

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path..¹

“We are free to feed our minds from every good source, but there is no source like the Bible. It is a written

revelation of who God is and of what God’s purposes are

for humanity. No book comes close to it in influence or significance.

Eugene Peterson writes, “Christians feed on Scripture. Holy Scripture nurtures the holy community as food nurtures the human body.

Christians don’t simply learn or study or use Scripture; We assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love.” Yet consumer researchers say that the average Bible owner possesses nine Bibles and is looking for more. Something is lacking.

Scripture has never been easier to obtain, and Scripture has never been more difficult to absorb. The unspoken secret is that many people find the Bible boring. This is both a serious problem and a quite recent one. Ancient Greek had no word for boredom. The word did not have its current meaning in English until the last few centuries. We look at the ancient world, and they had no television, no Internet, no movies, no iTunes, and virtually no books - and we think how boring it must have been.

But the ancients were not bored. We are the ones who get bored because our capacity to focus our attention, to delight our minds in sustained thought, has been weakened by our dependence on external stimuli. In a world with so many easy options to amuse or distract our minds, we all have to learn to be fed by the Bible.”²

¹ Psalm 119:105 ² John Ortberg, The Me I Want To Be

SERMON NOTES

ME

October 17

EYE CHECK—What do you see?

Put to Death—not as scary as it sounds

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Dress For Success

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OCT. 24, 2021

COL. 4:2-6

Next Week:

CHRIST IN ME

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Colossians 3:1-2

Set your mind. Decide and be committed to your decision. You are a Christ-follower. Rewrite these two verses as if they were written to you personally.

Tu Colossians 3:3-4

Visualize what the reward will feel like when, on that day, you appear with him in glory. Does the future excite you? Do you sometimes get distracted by small things and forget the great prize ahead?

We Colossians 3:5-11

Take action today to shut the door to the mistakes of the past. Identify them. Pray for forgiveness because of them. Confide in a spiritual friend or leader. The past is in the past, and we have a new future.

Th Colossians 3:12-14

God is calling you to fill your life with better. Sin, shortcuts, and mistakes are in the past. Today determine to rise to what He has called you to be. Live today like a loved and chosen child of God.

Fr Colossians 3:15-17

As you take action in your faith, live in peace. Fear and anxiety grow when we trust in our strength. When we follow God in action, involvement, even correction, peace remains... even reigns.

Sa Colossians 3:23

Work for the Lord. For many of us, today is a day of non-paid work. Still, accomplish for Him. Rest and family work is glorifying to Him. Also, prepare for Monday and let Him be your boss.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Colossians chapter 3. Take turns reading one verse at a time.
- Matt's summary - We now live IN Christ and Christ IN us. Being remade is a process of learning, changing, living, failing, and learning again:
 - ◇ V. 5-11—In what ways have you experienced the joy or blessing of putting to death a sinful behavior? Why does Matt say this is “not as scary as it sounds”?
 - ◇ V. 12-17—What is one aspect of Christ's nature you need to adapt into your life? What is one thing you will do to pursue that nature in your life?
 - ◇ Finish this sentence - How you treat the members of your own household demonstrates...
- Memorize Colossians 3:12-14 this week. Write it down and place it somewhere you'll see it throughout your day. How could daily reflecting on these verses improve your vision and service?
- For those who are married, what's difficult about putting your spouse's interests above your own? What does it look like when it's done well? How do you feel when your spouse loves and serves you well?
- What was it like to obey your parents as a kid? What does that look like to honor them today? For those who are parents, how do you feel when your children obey you? What about when they don't?
- How do you think having a holy mindset would change the way we work?