

Grounded in Grace

Pictures of Hope and Redemption Pt 2 Picture #1 A Peaceful and Purposeful Life

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17



On the morning of September 11, the news radio and television stations reported a beautiful clear blue sky. Life was normal and peaceful. People went to work, boarded planes, and got on transit. No one had any idea the events that would transpire in the minutes and hours ahead. As I think about hope and redemption, I believe this is a good picture to start our series. The reason for this picture is that usually when tragedy strikes and circumstances swerve the courses of our lives it comes during unexpected and often peaceful times. This is the main reason I chose Colossians 3:17 for us to ponder because it is the climax of chapter three.

Eternal perspective

Paul has instructed the church in Colosse to set their hearts and minds on things above and not on earthly things. In other words, we are instructed to have an eternal and heavenly perspective. The main reason for us to have this view is because our lives are hidden in Christ. (Colossians 3:3). We are concealed and sealed in the love of God through the Son's atoning sacrifice for our souls.

In the view of these facts, Paul instructs us to live holy lives through being aware of our sinful patterns and by understanding the power of our redemption and the unity that comes through being free in Christ. Lastly, Paul reminds us that we are chosen to love and to forgive just as we are forgiven. Colossians 3:17 is the summary of all that has been said in the previous verses. Let's take a deeper look.

A Purposeful Life “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. . .”

Every day we wake up, every day we go to work, every day that we kiss our spouse, child or pet (okay, maybe that’s just for me) good-bye, we are to be motivated by the love of Jesus Christ. Every day we struggle through conflict, every day we struggle with our sinful tendencies, every day we struggle with the mundane things in life, we need to remember the love of Jesus Christ for our souls. For in this life we must be focused on giving glory to the Lord instead of gaining glory for ourselves. Sometimes this means giving up control and other times it means stepping in and being assertive. Whatever the case may be, our lives are to be lived in the view of eternity with the glory of the Lord on our lips. In the tough times, the good times, and the ugly times, we are to conduct ourselves with dignity and give others dignity because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Thankful Life “. . . giving thanks to God. . .”

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, give thanks to God. Our lives not only need to have a purpose but need to be fragrant with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is one of the most important concepts in life. When things are going well our hearts need to be thankful because we taste God’s goodness. When we begin to face struggles we should taste God’s mercy and find an inner strength of dependence. When we find our lives in destruction we must feel the power of God’s construction. Whatever the case may be -in joy or in sorrow- we know that God is sovereign and in control and for that we can be thankful. Our hearts can give thankful to God because we know that our lives are hidden with Him in all eternity.

A Father-full Life “. . .God the Father through him.”

Lastly, our lives are lived in view of being a chosen child of God. Is it any wonder Paul reminds us over and over again that our relationship with God is as our Heavenly Father? Each day our lives are to be lived in view of being a child and having a father who loves our soul. Each day, our lives are to be lived in the view of having a faithful father who protects us, holds us, and hides us in his arms. We have a “father-full” life. So as we walk through the days of peace, we have a father in heaven holding up the sky. As we walk through the clouds and rain, we have a father full of mercy and grace waiting to shelter us from the storm. Every day is to be lived in the view of God’s eternal love. So as we enter our story looking for hope and redemption, let’s remember the foundation of our lives is built upon the power and passionate love of the Father.