

Sunday, May 9, 2021—Colossians 3:12 Put On Therefore As The Elect of God

Colossians 3:12

- **Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;**
- **Put on therefore**—the expression “put on” is the 6th imperative command that Paul gives in this chapter.
 - Col. 3:1—“seek”
 - Col. 3:2—“set”
 - Col. 3:5—“mortify”
 - Col. 3:8—“put off”
 - Col. 3:9—“lie not”
 - Col. 3:12—“put on”
- The believer is command to “put on therefore” i.e., on the basis of the positional realities laid out in verses 9 through 11 believers are commanded to function in attitudes, actions, and behaviors that are indicative of new man/new creature they have been made in Christ.
- Colossians 3:9—recall that we are commanded to “lie not” because we have already “put off the old man with his deeds.” Likewise in verse 12, believers are instructed to “put on” i.e., practically function as the “new man” that they already are.
- **as the elect of God**—members of the body of Christ are “the elect of God.” The command to “put on” is given in light of the fact that we are “the elect of God.” In the context, how can verse 12 not be referring to the body of Christ?
 - Colossians. 3:10—we have already “put on the new man.”
 - Colossians. 3:11—the place/location where this applies is in the “new man” i.e., the church the body of Christ where all earthly distinctions have been done away.
 - Ephesians. 2:15—Paul calls the body of Christ the “one new man.”
 - Galatians. 3:26-29
 - I Corinthians. 12:12-13

- Colossians 3:12—we are elect of God because we are in the body of Christ. Many dispensationalists have a problem with this because it smacks of Calvinism. Others want to say that it does not speak to their heart so therefore it's not their language.
- Ephesians 3:10-11—speak about the “eternal purpose.” In eternity past the Godhead devised a plan called the “eternal purpose” to center all things in “Christ Jesus our Lord.” There were two different parts to this plan one earthly pertaining to the establishment of a kingdom on earth through the nation of Israel and the other heavenly related to the repossession of the heavenly places through body of Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:10
- Since the world began the Godhead elected to prophecy, make known, and disclose their plans as they pertained to the establishment of the kingdom.
 - Luke 1:67-73—“spake by the mouth of his holy prophet, which have been since the world began.”
 - Acts 3:21—“by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”
 - Matthew 25:34
- Likewise, since the world began the Godhead kept a secret regarding the formation of the church the body of Christ. It was a mystery hid in God.
 - Romans 16:25
 - Ephesians 3:3-5
 - Colossians 1:25-26
- Colossians 3:12—in the context, our election is by virtue of the fact that we are in the body of Christ. If you are not in the body of Christ, you are not elected or chosen for anything. We are the elect of God because Christ is the “elect” of God and we are found “in him.”
 - Isaiah 42:1—who is this verse talking about? The Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Isaiah 45:4—who was God's elect in time past? Israel.
- Colossians 3:11-12—it very clear in verse 11 that Paul is talking to and about the body of Christ. Therefore, it is equally clear that the elect of God in verse 12 are members of the “one new man” spoken about in verse 11.

- Ephesians 1:4—before the world began the Godhead chose Christ to be the one through whom eternal salvation would be accomplished. We are not chosen “to be” in him. We are chosen because we are “in him.” No one is chosen for anything in this passage until they are in Christ.
 - Use Blue Letter Bible to talk about the pronouns in verses 1-4.
- Ephesians 1:4, 6—notice how this verses also talks about being “holy and without blame before him in love” and “accepted in the beloved.”
- Colossians 3:12—is a summary of Eph. 1:4-6. Member of the body of Christ are chosen, holy, and beloved because we are Christ and Christ is in us. Therefore, we are commanded to “put on” behaviors, attitudes, and actions that are indicative of who we are in Christ.