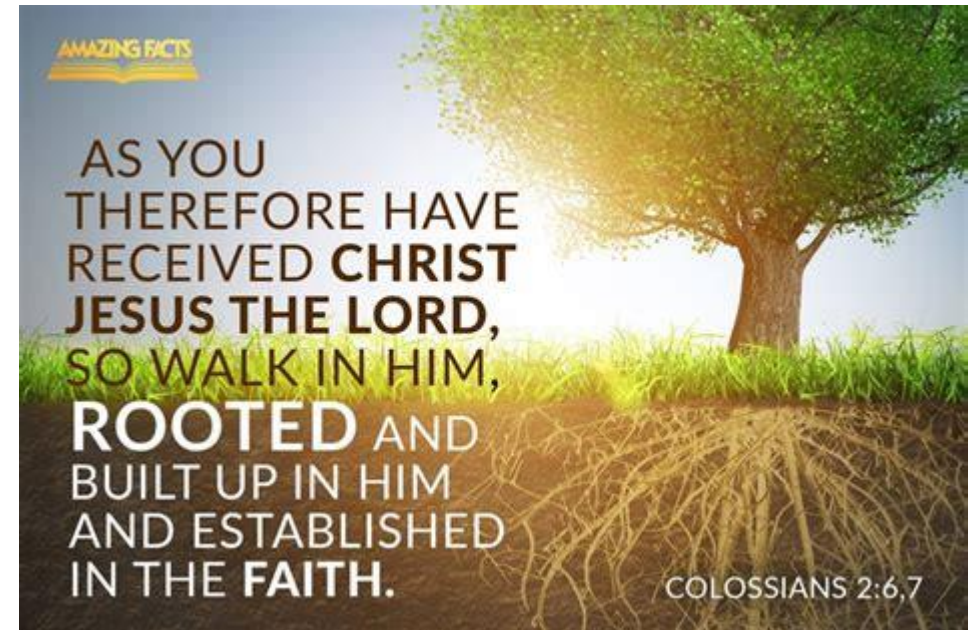


Mature Christian life: What is it?

Colossians 3:1-12

Maturity in Christ: Goal to labor for

- Maturity is a worthwhile goal
- Strive to gain a complete knowledge of Christ
- To achieve this goal, we must be rooted and grounded on the Word



Colossians 3:1-12

- What we are in Christ, our spiritual position:

God accomplished for us through Christ's death

- What we are to become in daily experience:

Our responsibility to 'work it out' in every daily lives.

- Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Spiritual position:

1. Raised with Christ (v1)
2. Dead to sin (v3)
3. Life hidden in Christ (v3)
4. Will be glorified with Him (4)

- ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Our responsibility:

1. Set our hearts /minds on things on things above (1-2)
2. Put to death whatever belong to our earthly nature, which is dead (5-9)
3. Put on the new self, renewed in the image of Christ (10)

Set your hearts on Heavenly things

Matthew 6:19-21

**Do not lay up for yourselves
treasures on earth . . . but lay up for
yourselves treasures in heaven . . .**

***For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.***



- Raised with Christ.. in heaven
- Our hearts and minds should naturally be focused there.
- Lay up our ‘treasures’ in heaven.

Job's attitude towards earthly things



1. Blameless and upright man
 2. 7 sons and 3 daughters
 3. Livestock – thousands
 4. Large number of servants
- Prosperous and well known in community.

Wager in heaven (1:6-20):

1.
Have you
noticed my
servant Job?

2. He serves you
because you
protect him.

If you wreck his
stuff, he'll curse
you.

3.
Okay, you can
take away all his
things. Just don't
touch him.

1. God's boast about Job:
blameless and upright, fears
God and shuns evil.
2. Satan countered: take away
every blessing and see.
3. Job lost everything in a day.

his robe and shaved his head.
Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

"Naked I came from my
mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.^c

The LORD gave and the LORD
has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be
praised."

²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

- Fell down in worship.
- Earthly things are given by God, He can take it away.
- Did not blame God for 'wrong' suffering


things above (heavenly),

- ‘ Love *heavenly things*; *study* them; let your hearts be entirely *engrossed* by them..... act in reference to heavenly things as you did formerly in reference to those of earth.’ (Clarke)

Heavenly perspective should penetrate daily events.

Remember God in all plans and activities.

