

SERMON SUMMARY

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| Date: September 3, 2006 | 11:00 am Worship Service |
| Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence | Reference: Colossians 3: 1-17 |
| Topic: Answering the Call...Going Deeper in Christ | |

Christianity is (amongst other things) a Calling to fulfill, a Vocation to walk worthy of, a Journey for pilgrims and recognition that there are deeper depths and higher heights in God. A reminder of this is fitting because at the time when Paul wrote this portion of scripture, false teachings were affecting the church's understanding of the:

- ✘ [Person of Christ](#)
- ✘ [Participation in Salvation](#)
- ✘ [Perceptions of Flesh and Matter](#)

Paul addressed these by expounding on the Fullness of Christ, Free Access to Salvation in Christ and the need for Full Dedication to Christ.

In verses 1-4, Paul presents certain things to attain to. He seems to be saying that we ought to aim at accepting:

- ✘ The Reach of your Affection in Christ (*verse 1*)
- ✘ The Reach of your Attention in Christ (*verse 2*)
- ✘ The Reason of your Assimilation in Christ (*verse 3*)
- ✘ The Reason of your Appearance with Christ (*verse 4*)

A special orientation of our whole being and understanding is what is called for as we are to seek to align ourselves to God. This demands that we concentrate on Christ, which calls for 'logging on to the Jesus system.'

Unlike the first four verses however, Paul presents issues that we ought to attack in verses 5-11. We are to attack:

- ✘ The worshipping of earthly desires thereby incurring the wrath of God (*verses 5-6*)
- ✘ Walking in unregenerate mindset including behavior that is Uncouth, Untruthfulness, Unschooled in holiness and Unwelcoming of other believers (*verses 7-11*).

Paul implies that we are in need of a special overhaul because God is calling us to be totally cleansed. We are all in need of a godly makeover, which calls for locking out or jaded system.

In verses 12-14, Paul encourages the believers to adorn ourselves with:

- ✘ Godly Consciousness of self (*verse 12a*)
- ✘ Godly Comeliness in self (*verse 12b*)
- ✘ Godly Consideration of others (*verse 13*)
- ✘ Godly Cooperation with others (*verse 14*)

What is shown on the outside is representative of what is going on the inside and therefore we are in need of a special overcoat. This demands commendation through Christ because we are called to look like Jesus.

Finally, in verse 15-17, Paul seems to impress on believers the need to allow the:

- ✘ Peace of Christ with Thanksgiving (*verse 15*)
- ✘ Permeation of the Word of Christ with Thanksgiving (*verse 16*)
- ✘ Performance in the Name of Christ with Thanksgiving (*verse 17*)

In order for us to truly allow these things, we need to be controlled by Christ because the fact is that we all need to be led by Jesus the shepherd.

We have the privilege in Christ, of proving how even the perfect, may grow fuller every day. Let deep answer deep! For the deep recesses of our souls, are longing for deeper encounters with God.

