

COLOSSIANS 3
1-11

CONTEXT

PAUL FREQUENTLY ESTABLISHES SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS AS IDEAS FIRST, THEN MOVES INTO APPLYING THEM. HIS LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS DOES THE SAME. CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 SET THE STAGE BY SHOWING HOW THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST ARE SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER CLAIMS. WITH THAT ESTABLISHED, CHAPTER 3 TRANSITIONS TO PRACTICAL MATTERS WITHIN THE CHURCH.

FIRST, PAUL ADDRESSES TOPICS RELATED TO CHRISTIAN CONDUCT (COLOSSIANS 3:1–17). THIS BEGINS WITH A FOCUS ON THE NEW LIFE BELIEVERS HAVE IN JESUS (COLOSSIANS 3:1–4). THIS FOCUS INVOLVES CHRISTIANS GIVING ATTENTION TO GODLY, SPIRITUAL IDEAS, RATHER THAN SINFUL, EARTHLY ONES.

PAUL USES STRONG TERMINOLOGY WHEN DESCRIBING HOW BELIEVERS ARE TO REMOVE CERTAIN SINS FROM THEIR LIVES: THEY ARE TO "PUT TO DEATH," SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ALL EARTHLY, SINFUL DESIRES (COLOSSIANS 3:5–11). PAUL GIVES SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF SINS CHRISTIANS ARE MEANT TO AVOID, INCLUDING SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND SLANDER.

MAIN POINTS

THINKING APPLIED LEADS TO A CHANGED LIFE.

WE MUST FIRST LEARN A NEW WAY OF THINKING(1) (LEARNING GOD'S WAYS THROUGH GOD'S WORD)

THEN MOVE INTO APPLYING(2) THAT NEW WAY OF THINKING

WHICH TRANSLATES INTO A NEW WAY OF LIVING(3)

WHAT YOU FEED YOUR LIFE WITH BECOMES WHAT YOU HAVE AN APPETITE FOR.

EVENTUALLY WHAT'S NEW
BECOMES NORMAL

COLOSSIANS



COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 CSB

SO IF YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST, SEEK THE THINGS ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. [2] SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON EARTHLY THINGS.

