

November 24th, 2019
Series: Spelling It Out
Part 2: Before & After

In reflecting on last Sunday's message, what stood out to you most?

What encouraged or inspired you?

Was there anything you wrestled with, or anything that "convicted" you (made you think "I need to ask God to help me do better in that area")?

READ Colossians 3:1-4

"Since you have been given a new life in Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

What does it mean to "die to this life?"

In a practical sense, how might you "set your sights" on heaven in your day-to-day, Monday through Friday life?

What does Paul mean when he says "Christ is your life"?

What might it mean to "share in Christ's glory?"

READ verses 5-8

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Define "sexual immorality". How did you arrive at that definition? What constitutes sexual immorality? How did you arrive at that conclusion?

What are "evil desires?"

Why does Paul consider a greedy person to be an "idolater"?

Paul says "the anger of God is coming" because of the sins he just listed. Why is God angry about these sins?

Paul seems to imply that God's anger will not be directed toward his readers. Why not?

What were you like before you decided to follow Jesus? Or what difference has Jesus made in your life? Or if you grew up as a Christian, was there a time in your life where you realized you needed a savior?

READ verses 9-11

Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

Why do we sometimes lie to each other?

What does it mean to "put on your new nature"?

There was a deep racial, political and religious divide between Jews and Gentiles. What had to happen in order for them to live as brothers and sisters in Christ?

What are other insights you have about what Paul wrote in verses 1 through 11?