

A Daily Devotional Study Guide



COLOSSIANS

Written by
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WEEK 3

“Setting Your Affections”

Study: Colossians 3:1-5

Reading: Matthew 6:19-24, I John 2:12-17

Memory:

While visiting my in-laws one Christmas, they brought a stray kitten into the house for the grand kids to hold and play with. I noticed the kitten was trying to reach for something and soon realized it was the reflection of the sun off of my watch. I started moving my watch around and we all found great entertainment watching this kitten try to catch the little round reflection of the sun. The kitten didn't want to give up for a long time and was determined to catch it, never realizing that it was impossible to catch.

Today, we are going to see how the things of this world are like that reflection. They seem so exciting to have and many people race to get them, only to find emptiness once they obtain what they sought after. Instead of living like that, we as believers should give ourselves to heavenly things rather than seeking after the empty pursuits of this world.

What Does the Bible Say?

In verse 20 of chapter two, Paul described how we have died with Christ and have been set free from the traditions of men. In verse one of chapter 3, he described how we have been raised with Christ and have been given new life. As part of that new life, we need to set our affections on the things of eternal value, things that bring true fulfillment.

A heavenly focus will help give us power over this world. It is in heaven that Christ is waiting for us in all His majesty and splendor, and because of this our focus in life should be on heavenly things. When we trusted in Jesus, we chose to give up our lives and the things of this world that all those who don't know Christ live for. We are now hidden with Christ which means we are protected by Him and given great hope in Him. A hope that the world does not know. When Christ, our whole reason for living appears, we will be able to share in His glory. Those who have rejected Him will watch and realize that they were all wrong for the criticism and suffering they gave to those who followed Christ (vs 1-4).

It is the new life that we have that should be the reason we choose to

follow Him. Seeking to live godly should not be because of the traditions of men. When we truly understand what we have been given in Christ and what we have been waiting for us in the future, we can easily choose to put to death the sinful things that we desire in our fleshly lives. These are things that we need to remove from our lives and have nothing to do with. Paul gave a brief list of these things and these are sins that still plague our lives today.

The first of these he mentioned is sexual immorality. This along with impure thoughts, impure desires and cravings should not have place in the life of a Christian. These first few things Paul mentioned seem to focus on the sexual realm realizing the great temptation that existed in those days. This same temptation still exists today with the access to pornography so easy to come by and the rate of sexual immorality so high among the people of the world. Paul was making it absolutely clear that there was no place for any type of sexual sin in the life of a believer.

Paul also included the idea of greed (covetousness) in this list which could be a part of sexual temptation, but also has a much broader aspect of continually desiring more of something of this world rather than being content with what has been given or what is needed. A person who is greedy and always wanting more is an idol worshiper, because they are worshipping the things of this world (vs 5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you seeking the things which will last for eternity or do you find yourself consumed with the desires of this world. This does not mean that you can't have or enjoy good things in this world, but the question that you need to ask yourself is, "Where is my desire?" It is easy to let the enjoyments of the world turn into a desire for the things of the world.

Do you find yourself sucked into the entertainment of the world, or do you cringe at many of the unwholesome things constantly displayed through the internet, television and movie screens. Since you do live in the world, it is tough to sometimes know when your desire for the things of this world is stronger than your desire for God, but God has given you the Holy Spirit to help. If you ask Him, He will show you the correct balance that He wants you to have. Take time today to evaluate if you have truly set your affections on the things of eternity.

What does it mean to be "raised with Christ" (vs 1) – See the end of chapter

What should you seek (vs 1)?

What do you think it means to seek things that "are above" (vs 1)?

Where is Christ seated (vs 1)? What do you think that means?

What are you told to set your mind on (vs 2)?

What do you think is the difference between seeking something (vs 1) and setting your mind on something (vs 2)?

What should you not set your mind on (vs 2)?

Describe what you think it looks like to set your mind on the things of this earth?

