Living for Jesus

Kris Emerson · Colossians 3:1–4:6

INTRODUCTION

- These letters that come after the book of Acts in the New Testament are letters written to established churches.
- He's encouraging Christians to know the Lord more, because you can't get to change unless you start with Jesus.
- We've got to stay right on focused on Jesus. Hear his teachings and follow him.

1 Keep Seeking the Things Above

Colossians 3:1–4

- Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth.
- We're told to have a spiritual mindset, to be focused on greater things, not the things that distract us in this world, and to try to pursue that which is holy.

2 How You Treat People Reveals Your Connection to Christ

1 Corinthians 1; 1 Peter 1

- How you treat other people, particularly brothers and sisters in Christ, your family, and people in the world, is the most telling reveal on how connected you truly are to Christ.
- You cannot outworship a bad attitude. You can't out-church. You can't outpartake the Lord's Supper, not treating someone kindly.
- It must begin with taking the way Jesus loves you and loving other people that way.

3 Don't Miss the Markers That Jesus Gave Us

Matthew 5:13–16; Matthew 5:21–24; Matthew 5:43–48

- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- What good is Bible knowledge? What good is getting a whole bunch of things right? If when I leave a church building, I'm not cognizant of the fact that true discipleship is housed in how I interact with everyone everywhere.
- Leave your offering there before the altar and go first be reconciled to your brother and then come and present your offering.
- You need to love that person that you're thinking inappropriate about. And go, is that a loving thing to think about someone?

- He's saying, have integrity. If you say you're going to do something, then be a person who can be trusted to do it.
- But I say to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your father who is in heaven.

4 Being a Christian Is Being Like Christ

Colossians 3:5–6; Colossians 3:8–14; Colossians 3:16

- Let's not forget, being a Christian is being like Christ.
- Sexual immorality is a sin against God, yes, and will be punished by the wrath of God, yes, but it is also a sin against other people.
- If I'm not becoming more like Jesus, then I'm not moving in the direction I should be.
- Beyond all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- The point he's making is Christians go all out to love and encourage other Christians.

5 Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Calling

Ephesians 4:1–3; Colossians 3:18–21; Colossians 4:5–6

- Walk with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, which literally means putting up with each other, being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace.
- The way you treat Christians, the way you treat your family, is probably the strongest indication of your faith, of your Christianity.
- Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

6 Treat People the Way You Want Them to Treat You

Matthew 7:12–14

- Test it by the way you react and interact with all these wonderful living souls that God wants to save.
- In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.
- For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

THE CHALLENGE

I'm just asking you tonight if Jesus is central to your life, have you been treating people the way Jesus treats you?

MY NOTES