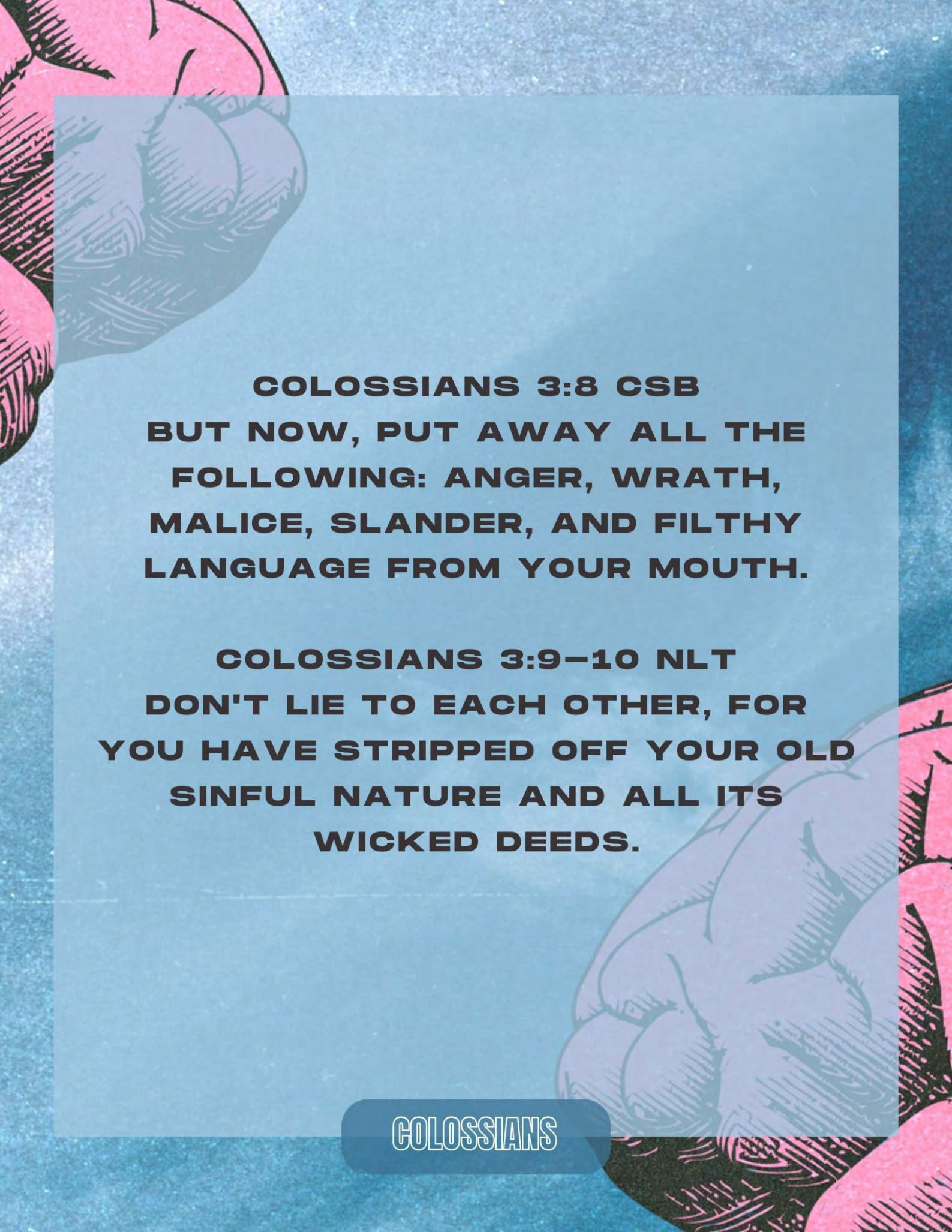
[3] FOR YOU DIED, AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD. [4] WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS YOUR LIFE, APPEARS, THEN YOU ALSO WILL APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY.



COLOSSIANS 3:5–7 CSB

**THEREFORE, PUT TO DEATH
WHAT BELONGS TO YOUR
EARTHLY NATURE: SEXUAL
IMMORALITY, IMPURITY, LUST,
EVIL DESIRE, AND GREED, WHICH
IS IDOLATRY.**

