

The Preeminent Messiah

Lesson Eight

Focus your minds

Colossians 3:1-7

In chapter two Paul pointed out that we were spiritually dead because of sin.

Colossians 2:13 CJB

(13) You were **dead because of your sins**, that is, because of your **"foreskin,"** your old nature. But God made you **alive** along with the Messiah by **forgiving** you all your sins.

The sin that Paul is talking about is the sin passed on to us from our fore parents. He explains it clearly in romans chapter five.

Romans 5:12-14 CJB

(12) Here is how it works: it was through **one** individual that **sin** entered the world, and through sin, **death**; and in this way death passed through to the **whole human race**, inasmuch as **everyone** sinned.

Yahweh took the initially and sent his son down here to earth to eradicate this sin in the human nature. His son, Yeshua (Yahweh saves), dealt with sin by taking upon himself the sins of all humanity and dying in our place.

1 Peter 2:24 CJB

(24) He himself **bore our sins** in his body on the stake, so that we might die to sins and **live** for righteousness—by his wounds you were healed.

After his death, Yahweh brought Yeshua **back to life again** and now he is seated on His right hand in heaven.

Romans 8:34 HS

(34) Who is he who is condemning? It is Ha'Mashiah (Messiah) who died, and furthermore is **also raised up**, who is also at the **right hand** of Yahweh, who also makes intercession for us.

Paul points out to us that, since we have died to sin, **in the messiah**, Elohim has also made us alive **together** with him.

Colossians 2:13 CJB

... But God made you **alive** along with the Messiah by **forgiving** you all your sins.

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By being made alive in messiah, and having our **old nature cut way**, we should no longer hold on to our **old life style**.

In other words, having begun a new life in messiah,

- we should not allow ourselves **to be taking captive** by tradition and doctrine of man. [Colossians 2:8]
- We should not follow those who are trying to **promote themselves** through vain deceit. [Colossians 2:18]
- We are to remain **deeply rooted** in messiah and keep our focus on him [Colossians 2:7]

Therefore, Paul begins chapter three by saying-

Colossians 3:1-4:6 CJB

- (1) So if you **were raised along** with the Messiah, then seek the things above, where the Messiah is sitting at the right hand of God.
- (2) **Focus your minds** on the things above, not on things here on earth.
- (3) For you **have died**, and your life is **hidden** with the Messiah in God.

Paul is not saying that we should be "so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good". We are still living in this world and must conduct ourselves accordingly. The idea here is about sinful conducts. We are not to participating in those things that causing us to miss the mark and **loose our prize**.

This will require a **conscious decision** on our part. It is not, as some believe, that once you are born again you **cannot sin**, and if you sin it is proof that you were never born again. Being redeemed and reconciled does not take away our **freedom** to choose. Adam and Eve had the **freedom** to obey Elohim or disobey him. Their choice was to disobey.

John says that it is those who **keeps on** sinning that are lost. If you are in the messiah, you will not **continue** to sin. You will commit a sinful act, but that is not the same as continuing to sin.

1 John 3:6 CJB

- (6) So no one who **remains united** with him continues sinning; everyone who does continue sinning has neither seen him nor known him.

Elohim **will** keep those who **remains united** with him **safe**. He will give them the ability to live free from sin as long as we continue in Messiah.

Believers, will sin according to what john said in-

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1 John 1:8-9 CJB

(8) If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(9) If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing.

So, we are not kept from sinning **automatic** because we are in the kingdom of Elohim. We must exercise our free will. We must put forth an effort to cooperate with the **Ruach HaKodesh** (Holy Spirit) in living holy.

Paul says to us-

Colossians 3:5

(5) Therefore, **put to death** the earthly parts of your **nature**—sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (which is a form of idolatry);

(6) for it is because of these things that **God's anger** is coming on those who disobey him.

