



## JULY 4/5

# THE RESURRECTED KING

## THE BIG THREE

In this weekend's message, we learned about The Big Three: *The World, The Flesh and The Devil*. Michael discussed how these three dimensions work together to rob us of our freedom and that we often can succumb to their influence without recognizing the Enemy is at work. So, before we get into this study, let's begin with a surrendered heart before God. Come to a quiet place and take a few deep breaths. Meditate on the following scripture again from last week's study:

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:7-8 NIV***



### READ

*What does the Word say about this topic?*

In the message a couple of weeks ago, we read Colossians 2:13-15 and learned that Christ disarmed the powers and authorities when He nailed our sins to the cross. This week we will dive a bit deeper into Colossians 2 and 3, and from this week's message, Galatians 5. Read the following passages in the New Living Translation in the YouVersion Bible App (or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). As you read the following verses, **jot down any significant insights you gain about our new life in Christ.**

- Colossians 2:6-15
- Colossians 3:1-17
- Galatians 5:1, 13-26



### REFLECT

*What insights do these passages reveal about who we are in Christ?*

1. Re-read Colossians 2:8. What do you think the Apostle Paul means by "*empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world*"?
2. Colossians 2:9-13 contrasts our life before Christ and after Christ. In your own words explain the differences.
3. Using your YouVersion App, re-read verses 9 and 10 in the Passion Translation. If God is in Christ and Christ now lives in us, what implications does that have for our lives?
4. Now look again at Colossians 3:1-17 and, in one or two sentences, describe what it means to live a life that is alive in Christ.

5. In the New International Version, Paul writes in Galatians 5:16 “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Read Galatians 5:13-16, 22-26 in the New International Version. What are some practical ways we can walk by the Spirit?



## RESPOND

*In light of these truths, how does God want me to respond?*

1. In the message, we learned that the values of our surrounding culture can *supercharge* our temptations when combined with the weakness of our flesh. Our minds and hearts are easily deceived, and we can be slow to recognize the impact. Some examples Michael mentioned include: a naturalistic world view, racism, sexual standards, etc.

- How do you think Satan is at work in our world today through these things?
- Are you aware of the level of influence the culture may have on your mind, thoughts, desires or attitudes? How do you see yourself impacted by this?

2. Scripture says “*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.*” (Matt 6:22) Our culture communicates its values through TV shows, movies, news, internet, social media, billboards, etc. How do you think these might have an effect on your heart and choices?

- Have you ever considered that Satan can use media of all types to spiritually attack you and take you off the path to life? Have you seen that manifest in your life or others?

3. When it comes to spiritual warfare, as Michael explained, there are three enemies at work: *The World, The Flesh and The Devil*. As you reflect on your life, write down several examples of where you have seen each of these at work.

4. This weekend, Michael asked the question, “What . . . Is Your Paradigm?” How did you answer that question? Do you think your paradigm needs to be adjusted in any way to reflect a more accurate view of spiritual warfare? Explain.

5. Read the following quote from *The Bondage Breaker* by Neil Anderson:

*Before we received Christ, we were slaves to sin. Now because of Christ’s work on the cross, sin’s power over us has been broken. Satan has no right of ownership or authority over us. He is a defeated foe, but he is committed to keeping us from realizing that. The father of lies can block your effectiveness as a Christian if he can deceive you into believing that you are nothing but a product of your past—subject to sin, prone to failure, and controlled by your habits. Paul said, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). You are free in Christ, but you will be defeated if the devil can deceive you into believing you are nothing more than a sin-sick product of your past. Nor can Satan do anything about your position in Christ, but if he can deceive you into believing that what Scripture says isn’t true, you will live as though it isn’t.*

As Neil explains above, if the Enemy can convince us that we are still slaves to sin, then we will feel unworthy and ill-equipped to do the will of the Father.

- As you reflect on your life, are there areas where you feel a lack of freedom from sin? List them in your journal. Confess them to the Lord (1 John 1:9) and ask Him to help you change your heart.

- Also, James 5:16 says, “*confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*” If you haven’t done this already, share your struggle with a trusted friend this week. Ask them if they’d be willing to pray for you in this area.
- Lastly, a great resource to combat sin and strongholds is the book *The Steps to Freedom* by Neil Anderson. You can find the book on Amazon. This is a great resource to read through with a friend or in a group setting.