

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“FASHION TIPS:
FASHION DESIGNER”**

We live in a culture that is obsessed with looks. The latest fads sweep our nation and no one wants to be left behind. Yet in our obsession with the outward appearances, have we lost the value of inner beauty? God does not look upon our outward appearance yet He is greatly interested in our hearts. We need to learn how to be attractive in the eyes of God.

DAY 1

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 6:11-12

The Word

We have all heard the question, "If you knew that you were going to die tomorrow, what would you want to do today?" But I would like to put that question differently. "If you knew that you were already dead, how would you respond to new life?"

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Verse 13-15: You were dead. Ponder that thought. The spirit within you was dead. Sin kept you dead. Your future was eternal death. But because of the grace of our Lord, you are now alive. You have been forgiven. The record against you has been wiped clean. Your death was given to Jesus and in return He gave you His eternal life. He not only gave you life but He won victory over those who wanted to keep you dead.

Colossians 2:15

¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Verse 15: What are these powers and authorities whom Jesus defeated? The evil demons of this world.

Ephesians 6:11-12

¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Verse 11-12: The enemy loves death. He wants people to die spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Death is his calling card. Jesus took his call. And He went to the cross. He wore the cloak of sin, of shame, of humiliation, and of pain. And He took death itself and threw it back in the face of Satan! The evil forces believed that death was a sign of their victory. They did not understand that death opened the door to eternal life. Because of the death of Jesus we can be clothed in righteousness, glory, honor, and joy! That's the wardrobe I want! That is a fad that will never go out of style, not even in heaven.

Up Close and Personal

Meditate on the cross. Think about all that it took for Jesus to disarm the powers of evil in order to bring victory to you.

You were dead and now you are alive. How will you live differently?

What are ways that the enemy tries to keep people dead emotionally and spiritually?

In what area of your life do you need the life of Jesus to make a difference in you?

DAY
2

Today's Scripture:
Colossians 3:1-2

The Word

I have heard of many people who have had a near-death experience. They may have been in a serious accident, or were facing a intense surgery, or have had a doctor give them a diagnosis of a serious disease. After people realize that their lives may be cut short and death may be imminent, they seem to live differently. The petty things of this world no longer have a hold of them. They transcend the immediate problems and begin to value all they have in life. They love more deeply, give more of themselves to others, laugh more, and enjoy little things in life. They are changed.

Because of the victory of Jesus at the cross, we are no longer dead but alive in Him. We used to be spiritually dead and now we are alive.

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Verse 1-2: We have been raised with Christ. We have been given a new lease on life. We have gone from death to life. What is your response? Let us think this through using a physical analogy. You were born with a birth defect. Because of your problem, you had to live in the hospital everyday of your life. Day in and day out, you never leave the hospital. Then one day a new doctor comes in and runs some tests. He tells you that He knows of a way that will release you from your prison. You will have to go into surgery. He cannot give you all of the details, but you must trust Him. You decide to trust Him. You are willing to die then to spend another day in the hospital. You are scared but you go into surgery. Hours later you awake. Family and friends are all around celebrating. They tell you that they surgery was a success and after all of these years, you are free to leave the hospital! You are so thankful that you ask to speak to the surgeon. A nurse responds, "Didn't you know? His heart was the only perfect match for yours. He gave His life for you!"

Tears well up at this sacrifice on your behalf. "How can I ever thank Him?"

The nurse responds, "He left instructions. Eat healthy and exercise."

After all this person has been through, don't you think they would want to follow these simple instructions? They have been set free at the cost of Another's life. Could they not follow His simple directions? Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. He has left us instructions. He summarizes two directions right here:

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Verse 1-2: Two simple steps: set your heart on things above and set your mind on things above. These are directions that help us to live in freedom for the rest of our lives. Set your emotions and your thoughts on heavenly things, not earthly ones. This is the response that your Surgeon has asked of you. But you must choose. Will you live a spiritually healthy life or will you stuff your heart and mind with the "junk food" of the world? You decide what to set your heart and mind on. In response to all He has done for you, what will you do?

Up Close and Personal

Thank Jesus for His sacrifice. Request the Spirit's help to set our hearts and minds on the things of heaven.

How do we set your hearts and minds on things above?

Why do you believe that Jesus wants this to be our response to His work on the cross?

