

COLOSSIANS 3 vs 8

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8 But now... put off / strip off; throw down some things... like the overrated advertisements of the success-driven, sensual and addictive world.

put off all these / notice what Paul starts with first;

anger / the way of the world; strip it off; throw it down,

wrath, malice, blasphemy / throw them all down,

vulgar speech out of your mouth / throw it down.



9 Don't lie one to another / can you imagine if the church world stopped doing that? Strip off lying,

seeing that you have put off / and stripped

the old man with his deeds / the old human; and I don't see where Paul says, Wait around for God to make us stop lying to one another.

Like Dr. Dallas Willard says, Don't wait on these things; don't pray about them. Get moving because the Spirit has been waiting for 2,000 years; and He's ready to help. He's been ready a long time; so get moving!

Do you need a kick? Kick your own ass! Why does God need to kick our ass all the time?

And while dying daily to the old man... we're living daily to the new. And did you notice the word: **perfectly** does not appear in this chapter?

10 And put on the new,

which is renewed in the full knowledge / and did we hear that? Here, Paul tells us about the new way: the better way... actively seek the new ideas and new images, and new information, and new patterns of thinking. Paul says, the new man is not renewed in feelings. So let's hear him again...



And put on the new, which is renewed in the full knowledge... after the image of Him that created him: / earlier Paul said, Jesus is the image... the *eikon* of the invisible God. And that is why God says, You will make no images before Me because He already has One -- Christ Jesus. And we're being made-over in His image.

All other *eikons*... even in the church... from the pulpit occupiers to the pew warmers; even pastors, prelates, and popes... certainly all their images, made in the imagination of men... are inferior and filthy.

Compared to Christ... every one of us are little leaguers... and couldn't save a rat's ass.

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Paul says...

put on the new, which is renewed in the full knowledge... after the image of Him who created him,

¹¹ **where there is neither Greek nor Jew** / those brilliant Hellenists... how are they doing today? Oh! Not so good. And those chosen Jewish people? They were chosen... but not chosen to put God on trial. And some of them; not all... are still stumbling over their Messiah,

no circumcision nor uncircumcision, no Barbarian, Scythian, slave nor freeman / whatever box; whatever label, whatever the advertisements; whatever the divisions:

but Christ is all, and in all / in other words: **Christ is all that matters.**

¹² **Therefore... you beloved and set-apart ones,**

as God's elected ones / Paul is talking about the ones God voted for; and is betting on; the ones God our Father in heaven loves dearly; He is no longer angry; He began by saying: grace and peace to you.

Paul says, replace the loveless, hurtful, veneer images and advertisements of the world... with the heartfelt, spirit filled, healing images and advertisements of God our Father in heaven.

Put on / be clothed with...

mercy in action,

with kindness in heart,

and humbleness in mind / that's stylin' God's way... try some,

meekness / tame some of it; rein it in,

Put on... longsuffering / some people are... too touchy; too sensitive;

¹³ **Forbearing one another** / lifting up... and helping each other,

and forgiving / gracing... **one another, even if they have a complaint against you:**

as God in Christ forgave you / and graced... **you, you do the same.**

We sing: His amazing grace... which is absolutely proper. But He also wants us... being made over in His image... to amazingly grace others.

We're supposed to be givers: and not just takers.

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14 And above all put on agape, which is the bond of perfection / the love of God our Father is like a belt, God's love ties it all and keeps it completely together.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,

and that is why you've been called / as members, **in one body;**

and be thankful / the word is: **eucharistos**; Paul is saying,

Be known as the thankful ones in this world. It's all stylish; put it on.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing / instructing and warning, **one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual odes** / let the spoken... and written words of Christ fill your mind and heart; you know, our greatest Teacher... Jesus Christ, He doesn't tell us to do... what He Himself won't do.

If we look closely at Calvary... we discover many things: we certainly see the foolishness of man as they derided and mocked Him; but we also discover the majesty of Christ... singing and making melody in His heart... to His Father. **Psalm 22**; Psalm 41; Psalm 42... and were the women standing there, singing with Him? the gospel writers just hinting with each verse;

singing to the Lord... with grace in your hearts.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed,

do all in the name of the Lord Jesus / do ALL representing Him,

giving thanks / yes! It's another Eucharist word...in Greek: **eucharisteo**; it's a verb, an action word. Notice, Paul did not say: call some cleric, or some pompous religious elite, no hireling necessary!

Paul was writing to men and women of faith... probably meeting in somebody's home. Paul says, we do this! We can say: Thank you to our Father in heaven! We can even thank the Lord Jesus Christ, too... at the same time, or separately.

In heaven, it is so rare when people down here actually thank God... that they do not care... if we separate our thanks to each of Them... or sometimes just thank them all together! Paul says, Do not worry! Just do it, as children of God, start here... and keep walking!

thanking God the Father by Him / clearly thank God the Father every day, by Jesus Christ.

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