

You usually find what you are looking for. I have an annoying habit of picking up coins off the ground. But I find them all the time usually because I am one of the few people looking for them.

We always find what we seek in life. But we do not always seek Christ. We actually spend a lot of our time seeking other things. We may seek things to get angry about. We can be seeking the next big thing that will make us feel good for a few moments. And the problem is that if we are not seeking Christ, then we might not find Him.

This morning we are going to look at what continually seeking Christ looks like. How do we make sure that this is what we are doing with our lives?

Turn with me to Colossians 3:1-17

I. Seek Christ every day (v. 1-4).

This is what we are to all do as believers.

We are to seek Christ every single day.

We always find what we are looking for in life.

If we are believers, then we should be seeking Christ.

Verse 1, **"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."**

You see this "if, then" used all the time in the New Testament.

If x is true, then we are to do y.

I always mark these in my Bible to help them stand out.

Paul does that here.

If we have been raised with Christ, then we should seek Christ.

Having been raised with Christ describes our salvation.

It means we have been born again.

We have been brought back from the dead into life.

Now if you are an unbeliever you have another problem.

You have not been raised to life.

And you need to be!

Your problem is not that you need to do more Christian things.

Nor is it that you need to act more Christian.
Or add Jesus to your life a little more.
You need to be brought back to life!
You need to be born again and raised with Christ.
If that describes you, then I invite you to be raised with Christ.
To believe in Jesus, confess your sins, and be redeemed.

If you are already a believer.
If you have already been raised with Christ.
And if that is true, then you should be changed.
Then we need to act like we have been raised with Christ.
You need to seek Him daily.

Verse 2, **"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."**

We seek Jesus by putting our minds on the things of heaven everyday.
We do not think just about the concerns of this earth.
We cannot just care about everyday worries of budgets and entertainment.
We need to be focused on the things that last into eternity.
The things that are where Jesus is, where the Father is.

Verse 3, **"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."**

And we have to seek Jesus in this way because our old life is gone.
The earthly life has passed away when we gave our lives to Christ.
And now we are In Christ.
Our true lives are hidden in Him.
We need to seek where our true life is not stay trapped in our old lives.
They should not have power over us.
We should not seek what the world does.
We should seek Christ.

Verse 4, **"When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."**

And Christ is our future.

Christ is our life.
He is the one we seek.
And we look forward to His appearance.
We look forward to Christ's coming again.
Because His promises is that those who seek Him will appear with Him.
We will come back with Him.
He will resurrect us or raise us up in glory.

Our daily seeking is a preparation for that final day.
The world will fade away and only the things of Christ remain.
If we want to find Christ, then we need to seek Him.
Now we are going to see two real ways we seek Christ daily.

II. Put sin to death (v. 5-11) seek Christ by killing sin

We can seek Christ by actively working to kill sin.
Sin is a cancer and power.
It is not just something wrong we do.
It is something that seeks to destroy us.
It wants to keep us from Christ.

Verse 5, **"Put to death therefore what is earthy in you."**

We seek Jesus by putting our sin to death.
This is strong language and that is on purpose.
We are not just trying to sin a little less.
We are trying to put sin to death.
To kill it and remove it.
This is to be our attitude towards sin.
We cannot ignore it.
We cannot downplay it.
We cannot compromise with our sin or give half-hearted attempts.
Once in my house we looked up and noticed some water dripping.
And these was a line of water building up on the ceiling.
I wanted to ignore it because I hate plumbing and I hoped it would go away.

That is what we do to sin when we are not trying to kill it.
Sin does not just go away if we ignore it.
It gets worse.
It festers and grows.
And it will keep growing until one day it explodes and destroys us.
This is why we have to kill it.

"Sexually immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire"

These words are all sexual sins.
Sexually immorality should be put to death.
It should have no place in the lives of believers.
And this word is a catch all.
It is not specific about which kinds of sexual sins were are to put to death.
It means all of them.
It means we put to death desires for sex with the same sex.
It means we put to death desires for sex with those who are not our spouse.
It means we put to death pornography.
It means we put to death lust.
It means we put to death any kind of sexual sin.
This is not the sins other people over there need to do.
This is something we need to put to death in our own hearts.
We need to kill the sinful acts.
We need to kill the sinful thoughts.
We need to kill the sinful desires and passions.
We need to kill the sinful lust.
Sexual sin is a large problem in our world.
But we have to be focused on killing it in our own hearts first.
We cannot seek Christ if these things are allowed to grow in our life.

