

Look up Genesis 1:16,17, 3:3, Colossians 2:12, 13, Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 6:8. In what two ways have the Colossians died? How does one death solve the problem of the other?

Look up Ephesians 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 1 Peter 2:9. What does it mean to be 'chosen' by God?

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Paul tells the Colossians to set their minds on "things that are above." What might it look like in your life if you did likewise? What kinds of things would you give your attention to?

It is a wonderful truth that Christians are 'chosen' by God. What are the implications of this truth your life? In your own words, how should this truth impact the way in which you live?

How well are you doing in the call to put on "compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience"? Perhaps it may be good to surrender any failure in this respect to God in prayer.

*God has raised those who have a living faith in Christ, and calls them to live in a manner consistent with the new life he gives. Make it your prayer to be open to God's leading as he calls you to a life of love and peace.*

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# A Short Study of COLOSSIANS 3:1-4, 12-17

*In this study from the third chapter of Colossians we hear Paul's call to set our minds on heavenly things and to put on love and peace.*

## COLOSSIANS 3:1-4, 12-17

- 1 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*
  - 2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
  - 3 *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*
  - 4 *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*
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- 12 *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,*
  - 13 *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*
  - 14 *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
  - 15 *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*
  - 16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
  - 17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

## OBSERVATION

Although Paul starts with an 'if,' he is not expressing doubt about the fact that the Colossians Christians had been "raised with Christ." Rather, he is forcing them to consider the implication of their having been raised. Mark the words 'seek' and 'set.'

- How should the Colossians respond to having been raised with Christ?
- What reasons does Paul give?

Mark the words 'life,' 'hidden' and 'appears.'

- What does Paul say about their life at the time?
- What does Paul say will happen to them?

Mark the word 'chosen.'

- How does Paul describe God's chosen children?
- What does Paul tell them to "put on"?

Mark the word 'forgive,' 'forgiving' and 'forgiven.'

- What is the motive for the Colossians to forgive one another?

Paul also tells the Colossians to "put on love."

- What does love do?
- What two things does Paul say the Colossians should 'let...'?
- What attitude comes from doing these things?

## CROSS REFERENCES AND INTERPRETATION

Paul tells the Colossians to 'seek...' and 'set...' Is there any difference between the two? In what way?