

How to Avoid Being a Whitewashed Tomb

Colossians 3:1-17

Matthew 23:27

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

Context Matthew 23:1-33

Series of 7 “Woe” sayings about lives not lived in accordance with God’s Kingdom

23:13 23.15 23.16 23.23 23.25 23.27 23.29

Instead, Colossians 3:1-17 encourages in a different direction

A. You must be alive with Christ (1)

1. You must seek “what is from above”
2. You must keep your eyes on God’s rule and reign

B. You must think differently (2-7)

1. *“You must think about what is from above and not think about what is only here on earth.”* (2)
2. *“You must consider yourself dead to what is only here on earth”* (5)

C. You must take specific action (8-14)

1. You must put away “earthly” actions and attitudes (8-9)
2. You must recognize the renewing process you are undergoing (10-11)
 - a. Renewal of the self into the image of God
 - b. Renewal with no external distinctions among humanity
3. Since you are God’s chosen put on those actions and attitudes that are from above (12-14)
 - a. Qualities that unite us to one another (12-13)
 - b. Qualities that represent God (14)

D. You must live in submission to Christ (15-17)

1. Submit to Christ’s reconciliation (15)
2. Submit to Christ’s teaching (16)
3. Submit to Christ’s identity (17)

Where do you choose to live: inside a tomb or beside a throne?

- A. Have you died in Christ and become alive in Christ?**
- B. Where do you allow your mind to spend its energy, on things from above or from here on earth?**
- C. Where is your renewal into God's image for you occurring?**
- D. In what ways are you submitting yourself to Christ's rule?**