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Necessary Executions

Reading Colossians 3:5-8

Carefully follow the train of thought here. If you have been “buried with Christ in baptism,” (2:12) and “raised with Christ” – you are (1) seeking the things above [v.2] and you are (2) **Executing what is earthly in you** [v.5].

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you,” (verse 5). Think of “earthly” as *not spiritually valuable; worldly; against your godly purposes.*

As one “buried with Christ in baptism” and “raised with Christ,” you are not only authorized to perform these necessary “executions” but mandated. Whatever is worldly, sinful, unsuitable for heaven – you should – as soon as you see it in you – **Kill It.**

Don’t schedule an execution date. As soon as you discover what is earthly in your mind and life – *Pull the Trigger.* For examples:

Sexual Immorality is *any and all sexual activity with anyone outside a legitimate*



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marriage. When you find yourself in that sin, stop and repent. “Put to death” sexual immorality.

Impurity is any thought, thought patterns, words or actions that contradict the purity God expects of His people. When it comes to your attention, pull the trigger.

Passion is that burning and boiling excitement for something not worthy of your energy. Kill it.

Evil desire has to do with one’s interests in what is wrong.

Covetousness, which is idolatry is wanting something with such unreasonable drive, you are willing to reject God and “make an idol” to have what you want. Put that to death too.

Why? “On account of these, the wrath of God is coming.” If God objects to these

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things and has promised to react negatively (the wrath of God is coming), I need to identify and execute these sins. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, I can trust and obey Him, then carry out these necessary executions.

Verse 7: "In these you too once walked, when you were living in them." Before obeying the gospel, you may have embraced all these sins and lived in them.

"But now you must put them all away..." Conversion is the initial date of execution. Thereafter, be ready to kill any reappearance of these sins.

Commercials use obscenity to market their products. The majority of entertainment uses sexual innuendo and suggestion, bathroom humor and irreverent speaking of God – as a part of their finished products offered to the public. National leaders feel pressured to include obscenity in their language. The school hallways buzz with filthy language.

The person who has been buried with Christ in baptism rejects these popular ways of communication, to preserve what is pure and righteous.

"Put them all away." To be a Christian, there are necessary executions. You once lived in these things, "but now..." Now that you have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised with Him to see the things above – PUT THEM ALL AWAY.

Anger is that unreasonable emotional reaction that goes beyond natural disappointment with someone or something. **Wrath** is an additional step into destructive emotional reaction. **Malice** is devotion to injury, a desire to hurt someone or get someone back. **Slander** is ill-conceived and unjustified words against someone (generally connected to anger, wrath and malice).

"And obscene talk from your mouth" must be rejected by those who have been buried with Christ in baptism.

Our society has incorporated obscenity into virtually every phase of living. Those who seek the things above will not tolerate it or participate.