

- I) V5-9 INTRO: Therefore *put to death* your members which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness
 - a) Paul has been directing our attention to Jesus, who is seated at the right hand of God
 - 1) He is our target: He is the One we desire to be with, and this motivates our lives
 - 2) Ps 73:24-26 You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory. Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- II) AS WE DESIRE TO BE WITH JESUS: He will return for us
 - a) THE FACT IS: This promise was made long ago, and it may not motivate many today
 - 1) It is possible to get busy *just living* and forget that He promised to return
 - 2) Ro 13:11-14 Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts

- III) SINCE JESUS IS RETURNING: Then what kind of life does a Christian live?
 - a) A life that is worthy of the message of the gospel, lived in anticipation of being with Him

- IV) THE BOOK OF REVELATION: Contains letters to 7 churches in Asia Minor
 - a) The last letter is addressed to the church of Laodicea, the church in the last days
 - 1) Laodicea was a church that was not faithful to the Lord, and became a poor witness
 - 2) They were lukewarm hypocrites, professing to know Jesus but unsaved
 - 3) They had slowly drifted from their biblical foundations, and had lost their fire

- V) THEY SAID OF THEMSELVES: We are rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing
 - a) But Jesus said of them: You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked
 - 1) He then counseled them to establish true values, seek righteousness, and open your eyes!

- VI) FINALLY: He says Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door
 - a) This is really a call to repent: I am standing at the door, knocking means I am bringing judgment
 - 1) POINT: Be ready, because I can return at any time and you are not prepared to meet Me
 - 2) Rev 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work!
 - 3) IF HE IS RETURNING SOON: What are we believers to do as we await His return

- VII) V5 THEREFORE: Put to death your *members* which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, sin
 - a) This speaks of a decision to put to death anything that motivates us to use our bodies to practice sin
 - 1) THE FACT IS: A person controlled by the Spirit will live a holy, not an unholy, life
 - 2) Mt 10:25 It is enough for a disciple that he *be like his teacher*, and a servant *like his master*

- VIII) THOUGHT: We are to put to death the things we have been devoted to our entire lives
 - a) This is a conscious choice on our parts, as *we decide* what we will do
 - 1) Ro 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as *instruments of wickedness*, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

- I) IN THE PASSAGE BEFORE US: Paul goes on to name some of the sins we once practiced
 - a) POINT: Since we are dead in Christ, these old habits and instincts are now broken in Him
 - 1) He names them to command the Colossians to regard them as dead

- II) REMEMBER: Paul has been outlining for his readers what it means to be *in Christ*
 - a) FIRST: We have put off the old nature (Col 2:11, 3:9)
 - b) SECOND: The believer *is dead* to the world with Christ (Col 2:20, 3:3)
 - c) THIRD: In Romans, we find that we have *been freed* from sin through Him
 - 1) Ro 6:6-7 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin

- III) EVEN THOUGH THIS IS ALL TRUE: The fact is, Christians must still *live in the world*
 - a) We still live in physical bodies, and obviously we still are tempted to practice sin
 - 1) This is why Jesus prayed for us
 - 2) Jn 17:15-16 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- IV) AT THIS POINT: Paul begins to list some of the sins we can be tempted to engage in
 - a) HE BEGINS: With *sexual sin*, a major commercial industry today and enslaves millions
 - 1) Casual sex is constantly portrayed as harmless, entertaining, and even healthy
 - 2) YET: Unplanned pregnancies, venereal diseases, broken homes, and abortions often result

- V) PAUL: Gives a list of various sins for the believers to reject, in their progressive culture
 - a) Fornication: Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, and even bestiality
 - 1) Many believe that premarital sex or living together is ok, if you are *in love* or getting married
 - 2) 1 Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- VI) V5 UNCLEANNES: (Perversion), impurity, evil intentions; a lust filled mind
(DISHONORABLE) PASSION: Depraved passion speaks of the *physical* side of lust
EVIL DESIRE: Wicked *mental* longing for that which is forbidden: Incest, child sex (porn)

- VII) GOD GIVES HIS WILL CONCERNING THIS:
 - a) 1 Th 4:3-7 This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

- VIII) ALSO: Covetousness: A greedy desire to have that which belongs to another
 - a) This can include someone else's boyfriend, husband, family, or even their children
 - 1) Ex 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."

- I) V6 BECAUSE: Of these things *the wrath of God* is coming upon the sons of disobedience

- a) Contrary to the apologists of his day, as well as those of our own: God hates these sins
 - 1) POINT: His wrath is reserved for those who live disobedient lives
 - 2) Ps 7:11 God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.
 - 3) Ro 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God
 - 5) 1Th 5:9 God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

- II) IN A SOCIETY FILLED WITH SIN: You will always have apologists for sinful lifestyles
 - a) Sometimes people make excuses for it
 - 1) Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with *empty words*, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

- III) V7 HE CONTINUES: In which you also *once walked* when you lived in them
 - a) This once was the habit and course of your lives, but you have now received a new life
 - 1) 2 Co 5:17
 - 2) 1 Jn 3:7-9 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin because he has been born of God

- IV) V8 BUT: Now you must also *put off* all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language
 - a) Anger: (a deep, smoldering settled bitterness)
 - b) Wrath: (sudden outbursts)
 - c) Malice: (a wicked spitefulness, more than likely referring to verbal lashing)
 - d) Blasphemy: Speaks of slandering people
 - d) Filthy language: Which pours out of a filthy heart

- V) NOTICE HIS COMMAND: *Put off* all these (Lay aside your old behavior, as a filthy garment)
 - a) How is it possible to "put to death" these behaviors? Two basic ways

- VI) FIRST: We must understand that we really are dead in Christ: Gal 2:20
 - a) THIS FREES US TO BE ABLE TO DO TWO THINGS:
 - 1) FIRST: Exercise faith in Christ's finished work on our behalf:
 - a) Ro 6:11 Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 2) SECOND: To have the necessary Spiritual power to live victoriously (Ac 1:8)

- VII) THE FACT IS: Faith is necessary for victory (Hab 2:4 but the just shall live by his faith.)
 - a) To have victory requires responsible action and an open, receptive faith
 - 1) NOW: We exercise godly discipline, and faith, we "put off" (discard old clothes)
 - 2) NOTICE: We *once* walked...but no more

- VIII) V9 DO NOT LIE: To one another since you have put off the old man with his deeds
 - a) You must now be known as people of your word, truth tellers of the highest quality
 - 1) Ps 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts

- I) V10-11 AND: Have *put on* the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him
 - a) This is another way of describing "regeneration", the reception of a new nature

- 1) RESULT: This new nature produces a new kind of life
- 2) One that no longer is enslaved to national, social, cultural, sexual barriers