

**Colossians - Chapter 3**  
**“The Old Man: Causing a Stink”**  
**Colossians 3:7-10**

**Verse 7**

1. This verse should have resonated in the hearts of these Gentiles, because it wasn't very long ago when they themselves were fully immersed in the sensual, sinful, pagan, idolatrous lifestyle of the world.
2. The words “*some time*” are often translated “*times past*” in other verses. It carries the idea of “**once** this was true, but now things have changed, and **this** is true.”
  - **Example:** Paul – Galatians 1:23 (“*times past*” is the same Greek word as “*some time*.”)
  - **Other examples:** Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:21; Titus 3:3-4
3. All believers have a B.C. (before Christ) that they aren't particularly proud of. Paul is reminding them of their life B.C. in this verse. Paul is saying, “This used to be who you were, but it is not who you are any longer.”
4. In our lives before Christ, we **walked** in sin because we **lived** in sin. We had no new life in Christ. We lived in the flesh and it ruled the roost. Ephesians 2:1-3 paints a very vivid picture of this. We lived in sin because we were, by nature, the children of wrath.
  - But Ephesians 2:4-6 quickly explains the new position and life we have now, in Christ.
  - Paul draws this comparison all throughout the book of Ephesians. vs. 2:11-13, 2:19, 4:17-24, 5:8

**Verses 8-9**

1. Paul is encouraging these believers to put away the attitudes and actions that were associated with their old sin nature.
  - The phrase “*put off*” means “to put away.”
  - **Illustration:** When Deniece and I got serious in our relationship, there came a point when she took any pictures or items that had to do with any past boyfriend and she put them away. She got them out of her life. What was she saying? I am dead to any former relationship and alive unto Dan! (I did the same thing, by the way!)
  - This is what Paul is saying, “There are things associated with your old life (B.C.) that you should be putting away.”
2. If our old man (old sin nature) has been crucified with Christ and is now dead, what would you expect us to do with it? It is not annihilated, no more than a dead physical body would be annihilated.
  - But, what do we do with a dead physical body? We put it away, don't we? It is already dead, but it must be put it away or there will be repercussions (decay, stench, disease, germs, etc.).
3. Notice these two aspects that Paul brings out to these believers:

- The old sin nature has been put off positionally. It is already done. vs. 9, cf. 2:11
  - But, that old dead sin nature can still cause a stink if we don't put it away practically in our daily lives. vs. 8
4. So, when certain ungodly attitudes and actions crop up in our lives, we immediately identify them as the stink that comes from our old man that was crucified with Christ, and we put them away.
- “*anger, wrath, malice*” – These three go hand in hand, and deal with our relationships with others. It is so easy to get filled with attitudes of bitterness, and desire ill will towards others. These things are internal poison that can lead to outward rage, and cause us to do irrational things to others. When they crop up, we put them away quickly.
  - “*blasphemy, filthy communication*” – The tongue is full of deadly poison. Gossip, slander, cursing, the use of God's name in vain, using coarse humor and vulgar language – all of these would fall into this category. Paul says, “Put it away.”
  - “*Lie not one to another*” – There is a temptation to skirt the truth, tell “half-truths,” fabricate to make ourselves look better, exaggerate, allow people to believe something that we know is untrue, etc. When we do these things, we are taking on the character of Satan (John 8:44). Lying belongs to our lives B.C. cf. Ephesians 4:25
5. Paul says, “Put all these things away. They belong to the old nature that is dead and crucified with Christ. They produce nothing but stink and rotteness.”
6. But, Paul doesn't stop here. It is not enough to simply put away that which belongs to the old sin nature. There is another side of the coin.