

Sermon Series: True Spirituality

Sermon Title: "Seeking the things above"

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:1-4

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Read Colossians 3:1-4
- What is this passage basically about?
- How does it fit with Paul's flow of thought from 2:6 onwards? See if you can quickly summarize what Paul has been saying and how this advance his 'argument' forward.
- What does Paul say about us here? What does Paul say about Jesus? What does Paul say about what we should do?
- What questions do you have about this passage?

Sermon Discussion Questions: This will help you think through the passage and what you heard in the message.

- What's the vision for Cornerstone Bible Church that was described in this message? (See Colossians 1:28,29 if you can't remember)
- How would you summarize spiritual maturity?
- How does Colossians 2:1-5 help us understand what it looks like to be spiritually mature?
- What insight does Colossians 2:6,7 give us into how we are to live now as Christians?
- Explain the significance of the following quote in your own words: "If you looked at what you believed when you became a Christian, it's a whole new way of looking at the world. You weren't just picking up some nice little tips on how to live a better life. You were receiving this shocking, alternative view of reality, of looking at what has gone on in this world and what is going on in this world and what is going to go on in this world that is completely different than the way you looked at it before, this whole new of thinking and looking at every area of your life and really a big part of growing in your Christian life and living a life that pleases God and is spiritually mature is learning to look at everything in light of it."
- Even though that process doesn't seem that complicated, what's the danger or threat Paul's concerned about for the Colossians? How might that be a threat for us?
- Explain Colossians 2:8 in your own words.
- In this message, we summarized three important steps we must take if we are not going to be taken captive. What are they?
- Look at Colossians 3:1-4 and see if you can explain how this passage "works." What is Paul doing here?

- Explain the idea of “if then.” How does this help us understand how we are to think as a Christian?
- What is the specific reality Paul is considering here about what it means to be a Christian?
- There’s a change that has taken place to your very identity when you become a Christian. Talk through how knowing that change and understanding that change would be practical.
- How does Paul say this reality should change our perspective on life?
- Explain the two commands Paul gives. What do you think they mean? What would living them out look like? What questions do you have about them?
- Talk specifically about setting your minds on things above. What is the importance of doing this? What are some of the challenges to doing this? What would it look like for you to do this?
- Living like this is going to involve a total transformation. What are some motivations Paul gives as to why we should do this in verses 3 and 4?
- How can your life change as a result of this message?

Sermon in a Nutshell: A sermon has a lot of words, and this short summary may help you quickly understand what it was all about.

We want to be a spiritually mature church. God’s given us all the resources we need to become that. But, unfortunately believers often get stuck and taken off track by ideas that sound wise but are actually deceptive and don’t match up to the truths we have embraced in the gospel. We are constantly being influenced to think a certain way about life and we don’t always even realize it. If we are not going to cave in, be hijacked, and taken captive and live some sort of weird, sad, strange hybrid half and half combination Christian and anti-Christian life and put TRUE SPIRITUALITY on display to the world instead, we are going to need to take some real practical steps which Paul has been giving us here in chapters 2 and 3. Paul doesn’t just say walk in Christ, he gives us some practical steps to make sure we are applying the gospel all the way down.

1. We must not settle for a worldly way of doing religion - 2:16-23
2. We must make sure that we appreciate what it means to be in Christ - 3:1-4
3. We must adjust our thinking and living to match up with who we are in Christ - 3:1-4

Cross References: The following cross references may help you think more about what you learned in the message today.

- Romans 12:1,2
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Matthew 6:19-21

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.

Sermon Application: We don't listen to messages just to gain more information. We want to know God, love Christ and be transformed more and more into His image. Sermons are God-given opportunities to help us pursue that.

1. What encouraged you about the gospel today?
2. What do you have to worship and thank God for as a result of this message?
3. Where was your thinking challenged? How could you think or live differently as a result of what this passage taught us?