



[Note: I began with my paraphrase of a story from Eugene Peterson's *The Pastor*.]

A grandmother was looking forward to spending the evening with her granddaughter. The little girl's parents went out of town, and both sets of grandparents agreed to share their time with her. After a long day, the grandmother and her granddaughter sit on the couch watching TV. The girl leans in and tells her grandmother... "No more God talk; let's just get on with life."

No more God talk.

Apparently, when the girl was with the other grandparents, there was a lot of talk about God, a lot of talk about the Bible, a lot of talk about prayer, a lot of talk of sin and holiness. But with all this talk about God, the Bible, prayer, sin and holiness, there was a disconnect between those things of God and "real life."

When we use lifeless language that objectifies God, the Bible, prayer, sin, and holiness, we are left with nothing but "God Talk."

God talk doesn't consider the nuance and complexity of the human life, and makes blanket statements that are biblically true cliches but devoid of actual meaning because we don't know what it means in our hearts.

So today, I want to open your eyes to a passage that can easily be turned into God talk. I will do my best to bring this to you so that you will understand that it's not merely "God Talk," but that what we are talking about is the realest life you can experience.

Turn with me to Colossians 3.

As we walk through this passage, we will discover *5 movements*.

Verses 1-4 give us our first movement, THE LENS, that we should look at everything through to help us understand the rest of this passage.

Colossians 3:1-5a (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore...

The other day I was walking around at night, and I was blown away at how dark it was, and then I realized, oh... I'm wearing sunglasses. The lenses I wore influenced how I interpreted the world around me.

Twice in this passage, we are encouraged to think about things above. One day, you will be reunited with God in heaven. The reality of the world that we live in today is that everybody gets eternal life. The question is not whether or not we are going to have eternal life. The question is the destination. Where will you spend your eternal life?

If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord, then your sins will be forgiven and you'll be made holy. But there it is. That sentence right there has the potential just to be God talk. You've been forgiven and made holy. Yes, and amen, that is biblical truth. But man, it can feel so far away from us sometimes, can't it?

This leads us to our next movement in the passage.

The past, but not the past

Colossians 3:5-9 (ESV)

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices



1. Talk about a time in your life when someone told you a story you didn't believe. Why did you not believe them?
2. Why do you think that sometimes Christian stories can be summed up as "God Talk?"
3. What is the hardest part about making sure you continue to look at life through the lens of eternity?
4. What does, "the past, but not the past" and "the future, but not the future" mean?
5. In what ways is God challenging you to move forward?
 - a. Keep eternity in mind?
 - b. Put to death the old self?
 - c. Live in the new self?

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