

## Gems from Colossians

### 2 – How to Live as a Christian (Col 3:1-11)

Professor Hallesby wrote a book called "Religious or Christian?" It speaks of the fundamental difference Jesus Christ makes to life and motives.

**v.1-4:** Set your hearts and minds on things above. When we become a Christian we have begun on a journey. We have joined the school of Christ as a learner. And that does not mean that we are to become "so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use." The opposite in fact – we are to see all life through the eyes of Christ, see his purposes and reflect them in our everyday conduct, character, work, aims and relationships. We are to live so that Christ, His spirit and His purposes are seen in how we handle daily life, time, money, relationships, aims and everything else. We do not become perfect the moment we accept Christ. We begin on a journey. To be a disciple means to be an apprentice, a learner. We are to seek Christ and open our lives daily to Him, His life and character. A new motive and purpose has entered our lives – to grow in Him, to grow like Him, to please Him and to represent Him in all we are and do. We haven't arrived. We have just begun.

Paul does not urge us to hide away in a monastery or convent – or in a church fellowship, important through that is. He tells us to go out into all life with a new spirit, vision and purpose.

**v.5-11:** Some of us after our conversion have had to change our ways very radically. Others, blessed with a more gentle character and life have not changed much to outward appearance but a new spirit and motive for life have come in. Paul speaks of the new motive and ways as though they were a change of clothes. Put off, he says (v.8), things and habits that cannot please or serve Christ. Put on (v.10) new aims and motives for life – those that reflect Him.

In this world we shall never be sin free. But our sins are forgiven (1 John 1.9). We have been given a new aim, a new spirit. We are on a new journey and there is One who walks with us in it.

#### Questions for discussion:

1. We may not bow down to images made of wood or stone but what idols do we have today?
2. Commercialisation of life seeks to make us always wanting things. Greed is encouraged - it sells things. Jesus warned us against it (Luke 12.15). How can we guard against its influence today?
3. What have been the greatest helps to you in growing in the knowledge and spirit of Christ?
4. Verse 11 shows what a great variety of ethnic and cultural people there were in the early Church. Paul says they are now one family in Christ. (Cf. Gal 3.28). How much love and care are we giving and showing to Christians in difficult, poverty stricken or dangerous parts of our world today? Are we looking upon them and treating them as "family"?
5. Religious or Christian? What is the difference? What was wrong with the Pharisees – after all they tried their hardest to keep all the rules of religion?
6. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus .... and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace". In what sense are these words true and in what sense are they quite untrue?