“Everyday Renewal”

Col. 3:1-4,5-17

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 2/7/21)

 We are made in God’s image to reflect His holiness and His character. We are made to be His image-bearers. Adam was made to be a righteous ruler over his dominion. But then he sinned. His mind and heart and will were all affected. It affected the whole creation… and it affected us. Now we bear the image of sinful Adam. We all fall short of God’s glory. We are in desperate need of renewal. And that renewal can only be accomplished through Jesus.

 We live in weird times, don’t we? You can’t believe the news; many people call evil “good” and good “evil” (Isa. 5:20-21). It seems that everything around us fights against our Christian growth. Today’s lesson is about a pathway towards maturity for everyday Christians. This pathway for walking by the Spirit is made clear in Col. 3:1-4. The specifics of how to do it are set forth in the remainder of that chapter. The church in Colossae was being led astray by false teachers diminishing Christ and preaching the earthly thinking of self-help and other forms of false spirituality. In his letter to this church, Paul urges them to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.” (Col. 1:10). (Q1) In chapter 3 he stresses that **Jesus Christ is to be our source and pattern for daily renewal.**

 What does this everyday renewal look like? Col. 3:2 reminds us to “set our hearts on things above, not on earthly things.” (Q2) **Power for my change comes from looking to Christ alone.** (see also Eph. 2:4-10). This sets us on the trajectory of image restoration. Earthly things will not lead you to Christian maturity. (Q3) Jesus is the ruler and authority of our kingdom (see Matt. 28:20; Eph. 1:22-23; and Dan. 7:13-14) Only through Him can we experience true peace.

 **Opening my Bible is essential for my everyday renewal.** It is through God’s Word that we are transformed (Rom. 12:2). Read Heb. 4:12-13 to see how and why. Col. 2:8 tells us to not be deceived by worldliness or empty traditions. Remember that you are a citizen of a different kingdom. You live by a different set of rules. Read Rom. 8:5-8. You no longer have the mindset of the flesh (self-justification, political revolution, etc.); you have the mindset of the Holy Spirit.

 **My resources for everyday renewal are heavenly in nature.** I have been baptized into Christ, hidden with Him in God. And when Christ returns, **my everyday renewal will be perfected in glory.** 1John 3:1-3 says that “we will be like Him.” Isn’t that good news?! Jesus really is my source and pattern for daily renewal. Amen. (Q4) (Q5) (Q6)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What, specifically, does it mean to “walk worthy of the Lord”?
2. How does one set one’s mind on things above? What earthly things distract us?
3. Heb. 5:14 also talks about Christian maturity. What are the things we should “practice”?
4. Col. 3:5 was a life-changing verse for me. It is NOT saying that only greed is idolatry; everything on that list (and more!) is idolatry. When I started calling my sins “idolatry” I finally thought of them the way God thinks of them. Which of your sins are idolatry?
5. Col. 3:16 says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly…” How do you do that? **Why** should you do that?
6. Has Col. 3 made an impact on you? Is there anything in it that you will implement this week? Share your commitment with your group.

 “Like a River Glorious” (Havergal)

 Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,

 Over all victorious, in its bright increase;

 Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day,

 Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

 Refrain:

 Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest

 Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

 Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,

 Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;

 Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,

 Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

 Every joy or trial falleth from above,

 Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;

 We may trust Him fully, all for us to do;

 They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.