What are ways that we can do this throughout the day?



The Word

Today's Scripture:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Matthew 11:28-30; Colossians 3:3; Psalm 23:1-4; Ephesians 2:4-7

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Verse 19-20: You are not your own. You are not in charge. You do not have the final say. You are not in control. You cannot shout about "your rights". You are not independent. And considering all of this: you should be thankful. You were redeemed. You were bought from the enemy with the price of Jesus' blood. He is your new Master. Your former master was evil, cruel, heartless. Your new Master is good, kind, loving.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Verse 29-30: Our former master enjoyed burdening us with stress, pain, heartache, regret, shame, sin, depression. Our new Master wants to take our burdens and carry them upon Himself. He desires to walk beside us and teach us along the way. He wants us to grow up in Him. His yoke is not to burden us but to help us. When a young ox was in need of training, they would yoke him together with an older and more experienced ox. The older ox truly carried the burden. The younger ox just learned what to do. This is what Jesus is pleading for us to do: come to Him, walk with Him, learn from Him. In Him is where we find rest.

You are yoked beside Christ. Another way to view this is as follows:

Colossians 3:3

³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Verse 3: You are hidden in Christ. I love this imagery. As a child, if you were afraid, where did you want to be? You would run to the arms of a parent. There you were “hidden” from the danger, from the pain, from the fear. The same is true for you today. Your life is permanently hidden in Christ. You are linked beside your Master. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will lead you.

Psalm 23:1-4

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

*² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

*³ he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*⁴ Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

Verse 1-4: You are being led to good places. Sometimes the journey may be difficult but in the end you are being taken to places of rest and restoration. You are never without anything you need. You are taken care of, for your Guide is with you.

To know that we are “hidden in Christ” enables us to understand that we have everything we need to be able to live up to His instructions for us. Remember that we learned yesterday that He wants us to set our hearts and mind on eternal matters. This

would be impossible to do on our own. We are not capable. However, He has assured us that we are hidden in Him and He is able to lead our hearts and minds to rest in Him. For in Him, we are already located in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Verse 4-7: In Christ Jesus, you are seated in the heavenly realms. This is a deep mystery but since we are in Him and He is in us, we are together with Him in the heavenly places. Spiritually speaking, we are already there. Now, physically speaking, we will be there after our deaths or the rapture. For now, the Spirit who is eternal resides within you. He is not confined by time for He is outside of time. You are in Jesus who also is eternal. In the eternal plan, you are already seated in the heavenly realms. I hope this is mind-boggling to you. Let it lead you to praise. But let it also make you wonder how could someone seated in the heavens dwell on this temporal earth? That is like a Prince or Princess focusing on the moat outside the castle instead of the riches of their kingdom! Stop setting your mind on the “dirty water” of this world. Instead, set your heart and mind on the One in whose life you are already hidden, your Guide, who is walking you towards your Home!

Up Close and Personal

Confess any sin which keeps you tugging on the “yoke of Christ” instead of walking with Him.

How are our lives hidden in Christ?

What are your thoughts on the Scripture that tells us that we are seated in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus?

How is setting your hearts and minds on heavenly things connected with honoring God with your body?

The price Jesus paid for us is connected with how we should respond (obedience). How does meditating on the cross help us to obey the Word of God?

DAY
4

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:4; Revelation 19:6-8; Colossians 3:1-2

Have you ever looked in the mirror and thought, "Who is this old person staring back at me?" Or maybe it's just that all your "flaws" seem more highlighted like the dark circles under your eyes that now look like you had been in a boxing match! On those really rough days remember this:

Colossians 3:4

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

Verse 4: A time is coming when you will be glorious. You will appear with Christ and radiate His glory. The Spirit who is within you and is covered by this earthly flesh will somehow be set free to showcase you in God's brilliance. You will never be dressed finer. The glory of God will be manifest. However, you also have a part in creating your heavenly outfit.

Revelation 19:6-8

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

*⁷Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!*

*For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

*⁸Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

Verse 6-8: You will be clothed in your righteous acts. All of your good works done here on earth, will be part of your splendor as you appear with Christ in His glory. How will you be dressed in heaven? Your every action determines your future attire. Dr. David Jeremiah jokingly remarked that he thinks that with some people who are only want to "just get to glory" but do not care about living for the Lord on earth may find themselves

indecently dressed in heaven! I hope that does not describe us. We must work to make ourselves beautiful for the King! How do we act righteously? Let's review the verses we have studied this week.

