Where Is Here?

Ken Chapman · Colossians 3:9–11

INTRODUCTION

- Homesickness is not just you being away from home. But usually homesickness has as much, if not more, to do with where you are.
- You ever felt that way? Do you feel that way now spiritually? Where in the world am I living?
- Paul wasn't saying Colossae. He wasn't saying the Roman Empire. He wasn't saying the world, because the world knew nothing but division and distinctions between races and between classes of people.

1 The World Under the Sway of the Wicked One

1 John 5:19; 1 John 2:15–17

- We know that we are of God and that the world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
- Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- And the world is passing away and the lust of it. But he who does the will of God abides forever.
- This is the world that's under the sway of the wicked one, that is nothing but the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride or the vainglory of life.

2 Heaven: Conveyed Into the Kingdom of His Son

Colossians 1:13; Colossians 2:8–15; Colossians 3:1–3

- He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.
- That's the here that Paul is talking about, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, where there are no distinctions.
- Buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God who raised him from the dead.
- For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. That's where we can live. That's where here is.

3 Choosing God and Rejecting the World

Colossians 3:1; Colossians 3:12; Colossians 3:5

- And it requires you choosing God. Choosing to live here.
- Setting your mind means making that laser-like focused decision that's what I want to do.
- It requires a decision, a decision to choose God, but it also requires a decision to reject the world.
- Put to death your members which are on the earth.
- I've killed that old man, but he came back to life. That's why I got to kill him again.

4 Heaven Can Exist in Colossae

1 Corinthians 5:9–10; John 17:15–16

- He wasn't writing to people who lived in heaven yet. He was writing to people who lived in the Roman Empire where there was hatred and sin and ugliness.
- But he says, here, heaven can exist in colossae. That is the heavenly mindset.
- God is saying the same thing to the residents of modern day Orlando. Where there is sin and ugliness, division, and hatred.
- I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one.

5 We Can Make Here a Part of There

- I had a decision to make. Really, three decisions, as far as I could see it. And my first decision was I'm going back home.
- Choice number two would have been I can just absorb.
- We have to live in this wicked world. But we can make here a part of there. When we set our mind on things which are above.
- The darker this world becomes, the more valuable the light that I can shine is, and the more distinctive my light will shine.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Can we help you change zip codes this morning? Can we help you to be where here is?**

MY NOTES