Put our hope in God alone



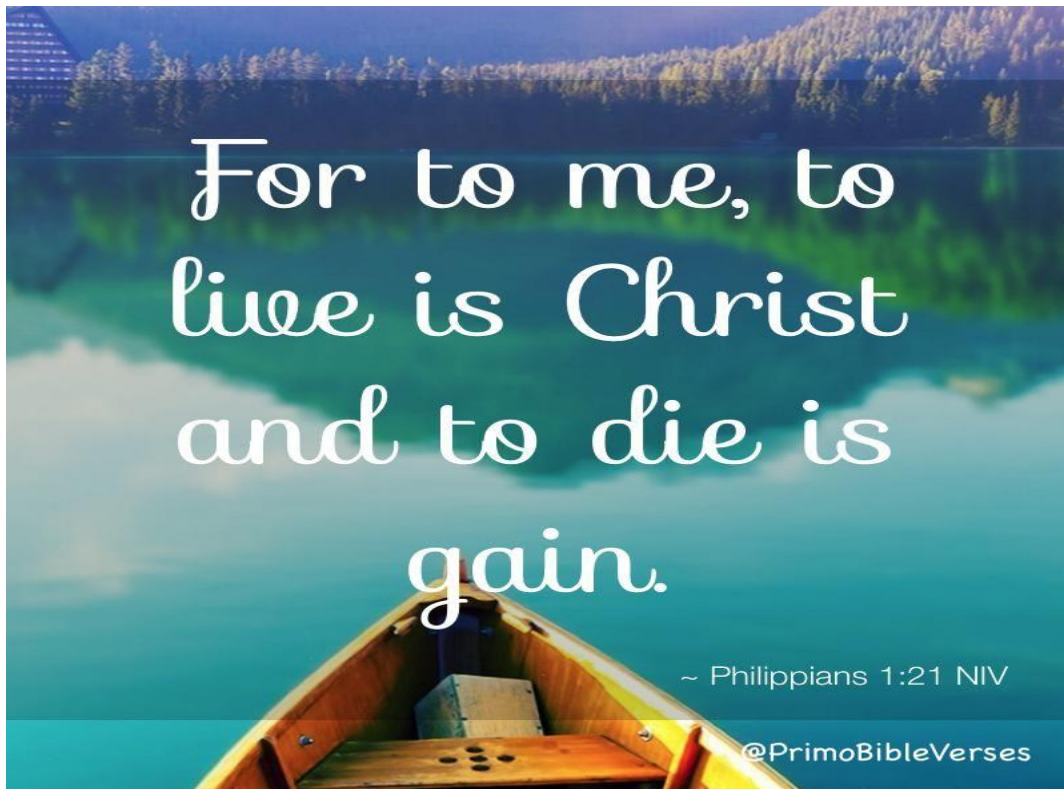
Command those who are rich in this present world
not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth,
which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God,
who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:17 (New International Version)

- Put our hope in God, not earthly things like wealth, career, achievements, status

Life....hidden in Christ

- For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (v 3)



- to live is Christ [He is my source of joy, my reason to live] and to die is gain [for I will be with Him in eternity]. (AMP)



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

- Prioritize spiritual pursuits... study the bible, prayer, worship, fellowship, sharing...grow into knowing Christ and maturity in faith
- Set our hearts and minds on the things above!

Put to death.... earthy nature

- ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your **earthy nature**: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also **rid yourselves** of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

earthy nature:

Wrath of God.

Part of the old life.

Put to death

Nekrosate – to make dead

Be radical with sin:

Not simply to suppress or control evil acts and attitudes. We are to wipe them out, completely exterminate the old way of life.

(Vaughan)

- Kill off the influence of sin.
- Must not tolerate sinful attitude and actions.

put to death: sexual sins

- Sex is God given (for consummation in marriage and for procreation) and is good.
 - Sex outside the boundary set by God is sin
-
- Leviticus 18: list of unlawful sexual sins and their prohibitions

Leviticus 18: Unlawful sex

- ²⁹ For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰ So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”

abominations- Strong prohibitions

- cut off
- never to practice them
- never to make yourselves unclean.

Jesus taught: Guard against lust

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matthew 5:28).

Jesus : our motives and intentions are
judged as well

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;

Need self control
to avoid sexual immorality.

