



## Col 3:1–17, The New Self

September 15

It has been a while in Acts and Romans; now for some new scenery.

**REVIEW:** [Colossians](#)

**CONTEXT:** In writing to the church in Colossae Paul wrote to a church he had never met and which he hadn't planted. The church was started by Epaphras who was converted during Paul's ministry in Ephesus and who returned to form a church in his home city (Acts 19:10). Hearing how well they were doing Paul wrote to encourage them. He also addressed some cultural issues they were facing and the influence of a possible Jewish-pagan shaman like figure who was seeking to lead them astray. This is one of the most Christ-exalting letters and urges believers to lead a Christ-centred life.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Col 1:27b, the Hope of Glory)

- What is the context of Paul telling the Colossians about his suffering ministry in the service of Christ?
- Who is Christ?
- What does it mean for Christ to be “in you”?
- What is hope? What is glory? What then is “the hope of glory”?
- How does understanding this beloved verse make it all the more loveable?

**REVIEW:** Col 2 about the old self.

**READ:** Col 3:1–17

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *In ch. 1 we learn of the greatness of Jesus. If He is so great, why would we settle for anything less?*
2. *The second half of ch. 2 addresses the pressures tempting the Colossians to turn away from Jesus (the old self). Chs. 3–4 encourages them to live in Christ (the new self). Ch. 2 about the old*

*self ends, poignantly, with a focus on self-made religion and fleshly indulgence; key factors of the old self.*

3. **V. 1- What does the word “if” raise?**
4. **What is “raised with Christ” referring to? (see ch. 2:12)**
5. **If this is true, why are we to seek heavenly vs. earthly things (see also Mt 6:6 and 6:33)? How is this possible (by works or reliance on...)?**
6. V-2 is a helpful reminder. It echoes other verses. Can you think of some?
7. What encouragement does v 3 and 4 offer the Christian? If this is true, how should it govern our life today?

**PUT TO DEATH/PUT AWAY**

8. *vv. 5–10a Paul describes the old self, what we are to put to death*
  - a. *Practical ways to do this are shared later.*
9. **List no.1 (v. 5): what do these all have in common? What is God's design that stands against these?**
10. Why should we not persist in these (v. 6) (see also 1 Cor 6:9–10).
11. V. 7- This describes our former life, why do we not live in them now? What encouragement about change does this verse offer us?
12. **List no.2 (v. 8): what do these all have in common? What is God's design that stands against these?**
13. **Why does the old self linger? What image does “put to death” and “put off” convey to us?**

**PUT ON**

14. V. 10- What happens as we follow Ro 12:2? How do we put on this new self?
15. *V. 11- Jesus is building a great people where He, not the world, is Lord and the key to all life.*
16. **In the following verses:**
  - a. **Discuss the characteristics of the new self**
  - b. **The means by which we can facilitate growth**
17. How can we pray for and support one another to be the followers of Jesus He wants us to be?

**NEXT TIME:** Sept 22, Eph 2:11–22, One in Christ