



Growth Group Questions: May 14, 2023 – “The Right Mindset”

Context

As the apostle Paul wrapped up chapter 2 of Colossians, he continued to emphasize the importance of dying to self and the implications of being raised to new life in Jesus Christ. He wanted to remind the believers in Colossae that they did not have to “earn their way” into God’s grace. Because of their faith in Jesus, they were already members of the family of God.

As we move into chapter 3 Paul encourages the believers to set their hearts and minds on things above. They are to “seek” after God and in doing this, their lives will be marked by holiness. Philippians 4:8 gives us an idea of the mindset that Paul wanted the Colossians to have. *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”*

The image of Christ being seated at the right hand of God is an allusion to Psalm 110 and reminds the reader of the sovereign rule that Jesus now has. Jesus is enthroned as Lord of the world and we are to focus on the character of Jesus.

In verse 4 Paul moves to speaking about the new age that has dawned and the tension that we continue to live in. Christ has come and...Christ will come again. We belong to the new age that is to come, and yet we are still a part of this old age. There is still work to be done as we await the arrival of Jesus who will restore all things.

One day Christ will return and believers will not only behold his glory, but they will be glorious as well. Their lives of holiness would be caught up in the glory of Christ and they would be transformed and glorified.



Scriptures:

Colossians 3:1-4

³ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Leviticus 19:1-2

¹⁹ The LORD said to Moses, ² “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’

1 John 3:2

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Isaiah 58:11-12

¹¹ The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.



Questions:

1. The title of this week's sermon is "The Right Mindset." What is a "mindset" and why is it important? Can you change your mindset?
2. In Colossians 3:1-3, the Apostle Paul tells us to "set our minds and our hearts on things above." What does that mean? Why is it important for us to have a heavenly mindset?
3. What can cause our minds to shift away from God? How can we develop and maintain a heavenly mindset?
4. In both 1 Peter 1:16 and Leviticus 19:2, we are told that God instructed us to be holy because He is holy. What does this mean? Is it even possible?
5. How should we live in light of God saying, "Be holy for I am holy"?
6. What does John mean when he says: "But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is"? (1 John 3:2)
7. Pastor Paul shared with us a quote from N.T. Wright who, in his book *Surprised by Hope*, says that we should look forward, not to life after death, but to "life after life after death." What does this mean? Does this quote change how you have thought about "life after death"?
8. In Isaiah 58:11, there are four promises for those who are obedient and abide in the Lord. What are they? What does each of these promises mean to you?
9. Pastor Paul said that our calling from God is seen in Isaiah 58:12. What is this calling?
10. Pastor Paul began his sermon by quoting a famous line from *Les Miserable* in which the author, Victor Hugo, described the bishop in the story by saying "He did not study God, he was dazzled by Him." How can we move from simply studying God to being dazzled by Him? What impact would our being dazzled by God have on our mindsets?

