

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

You are Good, All About You, How Great Thou Art, The Wonder of Your Love, Revelation Song

## WELCOME

**Point of View.** Briefly share how your perspective impacts your priorities and behavior.

## WORD

### COLOSSIANS 3:1

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

#### SET OUR MIND ON CHRIST

Since we have been raised up with Christ and have been forgiven from our sins, we are now a new creation with a new heart and a new life (2:13). With this in mind, we must “keep seeking the things above.” It is a present, imperative, and active *command* to all followers of Christ. It means to set our mind on Christ and to have ourselves constantly focused on doing what God wants us to do.

But the command does not mean we will not work and will just be heavenly-minded all the time. If we look at history, the people who made the difference – those who started the schools, hospitals, and orphanages – were followers of Jesus. They were busy doing the work of the Lord during their lifetime.

To be able to live-out such a life, we must have a renewal of the mind. Until one’s *mindset* is transformed, a person cannot be changed. This is because we are all byproducts of our belief systems. The way we think is crucial because what we think will impact our perspective (mindset) which will impact our priorities (values) and will impact our practices (behavior).

#### PERSPECTIVE (MINDSET)

There are two realities in life – one on a physical and the other on a spiritual realm. Sadly, many people are focused only on the reality of the tangible things of this world. A recent survey showed that most millennials want to be rich and famous – thinking the more money and fame, the happier one can be. Many others also have the mindset that they should work hard for their retirement. They think that when their retirement is secure, they can take life easy, to eat, drink and be merry (Luke 12:19).

But Jesus warns us that happiness in life does not consist of the abundance of our possessions (Luke

12:15). Our life on earth is unpredictable. We do not know when our soul will be required of us. The sooner we understand this and believe the truth that there is life after death, the better for us. This is because it will set our priorities today towards investing in eternity.

#### PRIORITIES (VALUES)

When we set our mind on the things of God, our goal will never be to take life easy because we know the reality that there is more to life than the here and now.

The Bible tells us not to be conformed to the world, but to allow our mind to be *transformed* (Romans 12:1-2). We cannot change until our mind is changed. Only then will we know the will of God. It is in God’s heart that we experience His good and perfect will.

We renew our mind by reading His Word which will lead us in knowing the truth about the heart of God. When we have the right perspective on God’s desires, our priorities are then focused on storing treasures in heaven, not on things of the world. We begin to understand that the only things we can bring to heaven are the souls of people, ourselves and our character.

#### PRACTICE (BEHAVIOR)

What we do does not define us, it is who we are that defines what we do. In the eyes of God we are saints, therefore we must live like one.

There are three dimensions to our salvation. The first dimension is the past. When we come to Christ, the penalty of our sins has been resolved by His sacrifice on the cross. This is our positional sanctification.

The next dimension involves the present. Jesus is now helping us overcome the power of sin. This is what God is working-out in our lives today. True followers of Jesus will feel miserable when they commit sin because God is at work in their lives. The

## WORD (cont'd)

old thing has passed away, the new thing has come. God wants us to practice who we are. This is called progressive sanctification.

There is also future tense to our salvation. We exult in the pains and thorns of life today because we hope in our future glory in Christ (**Colossians 3:4; Romans 5:2-4**). We begin to see the big picture. We are saved from the penalty of sin, now we are being saved from the power of sin, and one day we shall be saved from the presence of sin.

When our mind is set on Christ, we know that our identity is in Christ. Therefore, we see sin seriously that we do not want to play around with it but want to get rid of all kinds of sin in our lives (**Colossians 3:5,8**). This desire for purity comes when we become intimate with Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. **Look Up.** What is the command to those who have been raised up with Christ according to **Colossians 3:1**?
2. **I Am a Christian.** How could you say that you are a Christian? What are the evidences that you are one?
3. **Look Forward.** What are your priorities today for your future based on your perspective of who Christ is?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

This week, share with at least three people how their perspective (mindset) impacts their priorities (values) and their practices (behavior). Share with them who Jesus is, what He has done for them, and why they should believe in Him and come to Him with all their life.

### CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL

A Harvard research study reported that the secret to happiness and good health has nothing to do with education, money, social status, and accomplishment but, has everything to do with one thing – the quality of relationships with family, friends and other people.

The Bible tells us the secret of a good relationship is in Christ (**Colossians 3:11**). When we are in Christ, there is no more division. Relationship is built through the love of Jesus. If we put Christ first in the center, our relationship with those around us will be different. A vertical relationship with God will impact our horizontal relationship with people.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends