



WHAT NOW?

By this time most of you have returned home after eight weeks of baseball. Some however are still in the playoffs in their leagues. Now that we have spent two months playing baseball and growing in our faith, what now? Most of us will be returning to school in a few short weeks.

Classes will be starting and fall workouts beginning. How can we make a difference on our campuses and on our teams? How can God take what we have learned on and off the field to make us a better man for Him and a better player?

We close this study by looking at some verses from Colossians chapter 3. As we study these verses this week as a summary of what we have learned this summer, may we do so with our focus being on making a difference on our campuses for God.

Sunday: Read Colossians 3:12

Verse 12 reminds us that we are God's chosen people holy and dearly loved. Holy doesn't mean becoming some pious monk, it means being set aside for God to be used by Him for His glory. It should be easy for all of us to see just how much God loves us! We are told to clothe ourselves or make a part of ourselves compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience.

- 1. What do you feel God has set you aside to do for Him?**
- 2. Describe how God loves you.**
- 3. What are some ways we can clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience in our daily lives?**

Monday: Read Colossians 3:13

In this verse Paul calls for the unity of the believers. Bearing with one another and forgiving one another brings about an atmosphere where unity can grow and flourish.

- 1. How is unity important in the fellowship of believers?**

2. Describe the difference between unity and uniformity.
3. What does it mean to forgive others as Christ forgives us?

Tuesday: Read Colossians 3:14

In the previous verses Paul gives us some virtues of the Christian life. Now he tells us what binds everything together in a Christian's life....love.

1. What are we without love?
2. How can we show Christ's love to the world around us on our campuses?
3. How does love bring about unity?

Wednesday: Read Colossians 3:17

I believe the key verse in this section is verse 17. Paul is reminding us to do whatever we do in the name of Jesus. If we do so in our daily living, we will be doing things that agree with Him and the way He lives. We cannot do something in Jesus' name that is contrary to Jesus' character. What our campuses need from us is to do just that, do everything we do whether on the field or off the field in the name of Jesus. God wants to use each of us on our campuses to serve Him. God needs us to bring His salt and His light wherever we are and whatever we do! We also need to recognize that we cannot do anything apart from Him. As we ask Him to live through us as we serve Him, we must remember to give God, thanks for Who He is and what He does!!! Not only do we have to talk the talk, we have to walk the talk. Our words and the way we live our lives must match.

1. How do we make sure our words and deeds match?
2. What is the best way to be more like Christ?
3. Why is it important to give thanks to God as we serve Him?
4. What does God want to accomplish through each of us this school year?

Thursday: Read Colossians 3:15

The idea behind the word peace in this verse comes from the Hebrew word Shalom. Shalom can mean many things. It is used as a greeting much like hello or good bye. It also can be used like I believe it is in this verse to describe being in right relationship. True peace can only occur when we are in right relationship with God. Having the peace of Christ is being in a right relationship with Him that spills over to all who believe in Him. Paul reminds us in the midst of having right relationships with Christ and our fellow believers we are to be thankful.

- 1. What does it mean for the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts?**
- 2. How can that peace translate to all who believe?**
- 3. Describe the ways we can show we are thankful to God.**

Friday: Read Colossians 3:16

Paul reminds us to let the Word of Christ dwell in our hearts. For Christ's Words to live in our hearts they have to be alive. God's Word can only be alive in our hearts as we use it, read it, study it daily. That is the only way we can teach and admonish others in wisdom...His wisdom. Paul reminds us to sing praises to Him in a spirit of gratitude for all God has done for us.

- 1. In light of this verse why is it important to spend time in God's Word daily?**
- 2. How can we rely upon God's wisdom?**
- 3. As we sing in worship, remember the Psalmist said make a joyful noise. Praise Him by letting the words of our songs of praise grow in our hearts.**

Saturday: Read Colossians 3:23

Even though these words were originally written to slaves as they serve their masters, they ring true for us today. Should we not serve Christ as a slave? Should we not be willing to do His bidding without question or concern? Our number one goal should be to serve Christ with every ounce of our being!

- 1. How do we work with all our heart for Christ?**
- 2. What does it mean to work for Christ instead of man?**
- 3. Are we willing to give up our freedom to serve Christ as he chooses?**