Greed, which is idolatry

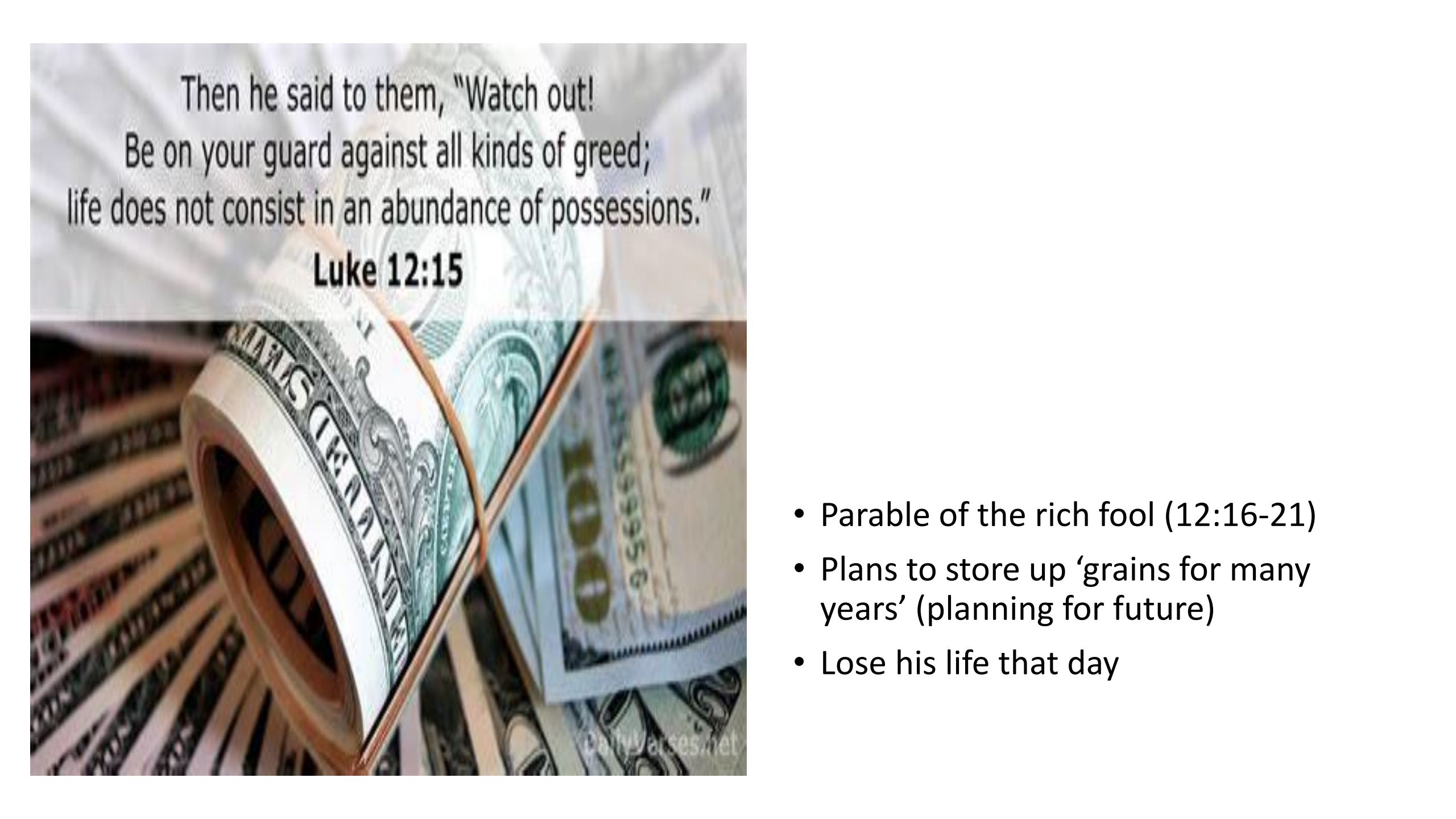
No one can serve two masters

Either you will love the one and hate the other
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other
You cannot serve both God and money

Matthew 6:24 NIV



- “Every godly man seeks his happiness in God;
- the covetous man seeks that in his money which God alone can give;
- therefore his covetousness is properly *idolatry*.” (Clarke)



Then he said to them, "Watch out!
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:15

- Parable of the rich fool (12:16-21)
- Plans to store up 'grains for many years' (planning for future)
- Lose his life that day

Greed is destructive

- It is idolatry when we think of life consisting in things possessed, rather than in righteous relationship to God.”
- It is also a sin against others, for to satisfy the desire, others are wronged.”
- it is self-destructive, for these wrong conceptions and activities always bring harm to its owner.”
- Things possessed become our idol.
- Exploit others to achieve higher positions/gains.
- Greed lead people to gambling and other ‘get rich quick schemes or scams’.

