in your life? Where do you need to seek the grace of God to dissolve the distinctions that you make in your life? Spend some time in prayer asking God for the grace of seeing all who are in Christ without distinction.

Memorize Colossians 3:1-4

* *Scripture Typer is a great App to memorize scripture. It is available for Apple and Android and is free. Download it to help you memorize these verses.*