

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2020-21 (Colossians 1:1-24 – 2:23)
Session #9: Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts

CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
SN = Special Notes
NAB = New American Bible
SK = Chinese Bible
CCC = Catholic Catechism

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Seek What is Above</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “ If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” – We die and resurrect with Christ through Baptism; it “seated us with him in the heavenly places”. Therefore, we should “seek what is above, not of what is on earth”. • “... Your life is hidden with Christ in God” – the dignity of Baptism lies in the fact that the divine glory is already hidden within us; growing in strength day by day. When Christ comes again, we, too, will “appear with him in glory”. • “Immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry” describe the life of the pre-baptism Colossian Christians. Those who commit such behaviours have no “inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God”. Temptations of re-offence are strong; therefore, one must be vigilant. The “wrath of God” is not arbitrary or impulsive, but is like the light of the sun that is necessary for exercising the sense of vision; however, if we relate to the sun inappropriately – looking directly at it – the injury that follows does not come from evil intent of the sun but from our faulty way of relating to what is in itself a great good. • Like the community of the Essenes during Jesus’ time, we need to live in a spiritual community, supporting and encouraging each other, so that we may reject today’s false ideals and values. 	<p>3:1-7</p> <p>3:1-2, CCSS</p> <p>Eph 2:6</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>3:3-4, CCSS</p> <p>SN2</p> <p>3:5-7, CCSS</p> <p>CSB, 1Cor 6:9-10</p> <p>CCSS</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Put off the Old Self and Put on the New Self, Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as the newly baptized putting off the old clothes to put on the new white garment, Paul reminds the Colossian faithful to remove their old self, that is, their misbehaviours, especially the vices of anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language”. Anger is deemed morally neutral, as it is not a sin in itself: Paul has just spoken of “the wrath of God” in 3:6. However, anger becomes sinful when it is expressed in hostile action, most commonly in hurtful speech, or slander. Obscene language indicates a general disregard for God’s grace, the dignity of the Holy Spirit. More importantly, one’s interior life is often manifested in the exterior. 	<p>3:8-16</p> <p>3:8-9, CCSS</p> <p>Mt 12:34-35</p>

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	<p>Though we have “put on the new self”, we are still God’s work in progress; the divine image of God is gradually restored in us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in people’s identity and background are transcended in the Body of Christ and the persons they label are united in Christ to become one body. The Church is a world-wide family. • “Put on ... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ... forgiving one another”, “let the peace of Christ control your hearts”. This is the peace described in the Christ Hymn, “through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross”. This peace comes with a high price; therefore, we must keep peace in our relationships at all costs. 	<p>3:11, CCSS, CSB, Gal 3:27-28</p> <p>3:12-16, CCSS</p> <p>1:20</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>Relationships Within the Human Family Unfolding in God’s Family</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “... do everything in the name of Lord Jesus” – This passage is the eighth unit in the overall ten part chiasmic structure, similar to 1:15-23, emphasizing that all creations are created through Christ, for Christ, and belonging to Christ. Creations unfold in Christ, including the focus of familial relationships of this passage. • Wives should obey their husbands; husbands must love their wives, “as is proper in the Lord”. • Children should obey their parents, parents should not discourage their children, “for this is pleasing to the Lord”. • The service of slaves is “for the Lord and not for others”; masters (kyroi) must treat their slaves “justly and fairly”, just as they have “a Master in heaven” (Kyrios) who treats them justly and fairly. During the time of slavery, Paul affirmed the equality of all in God; and that everyone is beloved and dignified. 	<p>3:17 – 4:1</p> <p>3:17 CCSS p 223 2020-21 BSP #8 SN2</p> <p>3:18-19, CCSS, Eph 5:22-32, Ph 2:1-4</p> <p>3:20-21, CCSS</p> <p>3:23 – 4:1, CCSS</p> <p>2020-21 BSP #2 B2</p>

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Special Notes:

1. Seeking what is above = living more intensely below

“Christians, on pilgrimage toward the heavenly city, should seek and think of these things which are above. This duty in no way decreases, rather it increases, the importance of their obligation to work with all men in the building of a more human world. Indeed, the mystery of the Christian faith furnishes them with an excellent stimulant and aid to fulfill this duty more courageously and especially to uncover the full meaning of this activity, one which gives to human culture its eminent place in the integral vocation of man.”

(Gaudium et Spes, Pastoral Constitution on the Church on the Modern World, 57)

2. St. Catherine of Siena to Blessed Raymond, her confessor: “Father, I cannot find anything in this world that can give you the smallest idea of what I have seen. Oh, if you could but see the beauty of a soul in the state of grace, you would sacrifice your life a thousand times for its salvation. I asked the angel who was with me what had made that soul so beautiful, and he answered me, ‘It is the image and likeness of God in that soul, and the divine grace that made it so beautiful’” (CCSS, p.213).