"and covetousness, which is idolatry"

It seems to me, God is saying that all of our sexual sin is ultimately covetousness.
It is desiring what is not ours.

It is treating people like objects.
It is denigrating those made in the image of God.
And we are desiring what is not ours.
We want something God has not given us.
Or we want something God has told us that we should not have.

Covetousness in sexuality, and in general is idolatry.
All of our sins ultimately are idols.
They are things we love and worship over God.
They are things we desire to please more than God.
There is no greater idol in our culture than sexuality.
We have to put these things to death in ourselves.

Verse 6, **"On account of these the wrath of God is coming."**

This is a reminder of God's coming wrath and judgment.
Sometimes we wonder why God will judge the world.
Why will Revelation be so serious?
Why will God pour out so much punishment on the world?
It is because of the greatness of our idolatry.
His wrath is coming because of the greatness of these sins.
And it is coming for these sins, so stop seeking them.

Verse 7, **"In these you too once walked, when you were living in them,"**

These is something encouraging here.
People who come to faith in Jesus, they come from this past.
They do not always come from being sweet children raised in great godly homes.
We have been raised in Christ having once walked in all of these sins.
And so, in Christ, we are to stop.
They are who we were not who we are.
This is part of why we do not seek them.

Verse 8, **"But now you must put them all away:"**

To seek Christ, we need to put them all away.

We turn our back on all of these sins.
We turn our back on all sin.
We put them far away from ourselves.
This idea of putting them away is like going through your house to take out the trash.
It is getting rid of things and sending them to the dump.
We are to take our sins out to the dump and evict them from our lives.

We do not get to pick and choose.
We can not read through the list and say, "this one I don't do,"
"This one I am bad with"
"Maybe I will work on this one later"
We have to put them all away.
They are together as one poisonous fruit.
It may be helpful to think of them like the fruit of the flesh.
These are the opposite of the fruit of the spirit.

"Anger,"

Christians should not be people of anger.
If we are continually getting angry.
Or if we find ourselves angry, we probably should pause and reflect.
Because the Scriptures warn us to put off anger.
We should not let it control us.
And often times, we get angry when our idols are threatened.
What makes us most angry is rarely because we are offended on behalf of the glory of God.
I discovered this having young kids.
They make me angry a lot.
Because they reveal how much I want life to be about me.
They frustrate my idol worship.
You cannot seek Christ continually and be angry all the time.
Sometimes anger is good and godly, like Christ in the temple.
But that was once.

When we are angry we should ask ourselves if this anger is helping us seek Jesus and be more like Him or not.

"wrath"

Our words should not be filled with wrath.

As followers of Christ, we are to leave wrath in the hand of Christ.

We are to trust it to Him and Him alone.

That means we do not need to be wrathful.

We should not be calling down curses on others.

Nor should we ever feel the need to let someone "really have it."

Nor should we be people who put people in their place.

There should be no wrath in our words.

"malice"

There also should be no malice in our mouth.

There should not be hatred in how we talk about people.

Even the people who are our enemies.

Even the people who are wicked and sinful.

Even the people that we have such a hard time with.

Even the people that totally deserve it.

We should not speak with malice towards them.

We should seek to eliminate this kind of talk from our mouths.

"slander"

There should be no slander in our mouths.

Slander is when we speak lies about other people.

Our entire culture is filled with slander.

Most of our news, media, and social media doesn't work if people are not slandering one another.

And we repeat it, can you believe these people think "....."

The only way to avoid slander is to state what others believe in such a way that they would say "yes that is what I think."

But we slander one another when we assume the worst.

We have to remove this from our mouths.

and "and obscene talk from your mouth."

And we should put away all obscene talk.

On the surface this means we should not curse.

Our talk and words should not be explicit or obscene.

Not because we are not trying to be offensive.

But because every word that comes out of our mouth should please God.

It should be filled with the fruit of the Spirit.

Verse 9, "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices."

We should not lie.

We must put aside all lies.

this means the outright lies when we intentionally say what is not true.

