

INTRODUCTION

TODAY, ~ WE BEGIN ~ THE NEXT PARAGRAPH OF COL.

▶▶ And that is ~ Chapter 3, ~ verses 5 ← 11.

RECALL ~ THAT PAUL'S SECOND PURPOSE FOR WRITING ~ was most likely twofold.

▶▶ 1st, ~ godly living.

▶▶ And 2nd, ~ combat the false way of living.

▶▶ This section ~ covering Paul's twofold second reason for writing ~ begins ~ ¶¶

▷▷ at ~ Col. ~ chapter 3, ~ verse 1 ~ and runs ~ through ~ chapter 4, ~ verse 6.

COLOSSIANS, ~ CHAPTER 3, ~ VERSES 1 ←← 4, ~ WHICH WE'VE LOOKED AT, ~ BEGAN this section.

▶▶ The believer's ~ proper focus ~ of attention.

▷▷ Upward & forward.

AND TODAY, ~ WE ARE BEGINNING ~ THE NEXT PARAGRAPH ~ OF THIS SECTION, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ which covers ~ chapter 3, ~ verses 5 ← 11. ¶¶ 1/16

▶▶ Basically, ~ in this paragraph ~ Paul instructs believers ~ 77

▷▷ to make a clean break ~ with ~ all ~ of the sinful ~ 77

↳↳ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of ~ sinful nature.

▷▷ Now that we are new creations in Christ, ~ we are ~ to totally ~ eliminate ~ these things ~ from our lives.

↳↳ Old nature ~ is not ~ compatible ~ with new.

THIS PARAGRAPH ~ CAN BE OUTLINED ~ LIKE THIS.

▶▶ And we see a familiar pattern.

▷▷ Exhortations, ~ in this case 3, ~ with expansions.

▶▶ The 1st exhortation ~ is in [verse ~ 5a](#).

▷▷ Put to death ~ therefore ~ what is earthly ~ in you.

▷▷ Paul follows that ~ with examples ~ of what is earthly ~ in us.

↳↳ Verse ~ 5b, ~ sexual immorality, ~ impurity, ~ passion, ~ evil desire, ~ and covetousness, ~ which is idolatry.

▷▷ In [verses 6-7](#), ~ he gives ~ two reasons ~ for the exhortation ~ to put to death ~ what is earthly in us. 11 2/16

↳↳ 1st, ~ 6 On account of these ~ the wrath of God is coming.

↳↳ And 2nd, ~ 7 In these ~ you too once walked, ~ when ~ you were living in them.

→→ I.e., ~ "you ~ used to practice these things ~ in the life you once lived."

▶▶ The 2nd exhortation is in verse 8a. ⇔⇔ 1st exhortation ~ using different words.

▷▷ But now ~ you must put them ~ [i.e., ~ what is earthly in us] ~ all ~ away.

▷▷ Then ~ Paul gives ~ more examples ~ of what ~ is earthly ~ in us.

↳↳ Verse ~ 8b, ~~ anger, ~~ wrath, ~~ malice, ~~ slander, ~~ and obscene talk from your mouth.

▶▶ The 3rd exhortation ~ is in ~ verse 9a. ⇔⇔ Do not ~ lie ~ to one another.

▷▷ Lying, ~ of course, ~ belongs to our earthly nature.

▷▷ In verse 9b-11, ~ he lists ~ two reasons ~ for ~ the 3rd ~ exhortation.

↳↳ 1st, ~ seeing that ~ you have put off ~ the old self ~ with its practices ~~ and have put on the new self, ~ which is being renewed ~ in knowledge ~ after the image ~ of its creator.

↳↳ And 2nd, ~ Here ~ there is not ~ Greek and Jew, ~ circumcised and uncircumcised, ~ barbarian, ~ Scythian, ~ slave, ~ free; ~~ but Christ is all, ~ and in all.

TODAY, ~ WE'RE GOING TO JUST COVER ~ THE 1ST EXHORTATION, ~ THE EXAMPLES that go with it, ~ and the reasons for it. ~~ 3:5-7.

⇔⇔ Rather long introduction, ~ but purposeful. ↯↯ 3/16

THE FIRST EXHORTATION INSTRUCTING BELIEVERS ~ TO BREAK WITH ~ 77

ALL ~ OF THE SINFUL ~ CHARACTERISTICS, ~ THOUGHTS, ~ SPEECH, ~ ATTITUDES, ~
and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of ~ our sinful nature.

▶▶ Verse 5a.

