

LG | Leader

[Colossians 3:12-14]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

God's word is like oxygen to our souls. We desperately need it. Take a moment to pray for spiritual awakening in these next moments as we encounter His word.

- After hearing the sermon from Sunday, what most resonated with you? What were the takeaways for your family as a whole?
- In light of Sunday's message, have you resolved to make any life changes?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read Colossians chapter 3. Let's gain some context for this passage. Who is the author and who is the audience? What genre of literature is this? Who recalls the theme and purpose of Colossians? Paul and Timothy are credited for authorship (Timothy is likely serving as Paul's secretary). Paul is writing to the Christians in Colossae. This epistle (letter/exposition) was probably written around the same time Paul wrote Philemon and Ephesians during his Roman imprisonment. The primary theme of Colossians is that Jesus rules over all things, visible and invisible and he has secured redemption for his people. The purpose of this letter for Paul is to address a dangerous teaching in the church at Colossae.
2. What are the 4 letters Paul wrote while imprisoned?
The prison epistles are; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
3. In verse 12, Paul speaks of a holy lifestyle. What is the makeup of God's chosen ones?
Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience
4. What is forbearance? Why is Paul addressing forbearance? Why is it essential within the Christian community?
Forbearance is tolerance for others, patient self-control. Paul is asking the church in Colossae to be patient with each other but to not tolerate false teaching, which was beginning to present itself.

Showing patience and restraint for others within the body is essential and is a mark of a true Christian.

5. What is the catalyst of “putting on this new self?”

Christ causes us to put on this new self. When someone surrenders to Christ, they die to their old life and their life is now “hidden” in Christ. They receive a deposit of the Holy Spirit which begins the process of growing into Christ (sanctification).

6. Which verse(s) in chapter 3 do you think would be most beneficial to us in these days as we face calamity all around us (racial injustice, riots, etc.)? Why?

[Example: 10-11 – and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.] There are no status distinctions among the new covenant people of God. Jesus binds all together in equality.

7. Who were the Scythians? Who were the Scythians to the Greeks? How does knowing this help us today?

“The Scythians were a people group located along the northern coast of the Black Sea. To the Greeks, the Scythians were a violent, uneducated, uncivilized, and altogether inferior people” (ESV Study Bible). Prejudice and discrimination against other races and cultures were present in the Bible and if we can familiarize ourselves with these texts, we can learn from them and they can help us walk in love towards others.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.