

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

January 13, 2021

Colossians 3:1-4

Heavenly Mindedness

There is a subconscious psychology pervasive through mankind. Books, movies and stories of all sorts seem fascinated with recurrent themes. On the simplistic levels we are obsessed with violence, sexuality, drug use and foul behavior in general. 70% of tv shows portray some form of sexual content and the majority of those are outside of marriage and Godly requirements. At a deeper level, so much storytelling is invested in murder, political and international intrigue, big money and corporate greed. The average child will watch 8,000 murders on TV before finishing elementary school. By age eighteen, the average American has seen 200,000 acts of violence on TV, including 40,000 murders. This all amounts to satisfying our core love of darkness; John 3:19. We love sin and want desperately to be entertained by it; Ephesians 5:11-12. How can it be enjoyable to watch an act of violence on the big screen? To be entertained by violence! Look over the income of popular movies. Evil sells! It could be so that if we can't engage in debauchery ourselves then we are content to watch someone else doing it. Sin is in our psyche. Mankind has a subsurface knowledge of the things that God hates resulting in a greater desire for their engaging and participating in them; Romans 1:18-32. God's very laws against our worst behaviors draw us inexorably into them; Romans 7:7.

There exists yet another, lower and darker level to man's subconscious pull towards deep, mysterious things. An innate understanding of large and fearful times and events that so capture the unsaved masses are capable of being understood by only a select few. Esoteric pride aside, that select few are bible believing Christians who care to search out the deeper things of God; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13. Have you been aware in recent decades of the books and movies thrilled with exploring demonic and spiritual activity? Oh, how many entertainment dollars are spent on topics like the end of the world, pandemics, aliens, the living dead and the so called apocalypse (a term few outside of bible study can even define accurately). These subjects titillate the senses and are 'fun' to explore. Why? Because they exist in the depths of the mind. A knowledge of something distantly known. Something planted in us by Almighty God; Ecclesiastes 3:11. Man even knows of ancient catastrophe and yet refuses to acknowledge it. Movies often seem to reveal such fearful events but most laugh at their implausibility. 2 Peter 3:3-10. Unbelievers, atheists and scientists know deep inside that the Creator has desperately reached out to us to warn us of a coming doom that none will escape except those who respond to His loving plea; John 6:44, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Luke 21:33-36, Hebrews 2:3.

Review today's passage in Colossians. Looking ahead to verses 5-8 we find the many horrible, yet attractive misdeeds that trap mankind. In our text for today we are relieved to see our present state. We are dead! V3. How? We are considered dead to sin and self. We are risen with Christ, in Christ. V1 and 4. How? His new life includes and quickens us. We are the Living Dead! We hear of vampires, ghouls and zombies! How popular culture has stolen the beauty of our relationship with the Saviour! In Him we are glorified and will appear as such. Dozens of verses tell us this. 2 Corinthians 3:18, John 17:22, 1 John 3:2. God says elsewhere He will not give His glory to another yet He graciously shares it with us! When Jesus is revealed we will be too! Here is a misguided, misunderstood popular movie reference! The Apocalypse! Hollywood knows this as the cataclysmic end of the world! For them maybe. Not for us! For the Christian this is the final, wonderful revelation of Jesus Christ and we with Him! 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

There is a new age concept known as 'Forest Bathing'. Proponents believe that by soaking in the beauty of nature one can find peace and oneness. As we saw earlier in Romans 1 mankind desires to worship the creation, not the Creator. Colossians 3:1-4 says a lot but it says it all to say this. We ought to seek and set our affections on things above. Affection in verse 2 is *phroneō* in the Greek or to exercise the mind that is entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication to be (mentally) disposed. Our entertainment ought to be the intensity of our sentiment toward the joy of knowing Christ! Philippians 3:8. Being this heavenly minded will make us truly earthly good. What resides above? Relationships. With God, family and the fellowship of the saints. This was the driving force of Paul's ministry. 2 Corinthians 8:4. What is yours?