▷▷ Put to death ~ therefore ~ what is earthly ~ in you.

▶▶ The phrase, ~ "what is earthly in you," ~ is talking about ~ what belongs ~ to our earthly ~
or sinful ~ nature.

▶▶ Some translations use the phrase ~ "the members of your earthly body" ~ 77

▷▷ or something similar ~ instead of ~ "what is earthly in you."

▶▶ Greek text ~ simply reads, ~ "Put to death ~ therefore ~ the members ~ on ~ the earth."

▷▷ Definitely calls ~ for interpretation ~ on the part of translators.

▶▶ The phrase, ~ "what is earthly in you" ~ is obviously ~ figurative.

▷▷ Paul ~ is not ~ calling for us ~ to do ourselves ~ or others ~ bodily harm ~ in this verse.

▶▶ It most likely then ~ refers, ~ as we noted, ~ to what belongs ~ to our earthly ~ or ~
sinful ~ nature.

▶▶ It can ~ be translated ~ this way: ~ 77

▷▷ "Put to death, ~ therefore, ~ whatever belongs ~ to ~ your sinful nature." 77 4/16

▷▷ This translation ~ helps us better understand ~ what Paul ~ is saying.

BUT WHAT SPECIFICALLY ~ DOES HE MEAN ~ BY THE PHRASE, ~ "whatever belongs ~ to ~ your sinful nature"?

▶▶ Based ~ on the wider context ~ of [verses 5-11](#), ~ I think we can say that ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Paul ~ is talking about ~ the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ that belong ~ to ~ our sin nature.

THESE ~ WE ARE ~ TO PUT TO DEATH.

▶▶ The phrase, ~ "Put to death," ~ is also obviously figurative.

▷▷ Again, ~ Paul is not calling for us ~ to do ourselves ~ bodily harm.

NOW, ~ THE VERB PAUL USES HERE ~ FOR ~ "PUT TO DEATH" ~ IS VERY STRONG.

▶▶ And the translation ~ "Put to death" ~ is ~ an excellent translation.

▷▷ Because ~ it brings out the force ~ Paul is getting at here.

▷▷ Grab our attention.

▶▶ The idea here ~ is to ~ eliminate from our lives ~ or ~ to break with ~ all ~ ¶¶

▷▷ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ that belong ~ to ~ our sin nature.

▶▶ But ~ there is an implication ~ in this verb ~ that we must not miss. ¶¶ 5/16

▶▶ The fuller idea is this.

▷▷ Completely break ~ with all ~ of the things ~ that belong ~ to your sinful nature.

▷▷ With the implication ~ of extreme measures taken ~ to guarantee ~ such ~ a break.

IOW, ~ THIS MANDATED BREAK ~ WITH ALL ~ OF THE SINFUL ~ ¶¶

▶▶ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is to be ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and ~ final.

OUR BREAK ~ WITH WHAT BELONGS ~ TO OUR SIN NATURE ~ IS ~ TO BE ~ RADICAL.

▶▶ Paul's words ~ are very similar to ~ and carry the same idea as ~ Jesus' words ~ in [Matthew, ~ Chapter 5, ~ verses 29 ~ 30.](#)

▷▷ If your right eye ~ causes you to sin, ~ tear it out ~ and throw it away. ~ For ~ it is better ~ that you lose ~ one of your members ~ than ~ that your whole body ~ be thrown ~ into hell. ~ And ~ if your right hand ~ causes you to sin, ~ cut it off ~ and throw it away. ~ For ~ it is better ~ that you lose ~ one of your members ~ than ~ that your whole body ~ go into hell.

▶▶ Jesus, ~ of course, ~ like Paul ~ is speaking figuratively.

▶▶ But again, ~ like Paul's language, ~ Jesus' strong choice of words ~ grabs our attention.

▶▶ Shows ~ how important this is. ⇨⇨ How ~ vital it is to do this.

▷▷ Jesus & Paul ~ want us ~ to take this ~ very, ~ very seriously. ¶¶ 6/16

▶▶ And it shows us ~ that ~ we are to take ~ extreme measures ~ against ~ all ~ 77

▷▷ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ that belong ~ to our sin nature.

▷▷ Spoil fun? ⇨⇨ No, ⇨⇨ For our good.

OUR BREAK ~ WITH WHAT BELONGS ~ TO OUR SIN NATURE ~ IS ~ TO BE ~ DECISIVE.

▶▶ Must not waver.

▶▶ We must not ~ be like Lot's wife, ~ who looked back ~ to Sodom.