Greed hurts God, others and self

- **Be content with having needs met and not amassing wealth.**

(1 Tim 6:6-9 NIV) But godliness with contentment is great gain. {7} For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. {8} But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. {9} People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Danger of greed

Anger, rage and malice

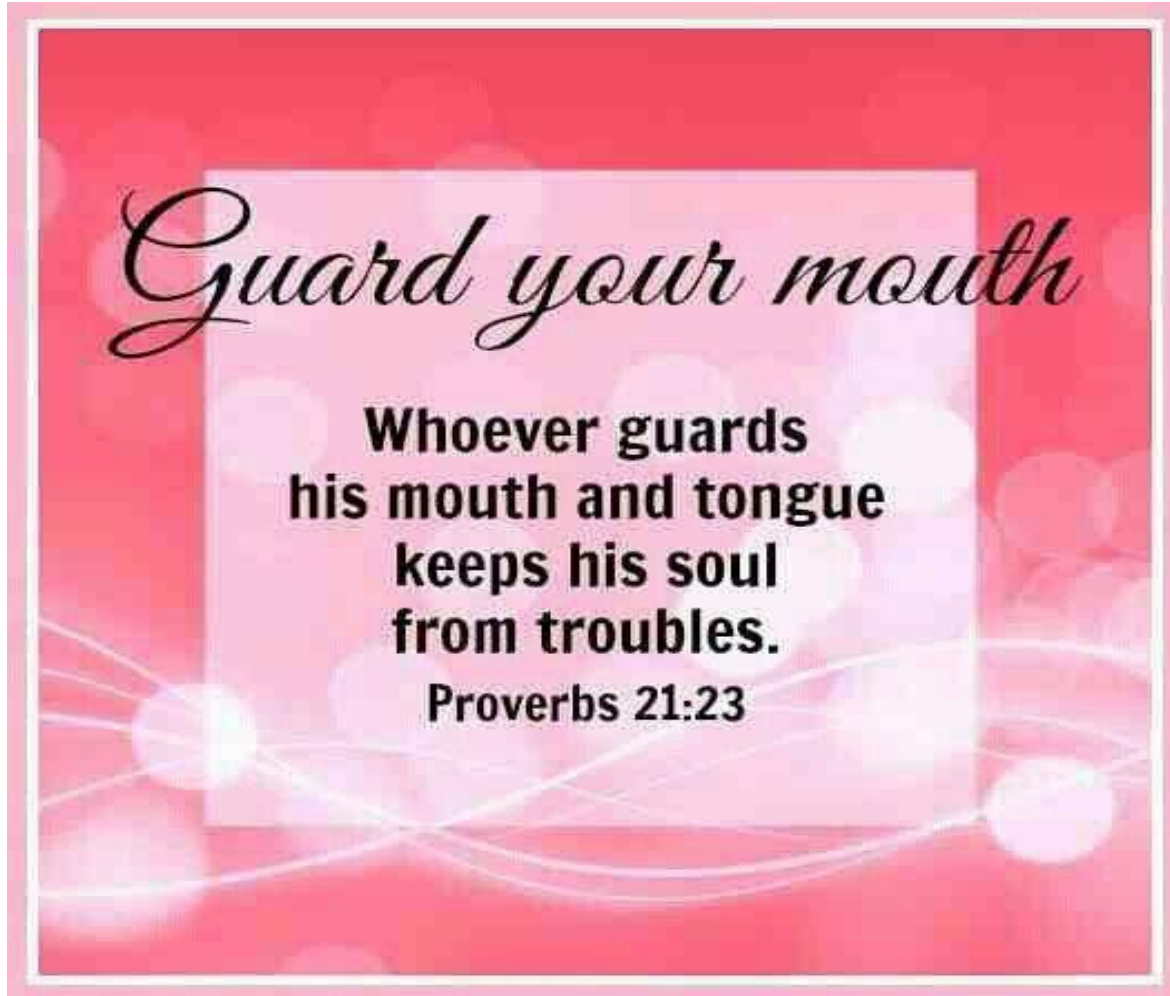
- Anger opens the door for the devil to influence us to malicious action



- Anger opens the door for the devil to influence us to malicious action
- Anger does not bring about the righteous life which God desires for you (James 1: 20)

