

The Superiority of Christ
The Path to the Gospel
Colossians 3:1-4

Introduction

Paul writes to the Colossian Christians to guide them toward spiritual maturity (1:28). His goal is to help believers develop a lifestyle of love for God and other people and a practical guide for walking the gospel road. He counsels the Colossians to avoid religious practices that will lead a person away from genuine spiritual maturity (2:16-23).

1. In Chapter 2, Paul warns the Colossians about the dangers of ritualism, mysticism, and _____.
2. To mature spiritually, you must be able to identify false religious practices, _____ those who advocate them, and root them out of your own life.
3. In 3:1-17, Paul explains the proper path to spiritual maturity and the abundant life found in the _____.
4. It is a path that unleashes God's power to radically _____ our lives (3:11).

I. Seek the Things Which Are Above

5. Paul says "the things which are above" are crucially _____.
6. Specifically, they are the things God says about who Jesus is and what He has provided for us through _____.
7. We have complete forgiveness, _____ from sin's authority, and authority over demonic domination.
8. The gospel also includes the promise that we will _____ forever with Christ when He returns at the end of the age (3:4).

9. By contrast, there are also "the things that are on _____."
10. The "things that are on earth" refers to the religious and philosophical ideas that don't _____ from God.
11. They are the things that _____ what God says about who Jesus is and what He has provided for us.
12. If you want to grow toward spiritual maturity, you need to cultivate a mental _____ on what God has provided for you through Jesus.

II. Keep Seeking the Things Above

13. The first verb is "*zeteo*," which means "keep _____; to inquire into; to find out by thinking, meditating, reasoning."
14. Believers need an insatiable spiritual _____ to know God.
15. The path of the gospel includes an increasing comprehension and appreciation of God's _____ to humanity.
16. Walking the path of good news increases our _____ to God and energizes our motivation to follow and serve God.
17. Complacency is the most common cause of spiritual _____ in the Christian life.
18. _____ for God to open the eyes of your heart to see what He has given you (Eph. 1: 18, 19a).

19. When you find something in the scriptures that really speaks to you, digest what it has to say by re-listening and _____.

20. Learn and _____ your Bible.

21. Turn the Bible's promises into prayers of _____.

22. Let the Holy Spirit _____ you God's ways.

23. Memorize and _____ on biblical passages about God's provisions!

III. Set Your Mind on the Things Above.

24. "Set your mind" (*phroneo*) means "to _____ your mind on something; to choose to adopt or maintain a point of view."

25. This command is also in the present tense, so it is also something that we are to _____ to do.

26. Paul emphasizes the need to keep identifying false thoughts and _____ them with God's truth.

27. We cannot allow false thoughts and feelings to take us _____; we are to vigilantly monitor our thought-life and attack the lies contrary to the scriptures taking them prisoner to God's promises.

28. Ask God to reveal, to you, those thoughts and beliefs within you that are really ingrained lies of the _____.

29. _____ upon God's words will cause specific passages and promises to "come alive" to challenge those negative or despairing thoughts and arguments that Satan tries to use against us.

30. Think faith, not _____!

31. Attack Satan's lies by agreeing with what God says through His _____.
32. Instead of thinking negatively, choose to believe what God says and move from believing lies to walking in _____.
33. God's _____ will always cause you to triumph over Satan's lies.

Conclusion

34. Walk the path that always leads you to the _____ news!

Let the life of Jesus fill you with hope and confidence. Trust in God and triumph over this sinful world. Your life can be better than you ever dreamed it could be by listening and meditating upon the truth of God's word and following the path of the gospel.

ANSWERES

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| 1. Legalism | 19. Re-reading |
| 2. Resist | 20. Know |
| 3. Gospel | 21. Thanksgiving |
| 4. Transform | 22. Teach |
| 5. Important | 23. Meditate |
| 6. Jesus | 24. Focus |
| 7. Deliverance | 25. Continue |
| 8. Reign | 26. Replacing |
| 9. Earth | 27. Hostage |
| 10. Originate | 28. Satan |
| 11. Contradict | 29. Meditating |
| 12. Focus | 30. Failure |
| 13. Gift | 31. Word |
| 14. Curiosity | 32. Truth |
| 15. Gift | 33. Truth |
| 16. Gratitude | 34. Good |
| 17. Sickness | |
| 18. Pray | |