Staying the Course: Constant Dissonance
Colossians 3:1-11
March 12, 2023
Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

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

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ with the dissonance

_____ for truth: This is the outcome for humanity: The light has come into the world but humanity loves darkness rather than light…the one who is seeking the truth comes to God's true light so they can truly see their works. John 3:19, 21 (JOT)

_____the restlessness: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow. [18] Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea. Isaiah 48:17-18 (NLT)

2. _____ the disconnects in our lives

_____ the vision: Since you have experienced the resurrecting power of new life through Jesus, reset your vision to pursue the things that glorify God! When you lift your eyes to capture God's perspective then you will experience of the power of God in Christ! Colossians 3:1 (JOT)

_____ the thinking: Contemplate the born-again realities, don't be driven by earthly conventional wisdom. You have died to the compulsion of the old ways and your life is protected from the powers of this world by Christ. Now Christ can shine through your life. Colossians 3:2-4a (JOT)

_____ the image: Disarm the old life with all of its practices as Jesus has disarmed the principalities and powers through service and sacrifice. As you are renewed in the knowledge of the Creator you can put on the image of Christ and reflect the new resurrected self! Colossians 3:9b-10 (JOT)

3. _____ the power of the new life

_____ urgency: Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the LORD that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. Isaiah 55:6-7 (NLT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Is there a strong dissonance in your life between what you believe and what you are doing? Is your heart restless and churning like the waves of the sea and you cannot find peace? Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* (John 14:27 (NIV)) Realize that today is the day of salvation. God in Christ wants to share his peace with you. Call upon him and admit that you need God's forgiveness. Do not wait! Accept God's grace for your life! Join us in this Colossians study to continue to find this resurrection power at work in your life.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NLT: New Living Translation