- “When a tide of passion or a surge of anger is felt, it must be dealt with as the alien intruder it really is, and turned out of the house as having no right to be there at all, let alone to be giving orders.” (Wright)

Slander, filthy language
and lies :



- Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. (James 1:26)
- Speak only what is helpful for building others up... (Eph 4:20)

Put to death/

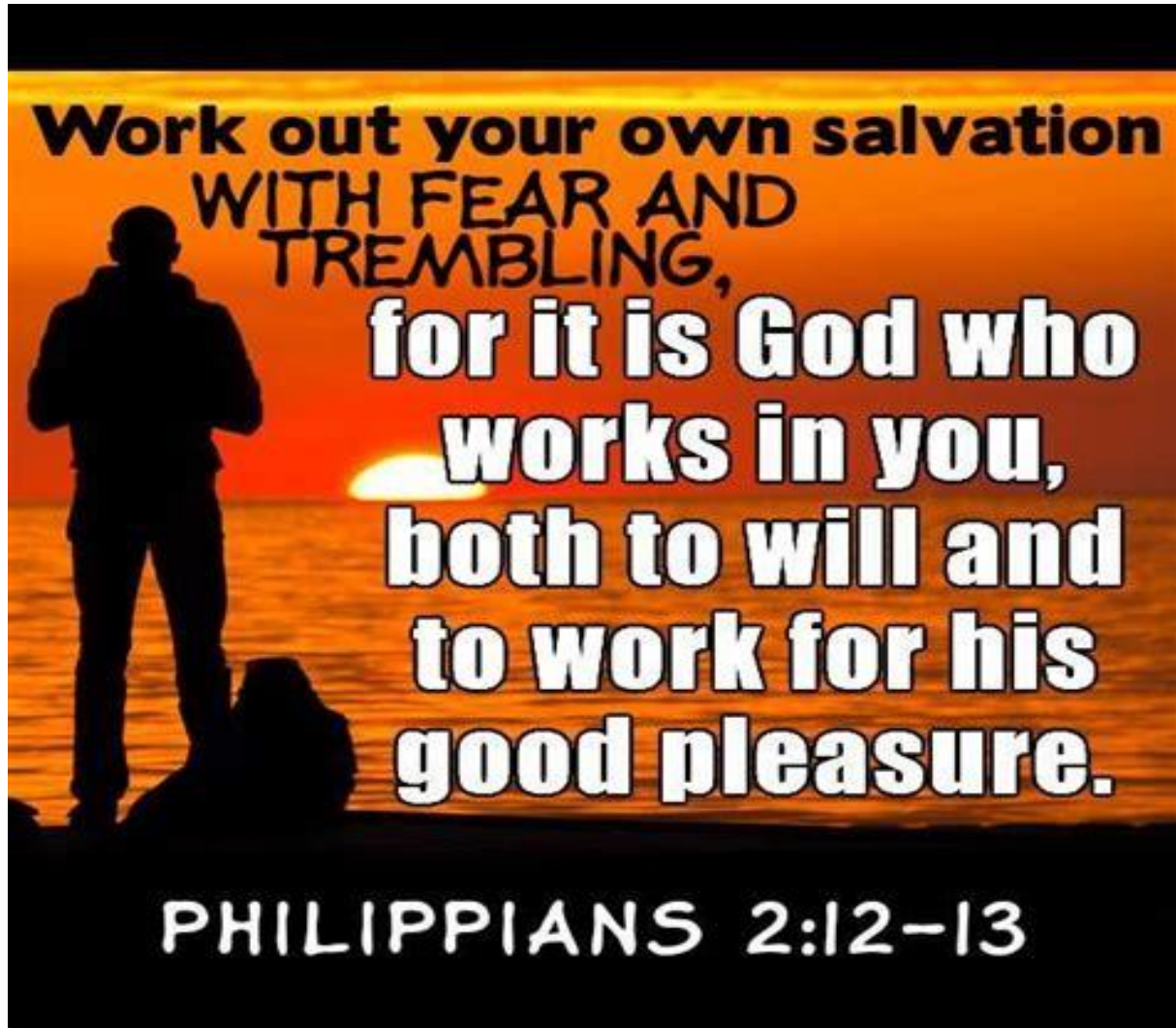
Put off:

- sexual immorality/greed.....
connected with a wrong attitude
towards earthly things
- Speech and behaviour which
stumble our relationship with one
another

