

LIVING THE KINGDOM

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

SERMON SUMMARY

Our thoughts reveal a lot about our values. We can either be consumed with thoughts about the things of this world, which could be anything and everything from money, to relationships, our looks or our careers; or we can be consumed with the things of God. When we set our minds on God, we are intentional to grow in our relationship with Jesus through prayer and reading His word. We consider the eternal promises of heaven over the temporary circumstances in this world. And as we strive to follow and reflect Jesus in all that we do, we will bring the kingdom of God into the Kingdom of Man.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. Share what you have been thinking about this week. What consumed you with worry or fear? What brought you joy or peace?
2. In general, what consumes your thoughts? How do the things that you think about impact how you live? The decisions you make? The way you act?
3. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What are some ways that you can set your mind on the things of God? What are the things that are worthy or valued by God?
4. Read Colossians 1:16-17. Discuss what it means for everything to be for Jesus. How does this truth impact your life? Your relationships with others? How you conduct business, etcetera? Are these areas of your life even impacted by what you know about Jesus, or do you keep your faith separate? What would it look like for Jesus to rule everything about you?
5. What are some things you can do to keep an alert mind that is focused on God? What do the following scriptures have to say?
 - Colossians 4:2 (devoted to prayer)
 - Joshua 1:8 (devoted to the word of God)
 - Luke 15:7 and Colossians 4:5-6 (devoted to building relationships with lost people and rejoicing when they repent and turn to Jesus)
 - 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (devoted to the promise of heaven)

- 1 Corinthians 9:24- 26 (devoted to discipline)

6. In which of the above areas do you struggle with (prayer, reading the bible, sharing the gospel)? What do you need to learn in order for these things to grow in value? What do you need to give up or set aside so that you can devote yourself to these things?

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED

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

for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,[a] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,[b] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. (Colossians 3:11)

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. (Colossians 4:2)

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! (Luke 15:7)

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. (1 Corinthians 9:24- 26)

QUOTES

"I prayed a strange prayer today. I covenanted with my Father that he would do either two things. Either glorify Himself to the utmost in me, or slay me. By His grace, I shall not have His second best. He heard me I believe, so that now, I have nothing to look forward to but sacrificial sonship, or heaven soon. Perhaps tomorrow. What a prospect!" Jim Elliot

"I have one desire now - to live a life of reckless abandon for the Lord, putting all my energy and strength into it." Elizebeth Elliot

"The more we set our minds on the kingdom of God, the more we bring the Kingdom of God into the kingdom of man." Jason Corbin

SERMON ONLINE...

<https://www.genesisthejourney.com/sermon/living-the-kingdom/>