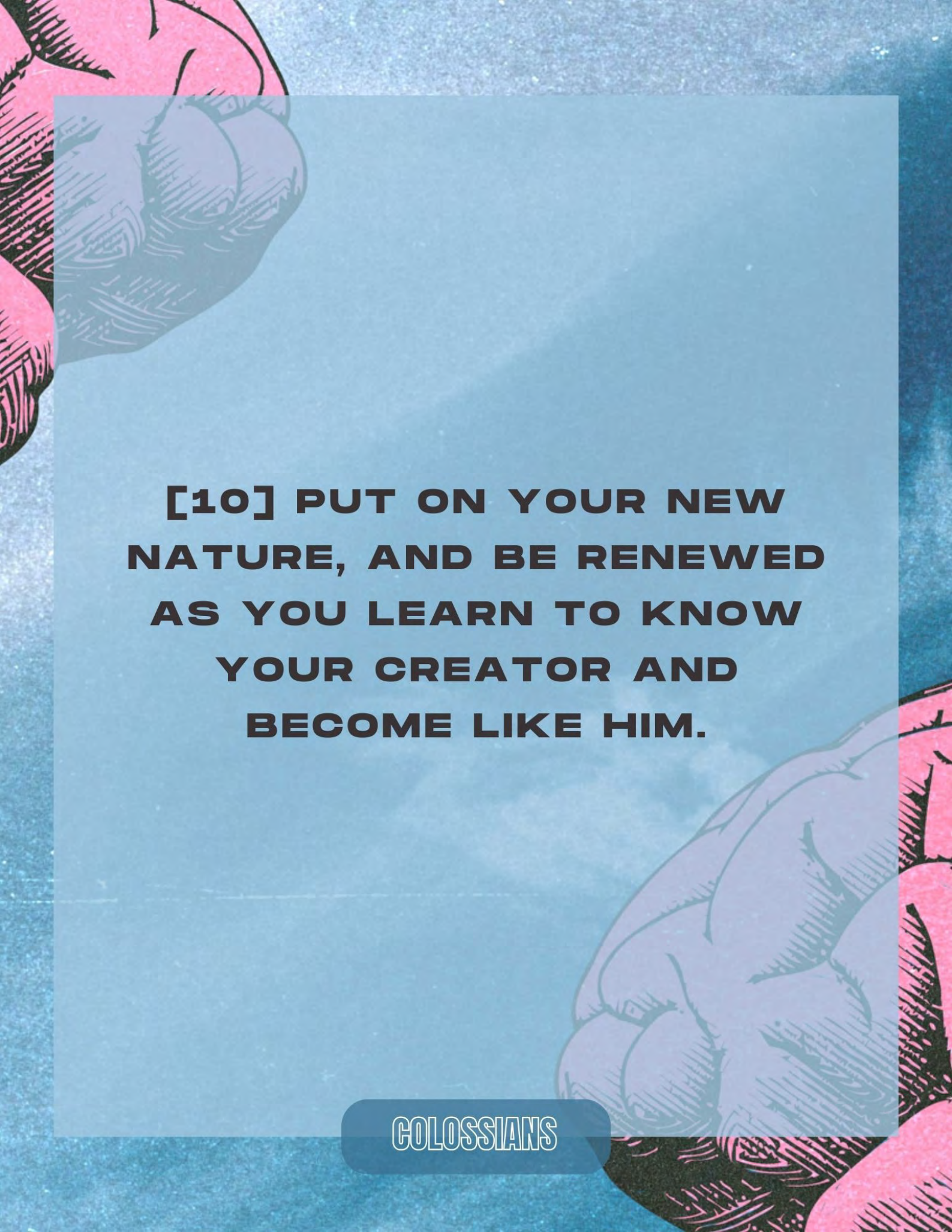
**[6] BECAUSE OF THESE, GOD'S
WRATH IS COMING UPON THE
DISOBEDIENT, [7] AND YOU ONCE
WALKED IN THESE THINGS WHEN
YOU WERE LIVING IN THEM.**



COLOSSIANS 3:8 CSB
BUT NOW, PUT AWAY ALL THE
FOLLOWING: ANGER, WRATH,
MALICE, SLANDER, AND FILTHY
LANGUAGE FROM YOUR MOUTH.

COLOSSIANS 3:9–10 NLT
DON'T LIE TO EACH OTHER, FOR
YOU HAVE STRIPPED OFF YOUR OLD
SINFUL NATURE AND ALL ITS
WICKED DEEDS.

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**[10] PUT ON YOUR NEW
NATURE, AND BE RENEWED
AS YOU LEARN TO KNOW
YOUR CREATOR AND
BECOME LIKE HIM.**