▷▷ By looking back ~ she demonstrated ~ her affections ~ for her life ~ in Sodom.

▶▶ We should mention ~ Elijah's challenge ~ to the Israelites.

▷▷ It fits ~ with Paul's exhortation here. ⇨⇨ 1 Kings, ~ Chapter 18, ~ verse 21a (CSB).

↪↪ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, ~ "How long ~ will you waver ~ between two opinions? ~ If the Lord is God, ~ follow him. ~ But if Baal, ~ follow him."

▶▶ Joshua's challenge ~ fits here as well ~ as we consider ~ that our break ~ with what belongs to our old nature ~ is ~ to be ~ decisive.

▷▷ Joshua, ~ chapter 24, ~ verse 15.

↪↪ And ~ if it is evil in your eyes ~ to serve the Lord, ~ choose this day ~ whom you will serve, ~ whether the gods your fathers served ~ in the region beyond the River, ~ or the gods of the Amorites ~ in whose land you dwell. ⇨⇨ But as for me and my house, ~ we ~ will serve the Lord. 7/16

AND ~ OUR BREAK ~ WITH WHAT BELONGS ~ TO OUR SIN NATURE ~ IS ~ TO BE ~ final.

▶▶ 1 Peter, ~ chapter 4, ~ verse 3.

▷▷ For the time that is past ~ suffices ~ for doing ~ what the Gentiles [unbelievers] ~ want to do.

▶▶ Peter declares, ~ "Don't ~ involve yourselves ~ in the things you did ~ in your unsaved life."

▷▷ "You have had ~ enough ~ in your past life ~ of the evil things ~ that non-Christians ~ desire."

▶▶ Driving the point home ~ that ~ the past ~ is the past.

▷▷ Over ~ and done with.

▶▶ There must be ~ no going back ~ to the things we were involved in ~ before ~ we came to Christ.

▶▶ There must be ~ a complete break ~ with every part ~ of our unsaved lifestyle.

▶▶ After the exodus, ~ the Israelites ~ were often tempted ~ to return to Egypt

▷▷ So we might be tempted ~ to return ~ to our unsaved lifestyle.

▶▶ However, ~ Peter shows us ~ that ~ that ~ is not ~ a valid option for us.

▷▷ We are not to look back ~ but rather ~ forward.

▷▷ Remember what Hebrews, ~ chapter 12, verses 1 ← 2a ~ says. 📖 8/16

↳↳ Therefore, ~ since we are surrounded ~ by so great a cloud of witnesses, ~ let us also lay aside ~ ¶¶

→→ every weight ~ [or, ~ hindrance], ~ and sin ~ which clings so closely ~ [i.e., ~ sin that so easily ensnares us], ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and let us run ~ with endurance ~ the race ~ that is set before us, ~ looking to ~ [or, ~ keeping eyes on] ~ Jesus, ~ the founder and perfecter ~ of our faith.

MY . . . , ~ OUR BREAK ~ WITH ~ ALL ~ OF THE SINFUL ~ CHARACTERISTICS, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature ~ ¶¶

▶▶ is ~ to be ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and ~ final.

IN ROMANS, ~ CHAPTER 13, ~ verse 14b, ~ PAUL WRITES, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ "and ~ make no provision ~ for the flesh, ~ to gratify ~ its desires."

▶▶ Paul counsels us ~ against ~ allowing any opportunity whatsoever ~ for gratifying ~ the evil desires ~ of our sinful nature. (1 ~ 2 ~ 3)

▶▶ New life in Christ ~ stands ~ diametrically opposed ~ to the old life, ~ which was controlled ~ by earthly passions. (1 ~ 2 ~ 3)

▶▶ The believers' current behavior ~ should be ~ the polar opposite ~ of what ~ it once was.

▶▶ While the appetites of sin ~ will be with us throughout this life, ~ we are to deny them ~ any opportunity ~ of expression. (1 ~ 2 ~ 3)

▶▶ We are not ~ even to consider ~ the possibility ~ of allowing them ~ to fulfill ~ their evil intentions through us. (1 ~ 2 ~ 3) ¶¶ 9/16

IN VERSE 5b, ~ PAUL GIVES US ~ FIVE EXAMPLES OF WHAT BELONGS TO OUR SIN nature ~ ↴↴

THAT WE ARE TO ~ RADICALLY, ~ DECISIVELY, ~ AND FINALLY ~ BREAK WITH.

