

Winning the Battle for Our Minds

“For The Win” Series – Part 04

Connect: Share the first thing that you ever remember in your life. Why do you suppose it was so memorable at such an early age?

Hook: Years ago, a classic cartoon by Mary Chambers, appeared in “Christianity Today” magazine. It showed two couples studying the Bible. One of the women says, “Well, I haven’t actually died to sin, but I did feel kind of faint once.” I can identify with that woman! I know that the Bible says that I’m dead to sin, but I don’t always feel dead to it.

In his fourth message in the “For the Win” series, Pastor Brandon stated: *“This doesn’t mean that every sin we commit can be directly blamed on Satan. But it ultimately means that all sin, directly or indirectly, traces its origin back to the lies that Satan has sown into humanity, from the garden of Eden and onward. And most of the time, when we sin, when we fail morally, it’s because we’ve believed something false that came, directly or indirectly, from Satan’s influence.”*

There’s a battle raging to influence our thoughts, beliefs, and our attitudes. Pastor Brandon shared with us excellent steps to take that we might win this battle. Today, we will look in the book of Colossians and discover Paul’s advice to win the battle for our minds.

Book: Colossians 3:1-12

Col 3:1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Col 3:2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

Col 3:3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.

Col 3:5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Col 3:6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.

Col 3:7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.

Col 3:8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Col 3:9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

Col 3:10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.

Col 3:11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.

Col 3:12 Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Look:

How can one “*set his sights on heavenly realities*”? What activities would help us to achieve this goal?

What are common distractions to this kind of focus?

Living life here in this world requires wisdom, planning, goal setting, etc. to be somewhat successful. What then does Paul mean when he says, “*Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth*”.

Discuss: Does a Christian ever reach a point where he is dead to sin in the sense that it no longer tempts him?

How can we believe that we’re dead to sin when we sometimes feel so alive to it? How do you respond in your mind in these times of temptation.

Is it possible to have a life that is hidden in Christ (Verse 3)? How do we go about cultivating this kind of life?

Look at the list of destructive behaviors in verses 5-9. As you look at each negative behavior (sin), discuss the erroneous thinking that leads to these actions and then give an alternative way of thinking that would conquer the urge to sin.

How would you help a Christian who said, “I feel so weak when I’m tempted; I just can’t resist”?

Took:

What is your favorite and most successful way to “set your sights on Heavenly realities”?

Read verse 12 again.

As someone chosen by God, what characteristic or habit in your life doesn’t fit the description in verse 12. This week, explore the scripture and commit to memory (the mind) a verse to help you be victorious in this battle.