

Intro.

- A. **Col. 3:1** begins an intriguing thought to those who are Christians.
1. *Seek* those things which are above, (where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God).
 2. *Set your mind* (affections) on things above, not on things on the earth.
 3. *Submit*
- B. Paul explains our motivation => we have died to sin & are alive to Christ.
1. The evidence of our affections is seen in what we *put off*, & what we *put on*.
 2. The fruit of Christ being *in us* is exhibited in...
 - a. *the peace of God* that rules in our hearts, **vs. 15**
 - b. *the word of Christ* that dwells in us richly, **vs. 16**
 - c. *the authority (word) of Christ* that is the basis of all that we do, **vs. 17**

Discuss.**I. LOVE OF PLEASURE.**

- A. *Pleasure* => enjoyment, delight, gratification (synonyms in the English language).
1. **2 Tim. 3:4**, *pleasure* is from the root word *hedone*, which is where we get the word hedonism (self-indulgent, pleasure-seeking..)
 2. Many live with personal pleasure as their god, & pleasure comes before anyone or anything else.
- B. Jesus said the *pleasures of this life can choke the word that it will not produce fruit*, **Lk. 8:14**
1. Paul encouraged Titus to live a godly life, setting this in contrast to a life of foolish disobedience serving a life of pleasure & malice (**Tit. 3:3**)
 2. Faith in God & doing His good works is profitable (**Tit. 3:8**) & gives hope of eternal life (**vs. 7**).
 3. If stop & think about how temporary sinful pleasures are (c. **Heb. 11:25**), & how long eternity is, the hope of eternal bliss should come sharply into focus.

II. LOVE OF MONEY. 1 Tim. 6:10 = root of all kinds of evil. (& 2 Tim. 3:2)

- A. With Judas Iscariot at the head, the line of those who have a love of \$\$ stretches far.
1. As is often the case, the love of \$\$ causes some to steal, & Judas *was a thief*, **Jn. 12:6**
 2. His love of \$\$ prompted him to betray Christ into the hands of his enemies, **Mt. 26:14-16**
- B. Can you think of others who have suffered because of \$\$ controlled their thinking.
1. In **Ac. 5:1-10** there was a couple in the church that went to their grave because of this misplaced love.
 2. Paul's life was endangered as Demetrius stirred the people (**Ac. 19**) against Paul who spoke of 1 God, & it wasn't Diana (the goddess whose image he & others made & sold very lucratively).

III. LOVE OF SELF. 2 Tim. 3:2

- A. Selfish love is one of many symptoms of perilous (grievous, ASV) times, **2 Tim. 3**
1. lovers of self, lovers of \$\$...haughty, unthankful, unloving (ASV - without natural affection)
 2. without self-control, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God → Turn away from such!
- B. to have the Preeminence, **3 Jn. 9**
1. Gamaliel exposed in **Ac. 5:34ff** a man named Theudas, who boasted himself to be *somebody*, & lead 400 men astray, as did Judas of Galilee
 2. James & John's mother (c. **Mt. 27:56 & Mk. 16:1**) caused the other 10 apostles to be *moved with indignation against these 2 brothers*.
 3. Diotrophes wanted preeminence, **3 Jn. 9**
- C. the praise of men **2 Tim. 4:3**
1. Preachers & church leaders whose main objective is to tickle *itching ears* suffer from misplaced love \\
 2. Paul set the right example, demonstrating allegiance to Christ above praise of men, **Gal.1:10; Eph.6:6**
 3. Some of the synagogue who believe Christ did not confess, fearing expulsion from the synagogue & loving the praises of men more than the praise of God, **Jn. 12:42f**

IV. LOVE OF THE WORLD

- A. Paul described Demas in this very way, **2 Tim. 4:10**
 - 1. He had been a fellow-worker with Paul at Rome (**Col. 4:14; Phm. 1:24**)
 - 2. The love of the world keeps us from receiving the Love of God, **1 Jn. 2:5 (Mt. 6:24)**
- B. **Jas. 4:4** boldly affirmed, *friendship with the world is enmity (i.e, hatred) with God!*
Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

V. LOVE DARKNESS (rather than light) Jn. 3:19-21

- A. Why? → Because their deeds are evil, & they do not relish being exposed!
 - 1. This is quite a contrast to those who love the light of truth, *that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God, vs. 21*
 - 2. David knew the futility of trying to hide from God, **Psa. 139:11-12**
 - 3. The Bible explains, *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Heb 4:13*
- B. Solomon gave sage counsel to young & old alike in **Ecc. 12:1, 13-14**
 - 1. On the Judgment Day, you & I will have to give account of *every work, Including every secrete thing.*
 - 2. That, my friend, is the closing thought from the pen of the wisest man, Solomon.

Concl.

- A. **2 Chron. 20:17**
 - 1. **2Ch 20:17 (KJV)** Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set (*Position*, NKJV) yourselves, stand ye *still*, (*Stand firm, & hold your position*, ESV) and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.
 - 2. The word **SET** means to take up a position, & maintain it.
- B. **Psa. 62:10** *Do not trust in oppression,
Nor vainly hope in robbery;
If riches increase,
Do not **set** your heart on them.*
- C. Our opening text directs us to... **SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE...**
 - 1. *"intensively interest ourselves in (with concern or obedience) Strong's*
 - 2. When your affection, the love of your life, is correctly placed, you will not hesitate to obey God!

[suggested closing song: *God will take care of you.*]