▶▶sexual immorality, ~~ impurity, ~~ passion, ~~ evil desire, ~~ and ~~ covetousness, ~ which is idolatry.

THE FIRST 4 EXAMPLES ~ PRIMARILY CONCERN ~ SEXUALLY RELATED SINS.

▶▶I don't think ~ we need to go over each one.

▶▶We can just look ~ at the big picture ~ and get the point.

▶▶The Bible ~ strictly forbids ~ any sexual activity ~ outside the marriage bond between a man and a woman.

▶▶1 Thessalonians, ~ chapter 4, ~ verses 3 ← 8.

▶▶Comment as we go.

▷▷³ For this is the will of God, ~ your sanctification ~ [i.e., ~ for you to be holy]: ~~ that you abstain from sexual immorality; ~~ ⁴ that each one of you ~ know how to control his own body ~ in holiness and honor, ~ ↴↴

▷▷⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God ~ [i.e., ~ Don't let your sexual desires control you like the people who don't know God]; ~ ↴↴

▷▷⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter ~ [idea here seems to be: ~~ one must not ~ transgress against and take advantage of ~ a brother or sister ~ in this manner], ~ ↴↴ ↴↴ 10/16

▷▷because the Lord is an avenger in all these things ~ [i.e., ~ The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins], ~ as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ~ ¶¶

▷▷⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness ~ [i.e., ~ For God did not call us to be impure, ~ but to live a holy life]. ~ ¶¶

▷▷⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, ~ disregards not man ~ but God, ~ who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

↪↪I.e., ~ anyone ~ who rejects this instruction ~ does not reject a human being, ~¶¶ ¶¶

→→but ~ is rejecting God, ~ who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

THE BIBLE ~ STRICTLY FORBIDS ~ ANY SEXUAL ACTIVITY ~ OUTSIDE THE MARRIAGE bond between a man and a woman.

▶▶This would include thoughts ~ as well as actions.

▶▶Recall Jesus' words in [Matthew, chapter 5, verses 27 – 28](#).

▷▷You have heard ~ that it was said, ~ 'You shall not ~ commit adultery.' ~ But I say to you ~ that everyone ~ who looks at a woman ~ with lustful intent ~ has already committed adultery with her ~ in his heart.

THIS, ~ OF COURSE, ~ FLIES IN THE FACE ~ OF THE SOCIETY ~ IN WHICH WE LIVE.

▶▶Sexual immorality ~ is running rampant ~ in this society.

▷▷And ~ it's getting worse.

▷▷The world ~ approves of ~ and glorifies ~ any and all ~ sexual immorality. ¶¶ 11/16

▶▶ But ~ we ~ are not to follow the world.

▷▷ We ~ are to follow God ~~ and stay faithful ~ to him ~ and ~ to his word.

▷▷ Apostles: ~~ "We must obey God ~ rather than men."

▶▶ And when we do live ~ as God wants us to, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and we don't engage ~ in the sexual immorality of this world, ~ people will look at us ~ as odd.

▷▷ And that's ok.

↪↪ Christians ~ are supposed to look odd ~ to the people of the world. ⇔⇔ Drummer.

AND NOW THE 5th EXAMPLE ~ OF WHAT BELONGS ~ TO OUR SIN NATURE ~ ¶¶

THAT WE MUST ~ RADICALLY, ~ DECISIVELY, ~ AND FINALLY ~ BREAK WITH.

▶▶ At the end ~ of verse 5b, ~~ covetousness, ~ which is ~ idolatry.

▶▶ We are ~ to eliminate greed ~ from our lives ~ completely.

NOTICE THAT PAUL ~ SAW COVETOUSNESS ~ AS BEING ~ TANTAMOUNT ~ to idolatry.

▶▶ Idolatry ~ is not limited ~ to the worship of false images, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but it is placing ~ anything or anyone ~ before God ~ as the object of ~ allegiance and devotion. ¶¶ 12/16

▷▷ A greedy person's insatiable desire ~ to acquire more and more, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ whatever the object, ~ and regardless of need, ~ causes them ~ ¶¶

→→ to put money and earthly things ~ before God ~ as the object ~ of their ~ allegiance and devotion.

▶▶ Money and earthly things ~ become the false gods ~ that a covetous person ~ worships and serves ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in the place ~ of the true God.

▶▶ In Matthew, ~ chapter 6, ~ verse 24, ~ Jesus said, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "No one ~ can serve two masters, ~ for either ~ he will hate the one ~ and love the other, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ or ~ he will ~ be devoted to the one ~ and despise the other. ~ You cannot ~ serve God and money."