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Verse 1-2: By setting our hearts and minds on the things above, our actions will stem from the heavens. Our hearts and minds determine our responds. If we think like the world, we will act like the world. If we think like heaven, we will act like heaven. Jesus is our righteousness. He will lead us towards righteousness. These righteous acts will be rewarded in heaven. We will be dressed in them. Our future glory will be in proportion to our present actions. Thus, the more we decide to set our hearts on minds on Christ, the more we will be a reflection of His glory in heaven!

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to get ready to appear with Him in His glory.

Express in your own words how setting your heart and mind on heavenly things will make a difference in your future.

What can you begin to do today that will help you be dressed in the righteous actions of the saints?

The following is a quote from C.S. Lewis. Write your thoughts about it.

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:1-4

Colossians 3:1-4

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Verse 1-4: Past. Present. Future. All three parts of your life are summed up in these verses. All of time is wrapped up in four verses. The beginning and the end is right here.

Let's begin with the past. You were raised with Christ. It does not matter what you have done. Your history is summed up with Christ. He chose to give you a new life. Each time you sin, each time you succeed, you can look back and see one thing, "you have been raised with Christ." That is your past. Each day it brings hope for our present and our future. For those of you who are bogged down with regrets or who are obsessed with past achievements, then let me tell you that your eyes are on the wrong event in your life. Turn your eyes to that moment in time when you became new in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Verse 17: You are new. You are constantly being made new. You are being renewed each day. Your past fades away. Every achievement, every failure passes by, never to be regained. But the life of Christ which you have been raised, grows more and more in you. That is the only event in your history that matters. The rest can be discarded.

Philippians 3:7-8, 12-14

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Verse 7-8, 12-14: The past is the past. Today, this moment, is all that we have control of. We must choose to use this time to stretch forward to what is ahead. What is that future? Review verse four of Colossians chapter three.

Colossians 3:4

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

Verse 4: Your life which was made new when you were “raised with Christ” will now appear with Christ. Jesus, who is your life, who dwells within you, will finally be seen face to face. You will see your Hope, your Savior, your Redeemer, your Life right before your eyes. He will appear. You will see Him for in Him you, too, will be eternally alive.

John 11:25-26

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Verse 25-26: We will be with Him. Forever. And ever. And ever! He is our Life and that Life is within us so we have no fear of death. Our future is eternally secured. Our future is life. That life began when in the past we were “raised with Christ” and that life will continue. It will never end. That is your future.

Our future is glorious. Our past ensures our future. What is our present?

Colossians 3:1b-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Verse 1-2: Your present is active. It has a purpose. It is a struggle. It is a fight. It is exciting! The Christian life is not about sitting in seclusion. The Christian life is not irrelevant to real world issues. Instead, the true Life gives us life to face every situation.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to

demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Verse 3-5: Each moment we are in the middle of a fight. We are living out a real life action movie. The enemy comes against us in our minds. He throws out his arsenal of weapons to fight the Spirit of God within you. You can join in on the victory by setting your heart on things above, on the place of heaven, on the Person of Christ.

Does this sound dull to you? Then you have no understanding of spiritual warfare. The Lord Almighty has recruited you to be a warrior in His battle against evil! Your present can secure great gains or great losses to the kingdom of God! You are valued by God. Will you value God by living for Him? Where you set your heart and mind shows who you value.

Mark 12:30-31

³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Verse 30-31: Your present allows you the opportunity to show your thankfulness for what Christ did in your past (raising you with Him) and what He will do in your future (appearing with you). Time is passing. More and more slips into the past. Choose now to make the present one that pleases the One who has given and will continue to give you life eternal!

Up Close and Personal

Praise our Lord Jesus Christ for the eternal life that He has given you. He gave you this life in the past so that you may have this life forever!

Think through your past. There are moments of failures and success. How will you begin to focus on Jesus' work of salvation instead of what you have done?

How does focusing on salvation help you to forget your past failures and achievements?

How does the future give you hope?

How does understanding your past and future help you to live for Jesus today?

How does the act of setting your heart and mind on things above showcase your love for God?