

# PUT OFF -- PUT ON

There is something very special in the Bible concerning the title of this article, "Put Off -- Put On."

In the Book of Colossians the Apostle Paul begins this theme with, *"IF you then were risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God"* (Colossians 3:1-3).

These verses begin with the little word "IF" which indicates the need of a personal relationship with God in order to qualify for the remainder of the thought. We must consider our standing with God the Father, and the assurance that we have been set free from our sin by the Shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

Paul then goes on with the "Put Offs" of our title theme -- *"Therefore PUT OFF from your members that are on the earth -- Fornication, Uncleaness, Evil Passions and Desires, and Covetousness which is Idolatry -- because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience -- in which you also once walked when you practiced them"* (vs. 5-7). Strong words indeed -- referring back to our life before we were Saved, before we asked Christ to come into our lives and make us New Creations.

Now we come to two very important words -- "BUT NOW!" -- Now that we profess to having been changed -- *"But Now you must also PUT OFF all these -- Anger, Wrath, Malice, Blasphemy, Filthy Language out of your mouth"* (vs. 8).

He goes on to say, *"Do Not Lie to one another, since you have PUT OFF the old man and his deeds, and have PUT ON the new man who is renewed in Knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is no differences among people, but Christ is all and in all"* (vs. 9-11).

BUT NOW -- in exact contrast to the above negative listing of items we must Put Off -- we are now given a new positive list -- *"PUT ON therefore, as the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved, Tender Mercies, Kindness, Humility, Meekness, Longsuffering, Bearing with One Another and Forgiving One Another . . . But above all these things PUT ON Love which is the Bond of Perfection, and let the Peace of God rule in your hearts . . . and be Thankful -- let the Word of Christ dwell in you Richly in all Wisdom, Teaching and Admonishing one another in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, singing with Grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (vs. 12-16).

What a contrast between the PUT OFFs in verses 5-7 and the PUT ONs in verses 12-16 -- and the Apostle Paul closes with these thoughts, *"And WHATEVER you do in Word or Deed, do ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving Thanks to God the Father through Him"* (vs. 17).

And so we are to PUT OFF all the bad things of the former life without Christ, and PUT ON all the good things now that our lives are in Christ.

Knowing our sin nature and the struggles we have had in the past with the things of the world, we now realize that it is impossible on our own -- we need Power from above -- and Christ has promised, "ALL Power is given unto Me in Heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18) and, "You shall receive (my) Power . . . to Witness of Me in ALL the world" (Acts 1:8).

Now we can sing with gusto with the Hymn writer, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh, what a foretaste of Glory Devine." Realize this -- our life is a witness -- good or bad!

Dear reader -- have you PUT OFF the Old Life, and PUT ON the New Life in Christ? Don't Delay -- Do It Today!

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