

Study: A Useful Vessel

Text: Colossians 3:1-4

OUR PERSPECTIVE FOR USEFULNESS

Memory verse: 2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet [*useful*] for the **Master's** use, and prepared unto every good work.

Q: Are you willing to be a useful vessel for God's work?

† The *Pursuit* of a USEFUL Vessel—be USEFUL (2 Timothy 2:20-23)

† The *Preparation* of a USEFUL Vessel—be IN the Word (2Tim. 2:14-19)

† **The *Perspective* of a USEFUL Vessel—be HEAVENLY minded (Colossians 3:1-4)**

How we _____ is critical to how we _____. What we put into our minds is critical to how we think.

Cf. 1 John 2:15-17

As a Christ-follower, we must have a different mindset than the world.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of **God**, and of **Jesus** our **Lord**,

I. Our Perspective is based upon _____ we _____ (v. 1)

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into **Jesus Christ** were baptized into **His** death? **4** Therefore we are buried with **Him** by baptism into death: that like as **Christ** was raised up from the dead by the glory of the **Father**, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

We must learn to look upon sin from the view of the cross.

"...seek those things which are above,..." – In other words, "Be constantly seeking!" Set your mind to think upon the heavenly truths.

_____ thinking leads to _____ living

Cf. Romans 8:4-6

The idea of "*seeking*" (Col 3:1) is more than just to _____ something. This "seeking" is the processes of taking _____ of what you are seeking after.

A. Consider your _____ unto _____ (v. 3)

Cf. Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:11

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live *is Christ*, and to die *is gain*.

The way in which Paul defines his life is summed up in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:15 And *that He* died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto **Him** which died for them, and rose again.

B. Consider your _____ Life (v. 4)

Consider this precious truth: When Christ returns, you who are "in Christ" will be with Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of **God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when **He** shall appear, we shall be like **Him**; for we shall see **Him** as **He** is.

At this time we will be completely conformed to the image of Christ. Sin will be no longer present in our lives.

II. Our Perspective is based upon _____ we _____ (v. 2)

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Your perspective _____ your attitude

"Set your affections on things above..." –Paul reiterates it here so as to place emphasis on this truth. What consumes your thought process?

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Q: "What are the influences of my life?" Am I allowing truth or error to influence me?

Q: Am I seeking after things of this world or do I have my mind fixed upon Christ?

Q: What changes do you need to make in order to be a MORE faithful, useful vessel?

What is my next step? "*Put off*," "*renew your mind*," and "*put on*."