Why should you not set your mind on things of this earth (vs 3)?

What does it mean that your life is "hidden with Christ" (vs 3)?

Why should that be a motivating factor?

What does it mean that Christ "is your life" (vs 4)?

What will you do when He appears (vs 4)?

What do you think this means?

What should you put to death (vs 5)?

How are these sins "in you" (vs 5)?

How can these sins be such a struggle in society today?

Why is covetousness said to be idolatry (vs 5)?

“Putting Off Sin”

Study: Colossians 3:6-11

Reading: Philippians 3:1-21

Memory:

I have tried all types of diet techniques since I was in high school in order to take off a few pounds since I have always been concerned about my weight. As I look back at some of the crazy diets I tried, I just laugh because I often went about losing weight in the wrong way. It wasn't until I discovered the simple idea about calories that I began to realize what it really took to take the weight off. When I understood that I needed to burn more calories than I took in, everything started to make sense and I began to diet much healthier and wiser. This doesn't mean that I always diet correctly or have the self-discipline to diet, but when I choose to put in the effort, the proper understanding makes a difference.

Today, we are going to see how important it is to have the proper understanding and knowledge of God in our lives in order to properly remove sin. If we attempt to remove sin in a self-help way without the knowledge of God and what He is really like and what He desires, we will be stuck in roller coaster Christianity, but if we put off sin based on the knowledge of God we can live in continuous victory.

What Does the Bible Say?

The thoughts and actions mentioned in verse 5 and those mentioned in verses 8 & 9 were sins that brought the wrath of God upon men. Paul emphasized this in verse 6 to relate to the Colossians that the sins mentioned should not be a part of their lives. Sometimes, it is easy to excuse sin or to overlook it and that is why Paul declared that God hated these sins. He reminded them that they were once highly involved in many, if not all of those sins before they became believers. Those sins were a natural part of their lives before they were set free from them by the death and resurrection of Christ. Since they had been saved and given new life, they were to put away all the former things that they had been involved in. They were to “put off” these sins from their lives. Putting off was an action that needed to be taken, just as you would choose to take off clothing. Paul

was not expressing the idea that they had to now be perfect, but that they should strive to remove these sins and wilfully choose to keep these sins out of their lives (vs 6-7).

The sins mentioned in verse 5 were sins that began in the mind like lust and greed, and though all sins begin in the mind, the sins mentioned in verses 8 & 9 have to do with outward behavior that comes from a lack of self and spirit control. Anger and rage should not be part of a believer's life. Though all believers will be tempted with these at times (some more than others) they do not display Christ to the world. They are acted out in doing rude and hurtful things to others and slandering others in order to tear them down and hurt them. The words that come from our mouths should be pure and honest with no attempt to tear down or hurt others. All those things that were involved in their former lives as non-believers had no part in their lives now that they were believers (vs 8-9).

Paul challenged them to continue putting on the new self, the new life that Christ gave them through salvation. The understanding of this new life and what it looks like comes from knowing God more. As believers they were no longer in categories based on their ethnic background or region they grew up in, nor from the societal class they were born into. They were all free in Christ and were to fit into the mold of what God desired, not regarding what society told them they needed to be (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Did you catch the key to being able to live out the “putting off” principle? The key to being able to live as God desires you to live is through the knowledge of Him. The more you seek to know Him, the more you will understand what He does and doesn't desire for your life and the more you will be able to put off sin. Paul didn't want this list of sins to become a duty they had to do, he had already described how they had been set free. He wanted them to work on knowing God in order to allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse their lives of sin. This cleansing doesn't just happen naturally, but it does take effort on your part as you choose to allow God to show you areas of sin in your life and as you ask Him to transform you and to renew your mind. As you seek to know God and understand Him more, you will see your sin more and your need for His purification in your life. If all you do is try to remove sin in your own power without growing in the knowledge of God, it will lead to a defeated life.

What is coming because of the sins mentioned in verse 5 (vs 6)?

