

Where is Your Mind Set?

Colossians 3:2-4

READY

What are some ways a coach may attempt to motivate his or her team to better performance?

SET & GO

Primary Text: Colossians 3:2-4

Supporting Texts: Colossians 2:20-23

Set 1 *Read Colossians 3:2-4 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

Upon what are you to set your mind? Upon what are you **not** to set your mind?

What two things does Paul say about you in verse 3?

What two things does Paul say about your life in verse 4?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss: The word we translate as “set your mind on” literally means “to think,” not just as a mental exercise but with intention. It suggests being fully occupied with something as an aim. In other words, we are to be fully occupied with the mission of Christ and His kingdom and not with the pleasures or powers of this world.*

Go 2a Is it true that what we set our minds on will determine the shape our lives take? Why or why not?

Go 2b How will we tend to respond to trials if our mind is set on worldly ambitions? On Christ?

Go 2c Our “dreams” generally refer to what we are setting our minds on for our future. Do you have any dreams? Are your dreams aligned with the mission of Christ or with the ambitions of this world?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss: Paul gives three reasons we should occupy ourselves with Christ and His kingdom. The first is that we have died to this world (v 3). This means we’ve been set free from the power of its empty enticements, including the empty hope of religious rituals (cf. 2:20-23). Though the enticements of this world may still tempt us, they no longer have power over us.*

Go 3a Think of believers who have said “no” to the strong allure of worldly passions or ambitions. In what way is the imagery of death to this world a fitting description of why they would do so?

Go 3b How would meditating upon your death to this world help empower you to overcome temptation?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss: The second reason is that your true life is hidden with Christ in God (v 3). This means your true identity is no longer wrapped up in earthly things but is found in Christ. That it is hidden indicates at least two things. First, you can’t see what it will be yet. Second, it is being safeguarded by God. Accepting these two realities requires faith, that is, trusting God for things not currently visible.*

Go 4a In what kinds of things do people tend to look for identity? In what ways do people try to find religious identity? Where are you being tempted to look for your identity?

Go 4b If your true life is hidden away with Christ in God, what could you do to lose it? Why is this comforting?

Go 4c Verse 4 says that Christ “is your life.” Discuss what this means and why it should motivate you to set your mind on Him and His kingdom.

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Set 5 ***Briefly discuss:** The third reason is that your best life is yet to come. When Christ returns, **then** you will be made like Him (v 4). This should give us hope for our future, but it should also caution us against having unrealistic expectations now. We can become frustrated and even disillusioned if we are expecting what some call the “abundant life” or the “higher life” now. God will give us glimpses of our future glory, but it isn’t until Christ returns that we will experience its fullness. In this life you will have trouble (cf. John 16:33).*

Go 5a Why would it be so important to meditate on the truth of your future hope when things are good, before major trials come along? Do you take time to think on these things? What hinders you?

Go 5b How might believers respond when growth doesn’t happen as quickly as expected or trials persist or life doesn’t go the direction hoped for? How are we protected by setting our minds on things above?

Go 5c In what ways are you setting your mind on the things of this earth? In what ways are you setting your mind on the things above? How will you seek Christ’s help to continue to change your affections?

FINISH

1. Our passions, our hopes, our dreams can be indications of our relationship with God. Do the things that occupy your heart indicate a healthy relationship?

Walk it Out!
Living Christian in a New Reality

Where is Your Mind Set?
Colossians 3:2-4

Stop looking to this world for answers, and focus your mind instead on Christ and the life that He gives.

Why change your focus...

1. You've died to this world.
 - a. You've died to its _____.
 - b. You've died to its _____.
2. Your real life is hidden with Christ.
 - a. Your true _____ is found in Him.
 - b. Your true _____ is found in Him.
3. Your best life is yet to come.
 - a. Your true life is currently _____.
 - b. _____ comes when Christ returns.