It means the lies when we do not say the full truth and hold something back.

It means the lies when we only give some of the facts.

It is the little white lies.

We are to be putting off all the old self.

We are not to act like we did before we become Christians.

We are to put off all of those old practices.

The habits and things that we did in the past.

We do not just keep doing the same things we did before Christ.

Verse 10, "and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

We are instead to put on the new self.

We are to not seek these old things because we are someone different now.

We have been changed and transformed by Christ.

And we are continually being renewed by Jesus.

He keeps up the work of making us new.

He renews us in knowledge.

The more that we learn and see about Christ, the more we transform.

And we are being renewed and transformed in to the image of God.

Verse 11, **"Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all."**

This may seem like an aside.

But one of the works of sin is to divide us.

And we have to fight our sin in order to not let it.

These are the natural barriers they would have had.

Christians would have tried to divide the world between circumcised and uncircumcised.

Greek and Jews.

The Barbarians and Scythian's were slurs at this time.

Words you only used to insult.

We may say pagans, hillbillies, illegals or worse.

That is what they would have thought of when you said Scythian.

But in Christ, we are no longer these things.

In Christ, we can no longer call people the other.

We are not allowed to divide in the church.

They are because of what divides us.

We are divided by city people and country folk.

We are divided by political parties,

We are divided by ethnicity and our culture.

We are divided by our nations.

We are divided by our economic status.

All of these things have always threatened to divide not just humanity, but the church.

But God reminds them that they are in Christ.

They may have all of these other divisions, but they are united by Jesus.

He is in all of them.

And He is all to all of them.

He is the one who holds it all together.

Christ is not just for one nation, one people, one culture, one political group.

He is for all of us.

And He changes us.
So we have to put aside those divisions.
We have to actively work to not let them divide us.
We have to seek Christ.

How do we put sins to death?
It means we take our sin seriously.
The first step is examining our own hearts for the sins.
We have to start by acknowledging these are not other people's sins, but our own.
We have to give the Holy Spirit room to rebuke us.

And we have to repent.
Then we start small trying to do something different.
We may have to make changes in our habits.
We may have to limit our freedom.
But we need to take our sin seriously.
We need to look for how to kill it and remove it from our lives.
It may need to start small and achievable.
But we have to start.
We cannot let the weeds of sin grow and grow and grow.
We need to kill them.

If you are an unbeliever, you need to kill all your sin.
Drinking less or having less sex is not enough.
You need to be saved by Jesus Christ.
Sinning less will not save you.
Only Jesus Christ can.

III. Put on Christ (v. 12-17) Seek Christ by putting on Christ

It is not enough to not sin, we have to seek holiness.
We uproot the sins in our lives and then replace it with holy things.
So, we seek Jesus positively, by putting on Christ.

Verse 12, **"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,"**

This is what God commands.

It is the opposite of seeking sin.

And these are things we are to put on because of who we are.

If we are Christians than we have been chosen by God.

He called us for a purpose not just to do what we want.

And we are to be holy people.

We are to be set apart from sin because God is holy.

And we are to put on Christ because we are beloved.

Because Jesus loves us.

Because Christ cares for us.

Because Christ has given His life for us.

His love should motivate our actions.

"compassionate hearts."

We should put on compassionate hearts.

We should be people who are filled with compassion for others.

This is not optional.

It is not a personality trait.

Some of us may say we are not naturally compassionate.

The Bible tells us that we should be.

When we think about others.

When we interact with others.

We should be guided by and have hearts of compassion.

"kindness"

We also are to be people who are kind.

Kindness is something that we seek and something we put on.

We work towards being more kind.

There is a misconception of kindness as being a pushover.

Or someone who talks softly and never says anything wrong.

But kindness is a form of grace.

It is not false or empty sweetness.

It is the bestowing of grace on people who may not deserve it.

I think the Holy Spirit convicts us and we know what it means to be kind.
It is not just something to teach kids.
It is something we all must seek.

"humility"

We are to be a humble people.
We should never be a people who are proud.
We should not be those who think they are better than others.
We should be humble.
It means we enter disagreements with others assuming we might be wrong.
We always think about other people before ourselves.
Just as Christ was humble, so we are.

