

Seeking God for MORE!

Lesson Title: The Mind of MORE!

A Bible Study Lesson of
The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Written by Dr. Ken Patterson



INTRODUCTION: Have you ever considered that Christ is currently thinking? I mean seriously. We read the Bible and understand what Jesus was thinking at certain times and in certain contexts. But have you ever thought. Hmmmm? What is Jesus currently thinking about our society, our families, the government, or your life? I pose this question because it presents a relevant thought as to Jesus' right nowness. This is not a real term, but we must consider that our Lord is thinking and speaking still. He is not simply the God of past generations. He is God of now and has a purpose for His people individually (You and I) and for His people collectively (The Church).

It is incumbent on each of us to make sure we have regular communication with The Lord. Why? Because you and I will struggle to know His will if we do not interact on a daily basis with Him. The current lesson was written with the intention of us continuing (or beginning) our journey of getting the Mind of MORE. This requires us systematically gaining the mind of Christ (heavenly things) and eliminating the mind of the world (earthly things). Enjoy!

KEY VERSES:

Colossians 3: 3-11

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

I. Upward Thinking

As Paul wrote to the readers at Colosse, he sought to frame how believers should view the world. He begins by imploring them to be heavenly focused in heart and mind. Believers are to view their existence as temporary and are to look for permanence in a place where there is life. Paul uses the image of dying as a metaphor for what has happened in the life of disciples. We have died to our old lives and have been raised in Christ (image of baptism) and as such, we should no longer long for or live for the here and now. We are to long for (heart) and live for heavenly pursuits. To set our hearts and minds on things above is to do more than simply think about heaven. We are required to have a heavenly leaning thought process.



Our minds will not automatically think about the things above. We must train our mind. Consider the following passages.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

1 Timothy 4:7

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;

The above verses point to the training of our minds to be ready for the work of Christ. The implication is that if we do not train ourselves, we cannot be effective.

- How are you training your mind to think on things above?
- What are some ways you pursue heavenly goals?
- Do you struggle to train your mind how/why?
- What steps or supports can you put in place to help you overcome the difficulties you identified above?

II. When Is the Funeral?

The second section of this passage warns us to control our earthly nature to such an extent that it seems as though we have killed and buried it. We are to put to death everything that is earthly and carnal.

Verse 5 **⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.**

Paul lists a number of behaviors and attitudes which encompass earthly nature, but this is not to be taken as a total list. The list is suggestive that anything which gets in the way of our work or witness for Christ should be eliminated. The purpose for moving beyond the enslavement of our sinful nature is that we become able to function in our new nature. Our new nature is servants of Christ.

Romans 6: 1-7 has a clear explanation of what has occurred.

6 What should we say then? Should we continue to sin so that God's kindness^[a] will increase? **2** That's unthinkable! As far as sin is concerned, we have died. So how can we still live under sin's influence?

3 Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** When we were baptized into his death, we were placed into the tomb with him. As Christ was brought back from death to life by the glorious power of the Father, so we, too, should live a new kind of life. **5** If we've become united with him in a death like his, certainly we will also be united with him when we come back to life as he did. **6** We know that the person we used to be was crucified with him to put an end to sin in our bodies. Because of this we are no longer slaves to sin. **7** The person who has died has been freed from sin.

Readers will notice the effort it takes to put to death the sin nature. We all can attest to the challenge of completing daily tasks of prayer, meditation, and study. We must willfully and with focused intention die daily to ourselves so that we may live for Christ. As we work towards this goal, we find ourselves less controlled by our earthly nature and begin to live in the "freedom from sin" mode that Jesus intends for us. This does not make us free without responsibility, however. It does, however, make us usable to be servants. The term used for servant in the original language is also slave, but this form of the word implies that we have chosen the role to be united in work with Christ.

Remember, you and I are to progressively become more like Christ (definition of discipleship!!!!) which entails repetitive and organized effort. Jesus said it this way. “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me (Luke 9: 23).

Does your schedule reflect dying to yourself daily and living for Christ? On your calendar or planner, do you have time each day, each week, for time with God? How can you become more intentional in this area?

If it is not on your calendar, has time with God become a habit or is it simply wishful thinking????

III. MORE mindset steps



Now that you have learned about the mindset required to get you and I to MORE. What are your next steps in Christ? Let’s make a plan.

In 1 week, I want to be able to do _____ for Christ

In order to do this, I must do the following

What I must do	How to do it

In 3 months, I want to be able to do _____ for Christ.

To accomplish this, I must do the following.

What to do	How to do it