

## COLOSSIANS 4

1. In the life of a Christian, where does our concern for others come from?

-From the heart of the Lord Jesus who lives in us.

2. If we Christians do not have concern for other Christians, then what is happening in us?

-We are not allowing the heart of Christ in us to have His perfect way.

3. How is Christ the mystery of God?

-All that we need to know about God is found in Christ.

-All of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge about God are found in Christ.

4. What will false teachers teach?

-They will teach that the Lord Jesus is not enough, and that they have other wisdom and knowledge which Jesus does not have.

5. If we Christians are complete in Christ, what does this mean?

-That spiritually, we have everything that we need.

-That spiritually, we lack nothing.

-That spiritually, there is nothing else to be added.

6. What is the circumcision not performed by human hands?

-It is a spiritual circumcision by Christ which cuts off

our old nature, and gives us a new nature.

Let's read Colossians 3:1-3

1-Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2-Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3-For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

-Even though we are still here on earth, the Word of God teaches us that we have already been raised with Christ.

-How have we Christians already been raised with Christ?

-The Lord Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead have given us a place in heaven that waits for us.

-Our place in heaven waits for us, and we will take our place with Christ in heaven when we leave this earth.

-Because we have a place in heaven that waits for us, the Word of God encourages us to set our hearts and minds on things above.

-When our hearts and minds are set on this earth, it is

easy for us to become discouraged.

-When our hearts and minds are set on things above, we will be greatly encouraged.

-When our hearts and minds are set on things above, the problems of this world will become smaller.

-When our hearts and minds are set on things above, we will sin less and live as God wants us to live.

-As Christ lived on earth, his heart and mind were always set on things above.

-How have we Christians died?

-We have died with Christ on the cross so that we do not have to die in eternal hell.

-We have also died to trying to show God how good and wonderful we are so that God must save us.

-We Christians have allowed Christ to save us, for only Christ is able to save us.

-What does it mean that our lives are now hidden in Christ?

-That people would no longer see us, but rather only see Christ in our lives.

-Our lives in Christ are one with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

-And much like a mother hen hides her baby chicks under her, so our God hides us or protects us.

-As Christ is seated at the right hand of God, this means that He has all power to protect us and to guide us.

Let's read Colossians 3:4

4-When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

-Christ is our life, and without Him, there is no true life.

-Paul said this in Philippians 1:21:

-“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

-When will Christ appear in glory?

-It will be when Christ returns to earth, and when we return to earth with Him.

-We read this in Revelation 19:14:

-“The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.”

-The armies of heaven are Christians and God's holy angels who will be with Christ when He appears in glory.

Let's read Colossians 3:5-7

5-Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6-Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

7-You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

-Why must we put to death what Christ has already put to death on the cross?

-For the Christian, has not our earthly nature been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6)?

-Yes.

-For the Christian, is not our earthly nature gone, and has not our new spiritual nature come (1 Co 5:17)?

-Yes.

-Why must we put to death what Christ has already put to death on the cross?

-Sin is like a chief or a king who is no longer in control, yet continues to try to have control over us.

-Even though sin is no longer our chief or king, what does the Word of God encourage us to do?

-To remain hidden with Christ and one with Christ, as the Lord Jesus alone is more powerful than sin.

-When we believe in Christ, we understand that the Lord Jesus alone is more powerful than sin.

-Even though Christ has now saved us, we must continue to understand that the Lord Jesus alone is more powerful than sin.

-Before we are saved and after we are saved, the Lord Jesus alone is more powerful than sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed.

-The measure with which we call on the Lord Jesus to protect us from sin will be the same measure which He will do so.

-To remain hidden with Christ and one with Christ is to allow Him to protect us from sin.

Let's read Colossians 3:8-10

8-But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

9-Do not lie to each other, since you have taken

off your old self with its practices

10-and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

-What is our “old self”?

-Our old nature before we believed in Christ.

-What is our “new self”?

-Our new nature which is Christ in us.

-As verses 9-10 make clear, our “old self” has been taken off, and we now have a “new self.”

-Even though we have a new self, life is still a battle.

-The anger, rage, and malice that we had in our lives before Christ want to continue in us.

-The slander, filthy language, and lies that we had in our lives before Christ also want to continue in us.

-Now that we have a new self which is Christ in us, our work is to turn to Christ instead of turning to our old ways.

-Now that we have a new self which has the power of Christ in us, our work is to turn to Christ to have His power of sin.

-The measure that we turn to Christ will be the same

measure that Christ will live His life in us.

-If we turn to Christ only a little, He will live His life in us only a little.

-If, however, we turn to Christ very much, Christ will live His life out through us very much.

Let's read Colossians 3:11

11-Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

-Before God, in the Church of Christ, there should be no separation among Christians.

-Why should there be no separation among Christians in the Church of Christ?

-Because the Lord Jesus Christ is in us all.

-Because the Jesus who is in you is the same Jesus who is in all of us Christians.

-Satan and the world and our flesh have separated people from one another.

-In the family of God, however, there is no separation, for we are all one in Christ.