"meekness"

We are to be meek.
We do not seek strength and power.
We seek being willing to be meek.
This doesn't mean a lack of confidence.
It actually means all our confidence is in Christ.
So, we don't need to be in charge or have everyone know how important we are.
We can just be meek trusting in Christ.

"and patience,"

We are to be patient.
We are seeking patience.
We are to be seeking opportunities to practice our patience.
We don't complain when we have to wait in a line or at the store.
We are happy to be patient if God does not say yes to our prayer request immediately.
And we are patient with other people when they frustrate us.

"bearing with one another"

Bearing with one another sounds so nice.

We use it often as Christians we can forget what it means.

You could translate it, tolerate one another.

Put up with one another.

Endure one another.

It is the idea that other people are going to frustrate you.

They are going to wrong you, be annoying, going to be hard to be around.

All these negative things that other people are, we bear.

As Christians, we don't get to just change churches.

We don't get to just choose who we do and don't want to be around.

We are to bear with one another.

"if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Forgiveness is not optional for Christians.

It is not up to us.

It is not something we need to do or accomplish in our own timing.

It is something God commands us to do.

This is what it means to put on and to seek Christ.

We are to be the people who forgive.

And we do this like Christ.

He forgave us when He had complaints against us.

And His complaints against us are more valid than anything we have against others.

Yet, He was willing to die and forgive us.

He did not hold bitterness or let it fester.

He did not hesitate.

He did not debate whether or not He wanted to forgive.

He forgives us.

And He forgives us again and again.

Even when it is the same sin.

This is how we are to forgive others.
It is one of the best ways we can show the gospel.
When we forgive freely, even before repentance.
Because it demonstrates that we only do so because of Christ.
A young white man went into a historically black church in Charleston and killed 9 people in the middle of a Bible study.
Two days later at his hearing, survivors of the victims forgave him.
Not because he deserved it. But because of the gospel.
You can only do that if you are seeking Christ.

Verse 14, **"and above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."**

Above all of these things.
And in all of these things is love.
Because you can be compassionate, kind, humble, meek, patient, bear with others, forgive others, and actually hate them.
Or you can do all of that without loving.
But we are commanded to love.
We do these things motivated by love for one another.

And if we do this it binds us together.
What brings harmony and especially perfect harmony is the love of Christ.
When we treat each other the way Christ treats us.
When we love each other the way Christ loves us.
With a true love that is not based on agreement or things we have in common but is based on the love and blood of Jesus.

Verse 15, **"and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body."**

We seek Christ by letting His peace rule us.
Not our own peace.
But we need to let God's peace come in our lives.
This means that our hearts are controlled by the peace of Jesus.
It rules over us no matter what circumstances come.

Peace rules, which means it makes the decisions.
When we wonder what to do, Christ's peace decides.
When we are stuck on how to act, we must let peace rule.
We must seek Christ's peace.
And we see it as a body and church.

"and be thankful"

Like last week we are to be thankful.
Thankful whether things are going well or not.
Whether we feel great or not.
We are to be thankful because we are seeking Jesus so much we continually see things to be thankful for.

Verse 16, **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,"**

Christians are to be people of the book.
We do not just study and like the Bible.
We are to let His Word dwell in us richly.
It lives inside of us.
And it is rich in us.
We are formed by it.
We are constantly thinking and meditating on it.

"teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,"

We seek Christ by teaching each other.
We encourage one another.
Not just with our opinions on things, but in the wisdom of Jesus.

"singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,"

We sing all three.
We should sing the psalms.
We should sing great hymns.
And we should sing any kind of spiritual song.
We should sing all the things, not just one kind of song or music.
We should seek not sing just our favorites, but every kind of song.

"with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

We seek Christ again by thankfulness.

Not just with our words, but in our hearts.

Verse 17, **"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."**

We seek Christ in everything.

Everything that we do is done in His name.

It is done for His kingdom.

It is done for His purpose.

It is done to bring Him glory.

And we give Him thanks.

When we seek Christ, you will find Him.

Every time you repent of sin.

Every time you turn from sin you will find Him.

Every time you seek holiness you will find Him.

And our whole lives will change as we slowly become more and more like Christ.

So, what are you seeking?

I implore you to seek Christ.

Because He is our hope and salvation.