

## **SERMON**

**DATE: Saturday - Sunday, June 1-2, 2019**

**SERIES TITLE: REFLECT - Mirroring the Image of God in Our Relationships**

**SERMON TITLE: Heaven on Earth**

**SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:12-17**

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

[12] Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

[13] Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

[14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

[16] Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

[17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**June 1-2, 2019**

**Title: Heaven on Earth**

*Colossians 3:1-2* Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

***How can we have heaven on earth?***

**1. When we live according to who we are.**

- We are chosen, holy, and beloved.
- We practice:
  - compassion
  - kindness
  - humility
  - gentleness
  - patience
  - forbearance
  - forgiveness
  - love

**2. When we live in peace.**

- Peace in the heart puts praise on the lips.

**3. When we live in the Word of Christ.**

**4. When we live devotedly.**

**Lagniappe**

This week starts Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Covington and at many churches across the country.

We need you to pray. Here are some ways which are crucial to our making VBS what pleases God.

First, pray for the presence of God over all that we do. Evangelist Charles G. Finney famously said: "If the presence of God is in the church, the church will draw the world in. If the presence of God is not in the church, the world will draw the church out." Vacation Bible School is not a child-sitting service, it is an opportunity to exalt God and to introduce Him to hundreds of children. May God be present in the church.

Second, pray for Scriptural truth and Godly attitudes to be present in leaders throughout VBS. Pray that every leader would be someone who can by attitude, action, and word point others to Christ.

One of my favorite verses is the prayer of my heart: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). If our words and our thoughts please God, we will see a great VBS.

Third, pray that God will protect us from the evil one. Jesus taught us to pray in this way: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The Greek word for "evil" can also mean the "evil one". That's how I pray.

Fourth, pray for children to hear by the Holy Spirit the story of Jesus and to respond in faith. Pray that God would help us tell "the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard."

Finally, pray for parents and guardians who will reinforce the Word and who will be touched by the Holy Spirit themselves. When parents know Christ and seek Him with all their heart, children will be drawn to Him as well.

Thank you for praying. It's the most you can do for a successful VBS!