Why do you think Paul chose to mention this?

Why is it important to understand how bad sin is in the eyes of God?

What had the Colossians done before they met Christ (vs 7)?

Why do you think Paul mentioned this here?

What must believers choose to do (vs 8)?

List the five sins Paul mentioned in verse 8 and describe how they have been a part of your life at times.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What should you not do (vs 9)?

What should you put off (vs 9)?

What should you put on (vs 10)?

How do we know what the new self is (vs 10)?

What point do you think Paul was making in verse 11?

What do you think it means that “Christ is all in all” (vs 11)?

How can you practically practice putting off the old self and putting on the new self?

“*Clothe Yourself*”

Study: Colossians 3:12

Reading: Galatians 5:1-26

Memory:

Though I often cared very little about what type of clothes I wore as a teenager, I remember the times that I would care most was when we would take a trip to a large amusement park with our youth group. Why I cared then? I am not really sure, but I think it was because I thought there might be a chance of meeting and flirting with some girls. Whatever the reason, I do remember some nights before our trips taking time to determine what I had in my closet that was the most stylish, yet comfortable thing for me to wear the next day. Though my outfits were never extremely stylish (I didn’t buy my own clothes, but let my mom pick them out and buy them for me.), when I wore the best of what I had, I always felt better and more confident about myself.

Today, we are going to see our need to put on the proper clothing provided by the Holy Spirit.

What Does the Bible Say?

If all we were told to do in our Christian life was to put off evil, it would be very tough to know exactly how God wanted us to act in our daily life. Paul wanted us to know that being a follower of Christ was much more than not doing certain things, but also there were several things that we are continually to be adding to our lives. The idea of “putting on” something was that of clothing yourself with it. Clothes were a physical display to others of your status in life, just like they often are today. Here, Paul was encouraging them in their status as followers of Christ to display to the world what Christ was like. One of the first and most important things that we are to be clothed with is a heart of compassion. A compassionate heart is a heart that is soft and tender towards others and sees their need in life. The compassionate heart helps others out of love and concern for their needs. This compassion will show itself through great kindness to all those who are around you. You will not treat others rudely or with disrespect, but will treat them gently with kindness.

One of the keys to loving others and treating them kindly is to realize how Jesus Christ has treated all men. When you love like Jesus loved, you will be filled with humility, constantly reminding yourself that you are not better than any one else and that all you have is from God. Another characteristic that we should be continually putting on is meekness. Being meek is the idea of being gentle with others, though you have the power to lord over them. Being meek and gentle requires that you also treat others with patience. Patience is often very difficult to have when dealing with others because they often move at a different pace than you do. When you are putting on humility, kindness and gentleness, it will help you deal patiently because you are putting others needs in front of your own (vs 12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

This list is very similar to the “fruit of the Spirit” given in Galatians 5. From that passage you realize that the only way to clothe yourself with the characteristics mentioned is for you to be yielded to the Holy Spirit. Your flesh does not and will not produce all of these characteristics by itself, but needs the moving and working of the Holy Spirit. As you approach this, don’t just think, “I need to be more . . .”, but allow these things to reveal your shortcomings and ask God to give you the strength that you need in those areas. Also, think of practical ways that you can add these into your life and how you can continue to allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you. The effort on your part is to recognize your shortfalls and ask the Spirit to produce these things in you. You must also yield to the prompting and moving of the Holy Spirit, and as you do, He will help clothe you with all these things. Trying to be more of something in your own power will either lead to pride and self-righteousness or it could lead to failure. Neither of which should be your desire. Take time today to look at what you are to put on, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you continue to clothe yourself in godliness.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.*
- * *Aks God to help you put on godliness.*

Thought for the day

What are all believers called (vs 12)?

What do you think that means?

Why do you think Paul mentioned it hear in this passage?

List the 7 things you are to put on in your life. Briefly explain what it means and then write down how you are practicing these things or how you can add them to your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

"Your Love Life"

Study: Colossians 3:13-15

Reading: I Corinthians 13:1-13, John 15:9-17

Memory:

When I was an assistant pastor, I remember how easy it was to find flaws in my senior pastor. Occasionally, I would get together with others in the congregation and they would bring up these flaws and I would have a hard time not talking negatively about the pastor. I did eventually realize that this was not helping and I chose to steer clear from these conversations. When I became the senior pastor I found it interesting how those same people who were critical of our other pastor were very critical of me. I began to realize that I could find faults in almost every one without much work, but realized that the real work is choosing to look on the positive and not the negative.

Today, we are going to see how our lives should be filled with thankfulness, love, peace and forgiveness.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the ways to clothe yourself in love is to bear with others and to be continually patient with them. This does not mean that you overlook willful sin. That is clearly spelled out in other Bible passages. It does mean that you are patient with the personality flaws and spiritual immaturity of others. It also involves forgiving others when they have done something wrong and choosing not to hold grudges. The highest example of forgiveness we have is the Lord who has forgiven us of so much. Paul declared that we need to forgive as the Lord forgave us which basically means that there is nothing beyond our forgiveness. No matter how large the offense or how great the complaint, we need to choose to forgive others (vs 13).

Love is the main clothing that needs to continually clothe our lives. It is love that has the ability to bond us together in a deep, intimate way with others and will overcome many obstacles that could stand in our way. It is love that will allow a body of believers from all different backgrounds, personalities and walks of life to unite as one in great harmony. It is love

that is talked about over and over again in the New Testament as part of the new covenant God made with His people (vs 14).

This love will also lead to peace, a calmness among the followers of Christ. When we clothe ourselves with love and peace there will not be fighting and conflict in the church among believers. This peace can only come from Christ since we are selfish creatures who desire to have our way in life and often become stubborn in our selfishness. When we allow the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts, we throw out the selfishness and replace it with love which leads to great peace and unity. Being thankful for God and others is also part of the formula of peace because thankfulness takes self out of the picture and helps you see what God and others have done for you. When you live a life of love, peace and thankfulness, you will shine as a light to the world and as your church lives this way it is a powerful place where God will be glorified (vs 15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you allowing the love of Christ to richly dwell in your life? Are you choosing to forgive and to overlook the faults of others realizing that you have many yourself? Are you quick to forgive others and choose to move on, or do you dwell in past failures or mistakes? These are all areas that are difficult for every person because we are naturally selfish creatures who normally seek our own rather than what God wants. This is why you need the understanding of Christ's love and forgiveness and the power that He has to offer in order to conquer the struggles with self that you will face on a daily basis. Victory will not come in your flesh, but can come through the power of Christ which works through the Holy Spirit in your life. Review your "love life" today to see where you may be falling short. Repent in those areas and choose to let the love of Christ dwell in you richly today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for choosing to love you in spite of your failures.*
- * *Ask God to help you to be continually clothed with love.*

Thought for the day.

What do you think it means to bear with one another (vs 13)?

Why do you think this is difficult at times?

Think of someone who you have a heard time “bearing” with? Why is that? What can you do to help you to be able to bear with that person?

What are we supposed to do even if we have a complaint against that person (vs 13)?

Who was the prime example of forgiveness (vs 13)?

Take a moment to describe how Jesus has forgiven you.

Why do you think that Jesus is the prime example of forgiveness (vs 13)?

What should we put on above all other things (vs 14)?

What do you think this should be emphasized?

What does love have the ability to do (vs 14)?

What do you think it means to “bind” together in “harmony” (vs 14)?

What should rule in our hearts (vs 15)?

How do you think you can follow this command?

Why do you think Paul mentioned “one body” (vs 15)?

What are you told to do at the end of verse 15?

Why is this not always easy?

Why do you think thankfulness is mentioned over and over again in Scripture?

How can you put the verses you read today into daily practice?

