

Colossians 3:1-4

Pastor Don gave a brief overview of Roman rank and status; take a few minutes to describe that and answer the following questions.

1. What differences/ similarities did you notice between the Roman world and our world today?

In Roman society, they valued power, self-sufficiency, not showing emotion, personal stability, moderation, self-control and status.

2. Are those similar values to Canadian society?
3. Ch 1:11 contains two components that could have seemed like an oxymoron for a Roman citizen. What are they?
4. Why would 'power for endurance' have been a strange concept for the Colossian church?
5. Discuss how this may have affected their understanding of the suffering and crucifixion of Christ.
6. The phrase "life hidden" would also have been unappealing for a culture that strongly emphasizes status. Could that also make it hard for Canadians to embrace Christ? How do Canadians value status?
7. Ch. 3 essentially calls to live out the power of our death, burial and resurrection with Christ; why is it tempting to try to get power from other places?
8. How does the church guard itself against relying on alternative strategies rather than keeping our gaze on Christ for his power for ministry and life?
9. Ch. 3:1, "seated at the right hand of God," is a quote from Psalm 110:1. Read Psalm 110:1 and think through what Paul had in mind when he quoted the Psalm.
10. What does it mean that our life has been hidden with Christ in God?
11. The city of Colossae was in decline. It wasn't a significant city anymore. What would that have meant for the Colossian church to hear they have been hidden with Christ in God?
12. To seek the things above involved the heart/ affections. To set your mind on things above is meant to engage your head/ intellect. What are the differences between these two? Why are both necessary?
13. Share with the group how you intentionally seek the things above and set your mind on the things above.
14. Note the three tenses used in verses 3 and 4. (Past, present, future). Which of these three is easiest/ hardest to wrap your mind around?