

Monday

Therefore...

Today's Scripture Colossians 3:1-25

By ourselves, we are nothing. We are sinners, lost and falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). By ourselves, we accomplish nothing. The fruit of our lives will not be productive for the cause of Christ (Matthew 7:15-23). Yet when we are in Christ, Paul says we should "reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2). A few verses later he declares "you have been filled" (Colossians 2:10). Filled? There is no room for anything else? Exactly! Why? Because you do not need anything else!

Our baptism into Christ (2:12) has both eternal and temporal consequences. It no longer is viewed as a solitary act that took place in our past. Instead, it was the beginning point to a different life – at least, it should have been the beginning point.

While not always visible in the English translations, Paul follows his point about our acceptance of Christ with several "therefore" paragraphs (each section begins with the same Greek preposition).

2:6-15 – Therefore, if we truly accepted Christ, act like it!

2:16-23 – Therefore, don't let anyone steal away your joy of salvation.

3:1-4 – Therefore, keep your head in the game! "Set your minds on things that are above" (v. 3).

3:5-11 – Therefore, destroy all thoughts that are unspiritual (vv. 5-9), and surround yourself with all thoughts that are Christ-like (vv. 10-11).

3:12-25 – Therefore, act like someone "chosen of God."

A few thoughts: God's plan is for us, each and every day, to reflect our relationship with Christ. The text in Colossians 3 should leap off the page and manifest itself in how we act, talk and treat others. It is the practical application that is crucial.

Today, I will...act like I belong to Christ, talk like I belong to Christ and manifest His love in my life.