“Let God’s Word Dwell”

Study: Colossinas 3:16-17

Reading: I Corinthians 10:23-33, Epheians 5:15-20

Memory:

One of the amazing things in the land of Israel is how many tels there are. A tel is a mound where several civilizations have lived on that same spot over thousands of years. Once a conquering nation would move into a region, they would often attack the city and demolish it. They would use some of the stones from the former buildings to build their new buildings and the rest of the material would be used for the foundations. With every conquest, the city would become higher which helped in the protection of the city. Many were already built on a hill, but over time that hill would become taller. In the city of Megiddo, they have found at least 26 layers of different civilizations that had lived on that spot.

Today, we are going to see that the Word of God is like a tel that never ends. In a tel, it is pretty neat to uncover the top layer and find a civilization that existed 2,000 years ago, but it is much more fascinating to dig down and find one that existed 5,000 years ago. Just as with your study of the Word of God, it is neat to understand the basic truths about God, but it is more fascinating the deeper you dig and the more you understand about who your God is and what your God has done for you.

What Does the Bible Say?

We are commanded to clothe ourselves in love for others because that does not come naturally. One of the main ways to clothe ourselves in love happens when we allow the Word of God to continually fill our hearts and dwell in our minds. God’s Word is rich and the depth of it could never be fully fathomed or understood because it is filled with the greatest wisdom ever known to mankind. This is why it is important to challenge yourself and others with the truth found in the Word. Teaching one another and challenging one another with the truths found in it will lead to great spiritual growth and help in the process of clothing ourselves with godliness and allowing the peace of God to dwell in our lives. Part of teaching and encouraging each other comes through the singing of Psalms

and spiritual songs when we gather together with others. When we sing about the truth and sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to God, it helps open our minds to a greater understanding of God. Singing Psalms to God and other songs about Him that are filled with deep truths touches our emotions. It will also help us rejoice in times of blessing and strengthen us through times of pain and trials (vs 16).

No matter what it is that you do in life, your thoughts and actions should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. This means that you should evaluate your actions based on the actions of Jesus Christ and the truths recorded about God's desire for man in His Word. You have been set free from the world and now have the privilege of living for and serving your great God with all of your life and striving to live in a way that brings glory to Him. This should also be done with great thanksgiving, constantly keeping the love that God has displayed to you through Christ Jesus on the front of your mind (vs 17).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you letting the fullness and the richness of the Word of God dwell in your life? Is it part of all that you do? Do you let His Word guide and direct every choice and decision that you make in life? The Word of God is like a mine that never ends. The more you dig, the more you find, but you can never completely exhaust the mine of the Word of God. It just gets deeper and richer the further down you go. The Bible is not just another book, but it is a living Word. They are the very words of God and His truth that can change and transform you. It should be the source of the love that you live out and the peace that you desire will come from it.

Is the main focus in your life to bring glory to God? Do your words and deeds make God look bigger in the eyes of others? Is your life lived full of thankfulness for what He has done for you and your service an act of love from the heart? Take time to meditate on these verses and let God reveal to you any changes that need to be made so that your life conforms to the instructions revealed in these verses.

Thought for the day

What do you think Paul meant by "the word of Christ" (vs 16)?

What do you think it means to let it "dwell in you richly" (vs 16)?

How can you practically make this happen?

What two things should we do for each other (vs 16)?

- 1.
- 2.

Why are these important for your spiritual growth?

Why should this be done with wisdom (vs 16)?

What three types of music were listed in verse 16?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

****We don't know exactly what each types of music these were referring to, but we can see that there are different types/styles of music that can all be used and can be profitable for believers.*

How does music assist in being thankful to the Lord (vs 16)?

Why do you think Paul mentioned both your words and your deeds in verse 17?

How should we do everything (vs 17)?

What do you think that means?

Why should everything also be done with thanks (vs 17)?

Why is it so important to be thankful to God (vs 17)?

“*The Biblical Balance*”

Study: Colossians 3:18-19

Reading: Ephesians 5:15-33, I Corinthians 7:1-24

Memory:

What Does the Bible Say?

Though verses like verse 18 seem to cause consternation in our society today, just like the other commands that have been given in this chapter, if they are followed they actually produce freedom and life. Here, wives are told to submit to their husbands in the Lord. Just the term “submit” today makes many people bristle because we don’t want to be put under the authority of another person. We want to be “free” to make our own choices, though we fail to realize that we have to submit in many areas in order for their to be real peace and happiness. A wife submitting to her husband as He seeks to follow the Lord is a beautiful thing and is actually very freeing to the wife who chooses to submit. God holds wives accountable for how they obey their husbands and it is the husband who has to stand before God to give an account of how he led his wife. One of the things that makes submitting difficult for wives is when they don’t view their husbands as spiritual leaders. This is much the fault of the husband, but wives need to be careful they don’t further suppress his desire to lead by choosing to lead instead. Wives need to patiently encourage their husbands to lead, but constantly support and encourage him in his role as leader.

Paul did clarify that the wives are to submit “in the Lord.” This phrase reminds us how Jesus submitted to the will of the Father. It also challenges wives to choose to submit to the Lord even if they don’t feel their husbands are worthy of submitting to (vs 18).

Just as submitting to their husbands is difficult for wives, husbands also have a difficult command when they are told to love their wives. What do I mean by this? I am not saying that many wives are hard to love, but I am stating that men have a hard time loving others beside themselves. When a person is given a leadership role, it is very tempting to allow that role to give way to selfishness. It is easy to start demanding things or living life in a way that is set up to please one’s self rather than for him to serve his wife.

Husbands need to treat their wives as a delicate flower that needs to be dealt with gently and lovingly with great care. Husbands must choose to sacrifice many of their selfish desires for their wives and for their families. A man’s focus can not be on sports, the outdoors, their cars, etc., but needs to be on pleasing His wife and His family. When a man chooses to love his wife as God instructed and a wife chooses to submit to her husband, the result will be a wonderful relationship (vs 19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you following societies opinion of men and women? Sadly, many Christians get a warped view of the role of husbands and wives and it causes stress and problems in marriages. Women take the lead in the families causing the men to be relieved of their responsibility, driving them further into selfishness and they develop less of a concern for their wives and families. A wife may do this just because she has leadership tendencies, or more often does it because she feels the husband is not taking the leadership role. Husbands need to stand up and lead, but lead in love and self-sacrifice. Even those who are laid back in personality need to stand up and choose to lead because deep down, that is what a wife truly longs for. Society tries to tell us that men and women are the same, but Scripture is very clear that we are different and those roles need to be accepted and appreciated. When you follow Scripture and the natural design for the husband/wife relationship it is a beautiful thing. When the husband leads in love, treating his wife with great respect and care, and when the wife submits, choosing to let her husband lead, it is a thing of beauty and produces families that are grounded and happy. Take time to evaluate your view on submission, love and leadership to see if yours is a truly biblical view.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for teaching you how to have a great marriage.*
- * *Ask God to help your marriage be the best it can be.*
- * *Praise God because He knows what is best for us.*

Thought for the day

What are wives told to do (vs 18)?

Why do you think this is difficult for some wives?

Why do you think Paul declared that this was “fitting in the Lord” (ESV - vs 18)?

What do you think are hindrances that keep a wife from submitting to her husband?

Why do you think verses like this have such a negative view in our society today?

Describe how you have seen submission to be a beautiful thing in a marriage relationship.

What are husbands commanded to do (vs 19)?

Describe how a husband can show love to his wife.

What are husbands not to do (vs 19)?

What are ways that a husband can be harsh to his wife?

Why do you think it is easy for some husbands to be harsh and not loving towards their wives.

Take time to think about a marital relationship that you respect. What are some characteristics of that relationship that makes it successful?

Romans 8

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”