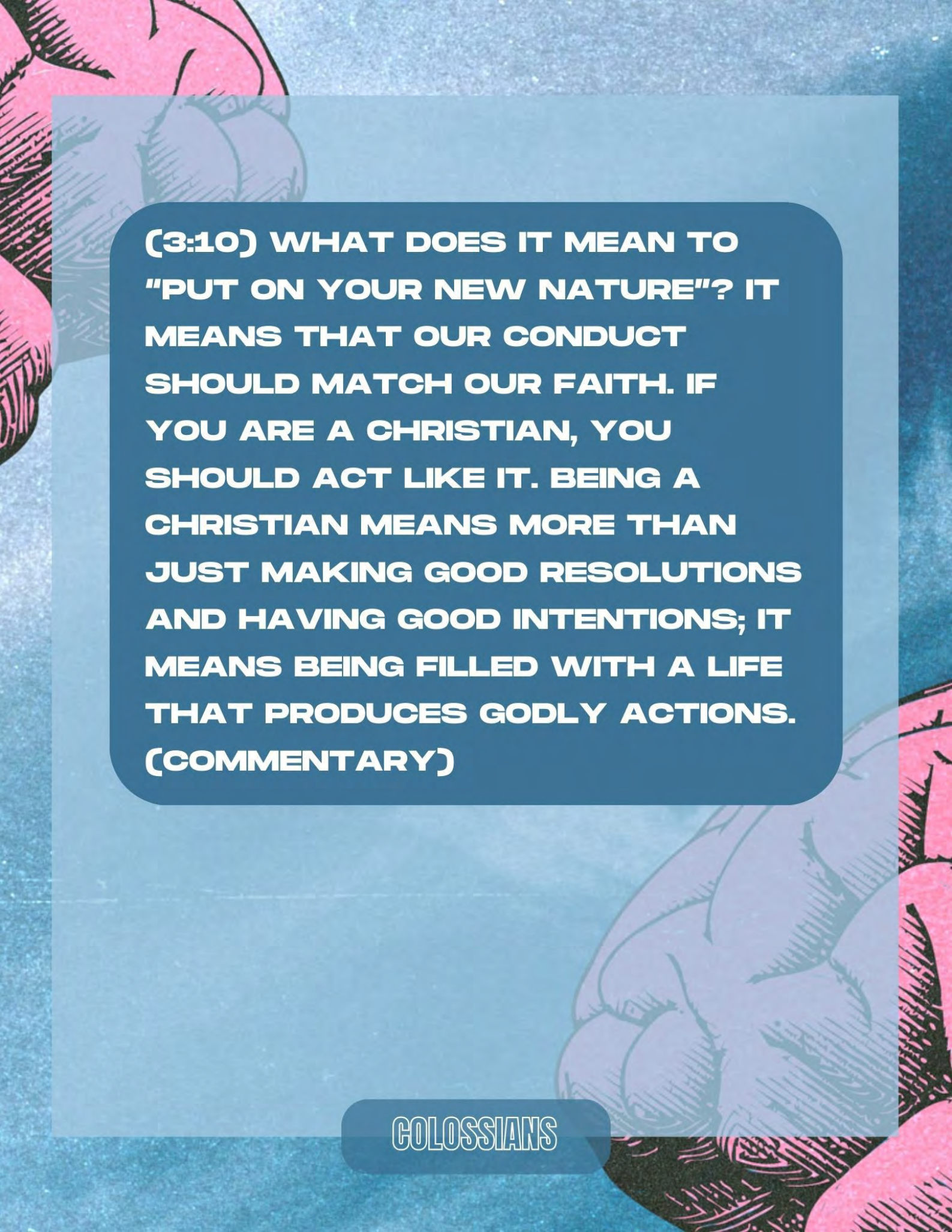
COLOSSIANS

IN CONTRAST WITH THE OLD SELF, THE BELIEVER IS A NEW CREATION AND SHOULD THEREFORE LIVE DIFFERENTLY. PAUL ADDS THAT THE NEW SELF IS CONSTANTLY REFRESHED THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST & UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WAYS.

THE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IS A NEW PERSON INCREASINGLY DESIGNED TO GROW MORE LIKE CHRIST, THE ONE WHO CREATED US. (BIBLE REF)

PAUL USES THE ANALOGY OF PUTTING ON NEW CLOTHES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE NEW KIND OF PERSON YOU HAVE BECOME. YOU MUST TAKE OFF THE OLD CLOTHES OF SINFUL HABITS AND CHOICES AND THROW THEM AWAY.