(7) True enough, **you used to practice** these things in the life you once lived;

However, now we are **reconciled with Elohim**. our old, unreconciled, sinful lives are gone. They have passed into history. But we are still human beings with **human characteristics** and associations; that **human** part of us is not divorced from our past and we must continue to deal with the earthly part of our nature..

2 Corinthians 5:17 TLV

(17) Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

These bodies that we live in are still prone to temptation. We still have the urges to continue in our old life style. We still have these fleshly desires creeping up in us that we **must crush**.

One way to deal with temptation is to "Focus **your minds** on the things above, not on things here on earth.

Romans 8:5 CJB

(5) For those who identify with their **old nature** set their minds on the things of the old nature, but those who **identify with the Spirit** set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

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By focusing on **Yeshua in heaven** above and leaning on the Spirit we can, “**put to death** the earthly parts of your **nature**”. It is only through the spirit that we can do this.

in verse five of Colossians 3 Paul itemizes some things that continues to be a problem to born again believers **even today**.

- **Sexually** immorality. [*of all forms- Levitical 18*]
- **Impurity**, [in a moral sense: the impurity of **lustful** (*strong feeling of sexual desires*), **luxurious**, (*extremely comfortable, elegant, or enjoyable, especially in a way that involves great expense.*) **profligate** [recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources] living, of impure motives
- **Lust**, [depraved passion, vile passions]
- **Evil desires** [desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden.
- **Greed**

Let's explore **sexually** immorality.

The Greek word **porneia** for sexual immorality includes a large range of sexual promiscuity.

Thayer Definition:

1) illicit sexual intercourse

1a) adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.

1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18

These are all part of our **old nature**, and when we come to the messiah and are saved by grace through our faith in him, they don't automatic die, we must put those desire to death.

Colossians 3:7

True enough, **you used to practice** these things in the life you once lived;

Those who are rooted in the messiah, who are members of his kingdom, are expected to live a life that portrait the character of the Elohim.

Therefore, our goal it to lay aside the sin that keep tripping us up. (Hebrews 12:1)

Romans 6:11-12 CJB

(11) In the same way, **consider yourselves to be dead to sin** but alive for God, by your union with the Messiah Yeshua.

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(12) Therefore, **do not let sin rule in your mortal bodies**, so that it makes you obey its desires;

The fact that Paul says to us, **do not let sin rule in your mortal bodies** tells us that we must cooperate with the **Ruach HaKodesh** (Holy Spirit). The **desire** to sin is still there, but it will rule over us **only** if we allow it to. The Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) is here to help us, to strengthen us, to teach us, to correct us and to guide us. But he will not **force** us to do what we don't want to do.

WE can decide if we will let sin make us obey its desires. We must **focus** our mind on the right things. Peter tells us to get our minds ready for action.

1 Peter 1:13-16 CJB

(13) Therefore, get **your minds ready for work**, keep yourselves under control, and fix your hopes fully on the gift you will receive when Yeshua the Messiah is revealed.

(14) As people who obey God, **do not let yourselves** be shaped by the evil desires you **used to have** when you were still ignorant.

(15) On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, **become holy** yourselves in your entire way of life;

(16) since the Tanakh says, "**You are to be holy because I am holy.**"

Yeshua is coming back to earth for a holy congregation. We are not to wait until we see Yeshua coming to try to get holy. **It will be too late.**

John tell us that in revelation chapter 22.

Revelation 22:11-12 TLV

(11) Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do righteousness, and the holy still be holy.

(12) Behold, I am coming soon, and **My reward is with Me**, to pay back each one according to his deeds.

What are you focusing on today?

Have you put to death your old nature? Or are you still practicing sin?

Who is in control of **your** mind? The Holy Spirit of Satan?

What reward will you receive when Yeshua come?

I want you to think seriously about these questions. If you find you are not where you need to be in your relationship with Elohim, today is the perfect time to allow the holy spirit to change you.

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Remember the words of the apostle john-

1 John 1:9 TLV

(9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.