

Sermon Title: Helps for Fighting Sinful Desire, Part 4

Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:3-6

Getting Started: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Pray
- Review your notes from last week's message
- Read the text

The Big Idea: This will give you a basic idea of what the message was about today.

We want to be heavenly minded. To be heavenly minded, we must stop being earthly minded. In this message, we will think about what it means to be earthly minded and how to put earthly mindedness to death.

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

- What was the wrong way to be religious according to Colossians 2?
- What vision for the Christian life does Paul lay out in Colossians 3:1-4?
- How would you summarize what it means to set our minds on things above in your own words?
- What is the first step we need to take to set our minds on things above?
- When Paul talks about being earthly minded, what is he talking about? I gave you several characteristics from Jeremiah Burroughs. Can you remember any of them?
- We reviewed the five 'helps' for fighting sinful desire from last week. What were they?
- How does Paul define covetousness in this passage?
- What does that tell you about this sin? What can we learn about it from this?
- How is covetousness a kind of "scam?"
- Can you think of some of the lies that covetousness and sexual sin tell us? Identify five of them.
- How seriously do you take the wrath of God? How often do you think about the judgment? What impact should thinking about these things have on the way we respond to temptations to be greedy or sexually sinful?
- How have these messages challenged you? How should you seek to live differently as a result of what we have studied?

Quotable: The following quotes may help you reflect on this message during the week.

- "If your mind is carnal and sensual, or filled with earthly things, a due sense of the love of Christ and its glory will not abide in them...A mind habitually filled

with sensual, worldly thoughts is diametrically opposed to one that is contemplating and enjoying the glory of the love of Christ; yes, an earnestness of spirit, pregnant with a multitude of thoughts about the lawful occasions of life, is obstructive of all due communion with the Lord Jesus Christ herein. Few there are whose minds are prepared in a due manner for this duty. Their actions and conversations reveal what is going on in their souls. They rove up and down in their thoughts, which are continually led by their desires into the corners of the earth. It is in vain to call such persons unto contemplations of the glory of Christ in his love, because a holy composure of mind, by virtue of spiritual principles, an inclination to seek after refreshment in heavenly things, and to bathe the soul in the fountain of them, with constant apprehensions of the excellency of this divine glory, is required.”

- “So then, my dearest friends, I hope I have stirred up some longing in your heart; good habits lead to understanding; the kind of life lived here leads to the kind of life lived hereafter. An earthly life is one thing and a heavenly life is another; there is the life of a herd, the life of human beings, the life of angels. The life of a herd burns for earthly pleasures, it only seeks earthly things, toward which it is inclined and driven; the life of angels is just heavenly; the life of human beings is in the middle between that of angels and that of the herd. If human beings live according to the flesh, they are on part with the herd; if they live according to the spirit, they associate with angels. When you are living according to the spirit, ask yourself, even in this angelic life, whether you are little or big. If you are still a little one, in fact, the angels say to you, ‘Grow, we are eating bread; you are being nourished on milk, the milk of faith, so as to come eventually to the food of sight.’ However, if there is still a craving for sordid pleasures, if fraud is still being considered, if telling lies is not avoided, if perjury is piled on top of lying, would such an unclean heart have the nerve to say, ‘Explain to me [the Scriptures...] Well now, if I by any chance, am not involved in such bad morals, and, for all that, am still a long way off from attaining such vision, how much further from it must be those who are not yet caught up by this heavenly desire, still weighed down by earthly desires! There is a big difference between someone who shuns something and someone who desires it, and again a big difference between someone who desires it and someone who enjoys it. You live like an animal, shunning heavenly life, the angels fully enjoy it. But if you do not live like an animal, are not shunning heavenly life, you desire it and do not grasp it; by that very desire you have begun to live the life of angels. Let it grow in you and be perfected in you and you will grasp it, not from me, but from the one who made both me and you!”

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.