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(3:10) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE"? IT MEANS THAT OUR CONDUCT SHOULD MATCH OUR FAITH. IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, YOU SHOULD ACT LIKE IT. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS MORE THAN JUST MAKING GOOD RESOLUTIONS AND HAVING GOOD INTENTIONS; IT MEANS BEING FILLED WITH A LIFE THAT PRODUCES GODLY ACTIONS. (COMMENTARY)

COLOSSIANS



**THINKING APPLIED
LEADS TO A
CHANGED LIFE.**

**LEARNING GOD'S WAYS THROUGH
GOD'S WORD (RENEWING OUR MINDS)
WHEN PUT INTO ACTION WILL RESULT
IN LIVING MORE LIKE CHRIST**

**WHAT YOU FEED YOUR
LIFE WITH BECOMES
WHAT YOU HAVE AN
APPETITE FOR.**

**EVENTUALLY WHAT'S NEW
BECOMES NORMAL**

COLOSSIANS

**WE MUST FIRST LEARN A
NEW WAY OF THINKING(1)
(LEARNING GOD'S WAYS
THROUGH GOD'S WORD)**

**THEN MOVE INTO
APPLYING(2) THAT NEW
WAY OF THINKING**

**WHICH TRANSLATES INTO A
NEW WAY OF LIVING(3)**

**YOU ONCE THOUGHT A CERTAIN WAY
AND LIVED A CERTAIN WAY (OLD)**

**NOW WE MUST REPLACE THAT WAY OF
THINKING AND LIVING (OLD) WITH THIS
WAY OF THINKING AND LIVING (NEW)**

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DISCUSSION

Q. WHAT CONVICTED YOU, CHALLENGED YOU OR STOOD OUT TO YOU FROM THE MESSAGE OR SCRIPTURE IN COLOSSIANS 3?

Q. WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN HE SAYS "SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON EARTHLY THINGS"?

Q. HOW DOES WHAT WE FEED BECOME WHAT WE HAVE AN APPETITE FOR PHYSICALLY & SPIRITUALLY?

Q. WHAT ARE SOME GOOD AND BAD HABITS YOU HAVE HAD? HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THOSE HABITS? HOW HAVE YOU BROKEN SOME OF YOUR BAD HABITS?

Q. AS A CHRISTIAN, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PUT ON OUR NEW SELF (NATURE) AND PUT TO DEATH OUR OLD EARTHLY NATURE? WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES IN YOUR OWN LIFE YOU HAVE HAD TO PUT TO DEATH?

Q. FOR THOSE IN CHRIST, HOW CAN WE BETTER LEAVE OUR OLD WAYS OF LIVING AND REPLACE THEM WITH OUR NEW WAY OF LIFE?

Q. HOW DOES IT HURT OUR WITNESS TO OTHERS WHEN WE STILL LIVE LIKE OUR OLD SELF RATHER THAN OUR NEW SELF? HOW CAN WE BREAK FREE FROM SATISFYING OUR OLD NATURE?

Q. HOW CAN LEARNING GOD'S WORD LEAD TO LIFE CHANGE?

COLOSSIANS

PERSONAL DISCUSSION

READ 2 PETER 3:11–13

NAME SOME AREAS IN YOUR LIFE THAT WILL BE BURNED UP (EARTHLY) AND NAME SOME AREAS IN YOUR LIFE THAT CAN HAVE AN ETERNAL IMPACT.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME AREAS IN YOUR LIFE YOU TEND TO HOLD ON TO TOO TIGHTLY THAT WILL BE BURNED UP? (DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE BAD THINGS)

Q. ARE THERE ANY OLD NATURE WAYS OF YOURS THAT STILL HAVE A PLACE IN YOUR LIFE? HOW CAN YOU TAKE OFF THE OLD AND PUT ON THE NEW?

Q. WHY DO WE OFTEN SPEND MORE TIME FOCUSING ON THINGS THAT WILL BE BURNED UP (EARTHLY) OR SATISFYING OUR OLD WAYS RATHER THAN SETTING OUR MINDS ON ETERNAL THINGS AND OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST?

Q. HOW COULD LIVING WITH AN ETERNAL MINDSET CHANGE HOW WE LIVE OUR DAILY LIVES?

Q. WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK FROM GROWING IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST?