

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with a bridge over the nose, resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

# Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:1-8

James 1:2-4, 12-16

**Dead to Actions that No Longer  
Characterize the Believer**

# Introduction

- Positional truth of our salvation is NOT too deep for ANY believer!
  - It is necessary to focus your mind (your thinking) on *the way God sees you to be in His Son* in order to:
    - KNOW this position in Christ
    - ENJOY this position in Christ
    - USE this position in Christ
- The way the Father look at you in His Son is called “things above” Colossian 3:1, and “all spiritual blessings” in Ephesians 1:3

# Introduction

- Two aspects of these “things above” and “spiritual blessings” are that we have been:
  - **Imputed to be dead with Christ**
    - To be dead our sin nature, and
    - To be dead to the control of the elements of the world system
  - **Imputed to be raised with Christ**
    - To be alive to the will and good pleasure of the Father
      - Rom 6:2-3, 11; Col 2:12-13, 20, 3:3; Phil 2:13

# Introduction

- Therefore, Colossians 3:1 encourages us to (mentally) search for these “things”, these “blessings” where we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus
- Colossians 3:4 reveals that at the appearance of Christ Jesus, we will be glorified to appear with Him, exactly as He is now glorified
  - I Jn 3:2 “... but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”
- Now we continue with Colossians 3:5-8

# Uncharacteristic Behavior of the NT Grace-Believer in Christ - Col. 3:5-8

- Unrighteous behaviors and lifestyle of our former position in Adam (a.k.a, “the Old Man”). These are the behaviors of who we were (Col 3:6-7)
  - **Fornication**
    - Any illicit sexual relationship
  - **Uncleanness**
    - Retention in the mind of thoughts that are disgustingly filthy” – HLSchafer
  - **Passion**
    - Thoughts and actions that are difficult to give up

# Uncharacteristic Behavior of the NT Grace-Believer in Christ - Col. 3:5-8 (continued)

- **Evil lust**

- Strong desires that lack character (cf Lk 22:15)

- **Greediness**

- Desire to have more in relation to the world-system (cf 2:20)

- **Anger**

- A settled habitual anger that desires an outward expression of revenge

- **Wrath**

- A strong inner burning which can lead to an expression of anger

# Uncharacteristic Behavior of the NT Grace-Believer in Christ - Col. 3:5-8 (*continued*)

- **Evil**
  - That which lacks in character
  - For the believer: lacking in the character of Christ in any situation
- **Blasphemy**
  - Making a false attribution toward a person or thing
- **Filthy communication**
  - Filthy obscene speech

# Divine Provision for Victory Over our Former Lifestyle

- **Temptation met with joy**
  - James 1:2,12
- **The process of temptation**
  - James 1:13-15
- **Victory over lust and temptation from the sin nature comes by means of “reckoning” (count it true)**
  - James 6:11, Rom 8:13



# CONCLUSION

When lusts and temptations arise in our minds (and they will), we need to realize with JOY, “that’s not who I am in Christ!”

My identity is that God the Father sees me to be:

- **DEAD to sin**
- **ALIVE to Him**
- **FORGIVEN of all sin**
- **Having the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Christ continually in His Son**

That is who I really am...

Now, set this focused thinking on THINGS ABOVE, where I am SEATED in Christ

- And do that again, and again, and again