▷▷ It is possible ~ to devote oneself wholly ~ to the service ~ of God.

↳↳ And it is possible ~ to devote oneself wholly ~ to the service ~ of acquiring money and earthly things.

→→ But it is not possible ~ to devote oneself wholly ~ to the service ~ of both.

▷▷ Of course, ~ many people ~ do ~ try to do both, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ but ultimately ~ one ~ will eventually win out ~ and exercise control ~ over ~ the person's life. ¶¶ 13/16

IN VERSES 6 AND 7, ~ PAUL GIVES US ~ TWO REASONS ~ WHY WE MUST ~ 77

RADICALLY, ~ DECISIVELY, ~ AND FINALLY ~ BREAK ~ WITH WHAT BELONGS ~ TO OUR sin nature.

FIRST, ~ VERSE 6.

▶▶ On account of these ~ the wrath of God is coming.

▶▶ I.e., ~ there is to be a radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ 77

▷▷ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ that belong ~ to our sinful nature ~ 77

↪↪ because ~ of the negative consequences ~ continuing in a sinful lifestyle ~ will bring.

▶▶ Now, ~ Paul was writing to believers, ~ so I'm not sure why ~ he used this wording.

▷▷ He tells us in 1 Thess. ~ that Jesus ~ delivers believers ~ from the wrath to come.

▷▷ It very much could be ~ he said it this way ~ to grab our attention.

▷▷ And, ~ as a believer reading this, ~ it should.

↪↪ It should stop us ~ dead in our tracks ~ and cause us ~ to think.

▶▶ I think Paul is showing us, ~ in a very dramatic way, ~ that sinning brings negative consequences.

▷▷ Paul shuts down ~ any arguments ~ to the contrary. 77 14/16

▷▷Here he's refuting arguments ~ that justify ~ any sinful behavior, ~ ¶¶

↳↳that say ~ believers can take sin lightly, ~ or ~ that we can continue ~ in the sinful lifestyle ~ of our unsaved life.

▶▶A sinful lifestyle ~ is incompatible ~ with ~ our new life in Christ.

▶▶Sinful behavior ~ brings ~ the wrath of God ~ on unbelievers.

▶▶And for believers, ~ it breaks fellowship with God ~ and brings His discipline down on us.

▷▷Isaiah, ~ chapter. 59, ~ verse 2, ~ "but your iniquities ~ have made a separation ~ between you and your God, ~ and your sins ~ have hidden his face from you ~ so that ~ he does not hear."

▷▷Hebrews, ~ chapter 12, ~ verses 5b ◀ 6, ~ "My son, ~ do not regard lightly ~ the discipline of the Lord, ~ nor be weary ~ when reprov'd by him. ~ For the Lord disciplines ~ the one he loves, ~ and chastises ~ every son ~ whom he receives."

▶▶1 more thing, ~ if sinful behavior brings down the wrath of God upon unbelievers, ~ ¶¶

▷▷why would we, ~ believers, ~ ever think ~ that sinful behavior ~ is compatible ~ with our new life in Christ, ~ ¶¶

↳↳or ~ that we could justify ~ any sinful behavior, ~ ¶¶

→→or ~ that we could take sin lightly, ~ or ~ that we could continue ~ in our unsaved lifestyle.

NOW, ~ VERSE 7 AND THE SECOND REASON ~ WHY ~ WE MUST ~ ¶¶

▶▶radically, ~ decisively, ~ and finally ~ break ~ with what belongs to our sin nature. ¶¶ 15/16

▷▷ In these ~ you too once walked, ~ when you were living in them.

▶▶ I.e., ~ there is to be ~ a radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that belong ~ to our sinful nature ~ because ~ these things ~ belong ~ in the past.

▶▶ They have ~ absolutely ~ no place ~ in our life ~ as new creations.

▶▶ The two verbs, ~ "walked" ~ and ~ "were living" ~ both past tenses, ~ emphasize ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that ~ what belongs to our sin nature ~ belonged to ~ and characterized ~ our unsaved past ~ ¶¶

↪↪ and ~ that the believer ~ should ~ be done with them.

▶▶ In his first epistle, ~ Peter tells us ~ that ~ we have had enough in the past ~ of the evil things ~ that unbelievers desire.

CONCLUSION.

MY , ~ ¶¶

▶▶ our break ~ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ of the old life ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is to be ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and ~ final.

LET'S PRAY 16/16