

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
August 19th, 2018
Col. 3:1-2

- **RECAP:** Paul here finishes his statements of condemnation against all these practices that we have discussed for the past weeks, then moves to a new train of thought, now wanting us to understand what we should be focused on instead.

- **“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,”**
 - We’re supposed to be new men and women than we were before Christ. We are “raised” to new life, Paul says, in **Romans 6:1-13**.
 - Ultimately, what’s going to matter is what you did for an eternal impact, not a temporal one. So live for eternal things that will truly matter at the end when you stand before Christ, not temporal goals that will pass away.

- **“seek the things that are above,”**
 - Set your minds on things above, not on things of this earth. Note the contrast here. There are two ways of living: Living for eternal, heavenly things, and living for temporal, earthly things.
 - Don’t be focused on the details of heaven. Those are of course legitimate and beautiful things, the streets of gold, the everlasting peace, the harmony and unending wealth and health, but all of those things are really just pretty details compared to Christ.

- **Point of this passage:** We need to be so focused on Christ, and so seeking relationship and obedience to Him, that it is the driving purpose of our lives. This is not something easy to maintain, but it is what we are called to.
 - This doesn’t mean we give up all our pursuits in life and become monks! But it does mean some mindset changes and focusing. Firstly because we know we are great sinners! Christ makes it extremely clear in **Matthew 5, Romans 3**.
 - And finally, when we realize the true and just punishment such ungodly people earn for themselves, this should bring us to at least a very real and serious reflection of ourselves. **Revelation 20:11-15**. This easily could have been you.
 - Also remember, **1st. Cor. 1:26-29**. You weren’t chosen because you were powerful, or incredibly strong, or wise according to the world! God deliberately chose you,
 - Furthermore, also realize, this God is an amazing God not just because He saved us, in spite of ourselves, but also because He is just intrinsically a great and powerful God! **Isaiah 6**.

- **“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”**
 - If you’re focused on serving Christ, and continue to return to that question of, “How can I serve/give glory to Christ in X today,” then you won’t be so easily distracted by worldly things.

- **Conclusion: Stay focused. Don’t lose focus on eternal things, for temporal things. Ask**

yourself, “How can this thing have eternal benefit today for me or someone else?”