

3. Colossians: Ruling with Christ

Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Luke 12.15

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3.2

Jesus, discerning the man's heart, told The Parable of the Rich Fool, teaching his disciples then, and us today, against _____.

The thrust of Jesus teaching, although aimed at greed, is about _____! In what or Whom do we trust? Another way of understanding the issue is "where do I find my security in life?"

Greed is not measured by full barns or fat portfolios, although they are a good indicator of greed. Greed is measured by what one _____!

This leads us right into Paul's instructions to the Colossians who, being the only congregation the apostle applauded for being mature in Christ, were still in danger of falling into _____, that is accepting false teachings, rather than trusting solely in Christ.

"Seek" and "set" are two actions Paul wanted them, and now us, to take: having been raised with Christ we are now to seek the things that are _____, and set our minds on things that are above.

When He urged them, and now us, to set our minds on things above, he also offered this _____, ourselves hidden with Christ ruling with the Father. This vision of us with Christ at the right hand of God is to shape the world in which we live.

Paul wanted the Colossians, and us today, to see beyond the deceptive appearances of money, sex, and power, which become greed, lust and tyranny when they _____ our allegiance. For we cannot serve earthly masters and Christ at the same time.

We are to _____ our lives with the heavenly vision in this text, that is, Christ at the right hand of the Father and we hidden in Christ! How do we do that?

By putting to death.... It is not the apostle's intent to have us cast off all restraints in order to live authentically, for he also encourages us to put _____ the new... according to the image of its Creator.

I encourage us this week, to meditate on this vision the Apostle Paul has for our lives: imagine in your mind, Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father, and your _____ hidden with Christ in God. That vision, as it grabs our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit, will reshape how we think, how we feel, and how we act!

