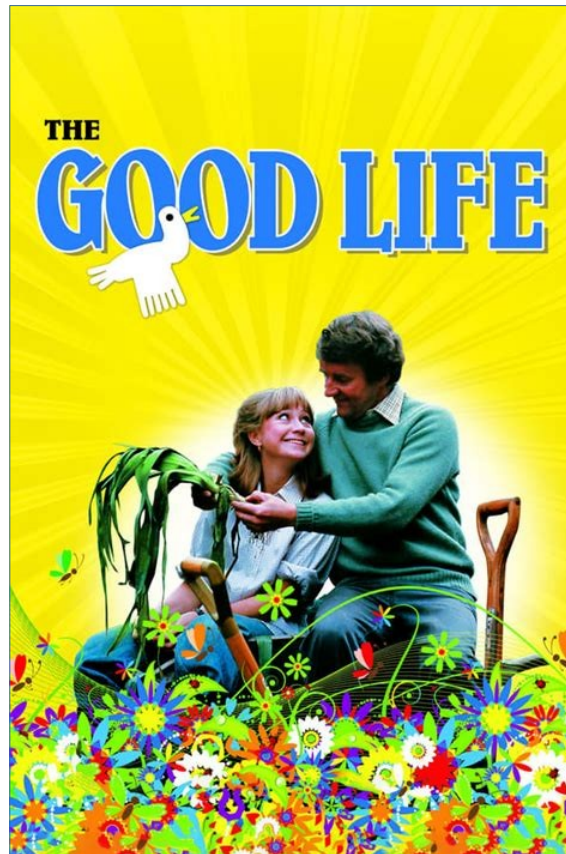


The second part of the letter to the Colossians:
Chapter 3 , verses 1 to 17

Practical Christianity
The believer's guide to the 'good life'
as opposed to the previous wrong ways mentioned in
chapter 2



Colossians 3:1-17

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

Colossians 3:1-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

It's a new life united to Jesus

So where should your heart (affections, desires, goals) be pointing?

Where is Jesus?

What is the significance of God's right hand?



Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

It's a choice that has to be made.
You are 'dead' to the old life
Where is your new, real life?
Why is it described as hidden?
(for safe keeping and ...)



When Christ, who is your life, appears,
then you also will appear with him in glory.

This is the answer to 'hidden'.
It will only be fully revealed when Messiah comes.
Then you will be glorified too.
What a prospect for us!



Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature..

Therefore

How can you put earthy things to death?

We still have an old nature that wants to control us.

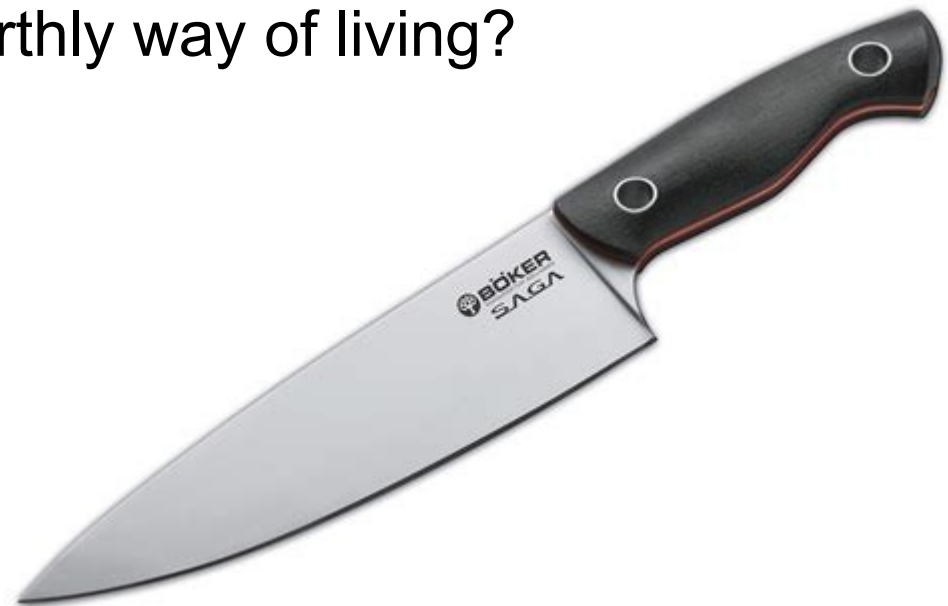
By the power of the Spirit working with your renewed will .

Cf Romans 8:13

God has created and given us many good things. So...

What belongs to the old earthly way of living?

See the next verse.



sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed,
which is idolatry.

A few examples...

All 'heart' issues

Earthly appetites misused and misguided

cf. It was rife then and in today's culture

(it is still around – sinful nature in man)

Sexual sins – prostitution, adultery, perversions,

Excessive desires for food, power etc.

Why is it considered idolatry?



Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

As in Noah's day there came an appointed day of judgement against all the evil.



So too a future day has been set by God when his righteous wrath against all evil will come.

Acts 17:30-31 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

Amazing grace – you USED to be like that
Not just occasionally but actually lived it.
A dramatic conversion for them – and for us as we
look back and see with new eyes.



But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these..
anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Sanctification means this:

Some things have got to go.

Wrong states of mind and behaviour towards others ..

all these are harmful to others who are the objects of them

James 3:10-11 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?



Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

We are to deal in truth- honesty is essential

Take off (clothing illustration) old self + behaviour

Put on new self + growing process

A new human race in the last Adam

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.



Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

All present distinctions do not count. It is a new humanity in Christ as the focus and reality in all of us.

Earthly distinctions gone in Christ

– racial, religious, social, material

This is God's way of diversity and inclusion...



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with ...

Since that is what we are, God's special people (holy in him and loved by God) then continuing the clothing illustration (the positives after the negative removal)



clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

These are all attitudes towards others reflecting a new heart
We are looking beyond self interest now.
These are qualities that the Spirit wants to produce in us as
we walk in faith.



Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

There's none of us perfect – yet
So patience and forgiveness are essential.
No holding grudges – they are destructive to you and the fellowship family.



Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Here is both the standard of forgiving and the motive to do it.
How great is God's forgiveness for you?



And over all these virtues put on love,
which binds them all together in perfect unity.

The perfect overcoat. Love is the greatest grace of all that wants the best for others. Working through each quality, God's love empowers us to do all these things.



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you were called to peace.

Controlling peace within leads to peace outside – among us
to make right decisions. This is God's call..



And be thankful.

An attitude of gratitude lets the light in.
A positive, healthy and health-giving outlook



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,

Jesus' words are the Master's voice in the Scriptures
Richly dwell – first in our heads but transferred to heart life
Ministering to each other – teaching, encouraging, warning
with all wisdom
It's not just **WHAT** you say it's also the **WAY** that you say it.



and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Corporate worship is a blessing.

Psalms

Hymns

Spiritual songs

Thankful worship
that is directed to God



And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Not just for when we are together in church

But for outside as well

A real purpose in life - all for Jesus and through Jesus

Types of Jobs

TRADES

Plumber, Electrician, Carpenter,
Baker, Butcher, Bricklayer,
Blacksmith, Roofer, Mechanic,
Draftsperson, Locksmith,



PROFESSIONS

Doctor, Lawyer, Scientist,
Dentist, Geologist, Architect,
Accountant, Actuary, Pilot, Sea
Captain, Cosmologist



UNSKILLED

Farm Laborer, Assembly Line
Worker, Grocery Clerk,
Custodial Worker, Cleaner,
Painter, Maid, Fruit Picker,
Guard