What we are in Christ

- Raised with Christ
- Dead to sin
- Life hidden with Christ
- Have the righteousness of Christ
(put on the new self)

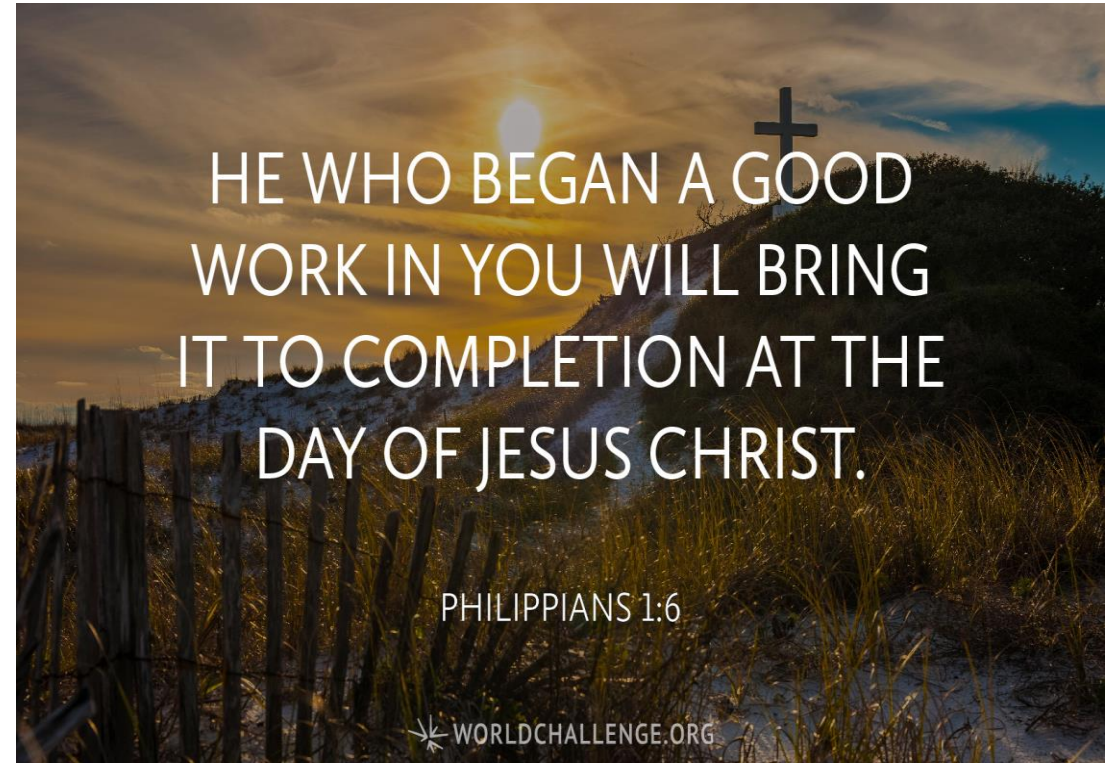
Our Christian responsibility:



- Set their hearts/minds on the things above.
- Put to death practices that belonged to the old self

Work out salvation

- We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the process of sanctification to complete what God has begun for us in Christ



Fear

- Greek word can equally mean "reverence" or "respect."
- Healthy 'fear' of offending God that lead to humble obedience

trembling

- Weakness which lead to dependance on God
- God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13)

Dead to Sins (Romans 6:13)

- ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Do not:

- Offer any part of yourselves to sin
- Offer yourselves to God as an instrument of righteousness

- **We have a choice**
- **to say 'No' to sin.**

Jesus taught:

- ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

- CUT IT OFF / PLUCK IT OUT
- Be aggressive / do not tolerate sin (Mark 9: 43-47)

Maturity in Christ: what is it?

What we are in Christ:

- Raised with Christ
- Dead to sin/earthly nature
- Life is hidden with Christ
- Have righteousness of Christ

What we are to become in daily experience:

- Set their hearts/minds on the things above
- Put to death practices that belonged to the old self
- Put on the new self... renewed in the image of Christ

BUCK DENVER asks...

WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

Colossians 3:12

**Put on then, as
God's chosen
ones, holy and
beloved,
compassionate
hearts, kindness,
humility,
meekness,
and patience.**



The Path of Spiritual Growth



Moving Toward Maturity in Christ

Each Person Is a Work in Progress!

- Press on to
 - the Goal
-