### Colossians 3:1-11

#### The Doctrine of Sanctification

# 3:1- "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

	1487 [e]	3767 [e]	4891 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	3588 [e]	507 [e]	2212 [e]	
	Ei	oun	synēgerthēte	tō	Christō	ta	anō	zēteite	
1	Εί	ούν	συνηγέρθητε	τῷ	Χριστῷ ,	τὰ	ἄνω	ζητεῖτε ,	
	lf	then	you have been raised with	-	Christ	the things	above	seek	
	Conj	Conj	V-AIP-2P	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Art-ANP	Adv	V-PMA-2P	

3757 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	1510 [e]	1722 [e]	1188 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2521 [e]	
hou	ho	Christos	estin	en	dexia	tou	Theou	kathēmenos	
οΰ	ó	Χριστός	έστιν	έν	δεξιᾶ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	καθήμενος	
where	-	Christ	is	at [the]	right hand	-	of God	sitting	
Adv	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-PIA-3S	Prep	Adj-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PPM/P-NMS	

- 1. "If" or "Since" is an "if" in the first-class condition in the Greek which means "Assuming you have been raised with Christ, then..."
- 2. "Since" or "assuming" you have been resurrected to a new domain and are no longer part of this world, think/learn these things and gain understanding of this new life.
- 3. "...you have been raised" is passive verb
  - a. In 2:12 "raised with Christ" refers to new life with Christ.
  - b. Here "raised with Christ" refers to our potential/obligation.
- 4. This is written in the imperative which urges/commands the Colossians to:
  - a. Think, learn, understand Christian theology
  - b. Live, do, act Christian theology that you understand.
- 5. "Set your hearts on things above"
  - a. "Set your hearts" refers to "seeking" and "desiring"
  - b. Seek the things above (Mat. 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom." And, Mark 7:15)
  - c. "above" is contrasted with "below" in John 3:12-13 with Jesus and Nicodemus.
  - d. Philippians 3:14 "upward call"
  - e. Gal. 4:26 "upward city"
- 6. "Desire" or "be mindful of" things above as in Romans 12:3 and Philippians 2:5
- 7. "above" may be one of the false teachers' philosophical phrases that Paul is going to redefine. The mystics want to focus on the hidden heavenly realm above, but Paul is going to define that as:
  - a. Christ "where Christ is"
  - b. Christ's domain "seated at the right hand of God." Jewish tradition had all other spiritual beings (including priests) standing, but the son sits to share in sovereign rule (Psalm 110:1)
  - c. Where the power and glory are "2 Chr. 18:18; Ps. 11:4; Isa. 6:1; Dan. 7:9 and God's creative power

- d. Defeated all the spiritual powers (2:10, 2:15; 1:16)
- e. Our domain
- f. Location of the treasures

### 3:2 - "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

	3588 [e]	507 [e]	5426 [e]	3361 [e]	3588 [e]	1909 [e]	3588 [e]	1093 [e]
	ta	anō	phroneite	mē	ta	ері	tēs	gēs
2	τὰ	ἄνω	φρονεῖτε ,	μὴ	τὰ	έπὶ	τῆς	$\gamma\tilde{\eta}\varsigma$ .
	The things	above	set [your] minds on	not	the things	on	the	earth
	Art-ANP	Adv	V-PMA-2P	Adv	Art-ANP	Prep	Art-GFS	N-GFS

- 1. In 2:20 "if you have died with Christ" is now contrasted with "if you have been raised with Christ."
- 2. 3:2 is parallel to 3:1:
  - a. "Set your hearts on things above." (3:1) means to seek, desire things above
  - b. "Set your minds on things above." (3:2) means to transform the mind into obedient submission (Rm.12:1-2)
- 3. Earthly things
  - a. Contrast with flesh and Spirit
  - b. Above is where Christ is seated to rule contrasts with earthly things that reject Christ and his authority including Paul's reference to:
    - i. "human tradition" and Christ" in 2:8
    - ii. "shadow" and "substance" in 2:17
- 4. Rejects the dualistic structure of the false teachers and their ascetic practices that create the false contrast the body and the soul:
  - a. "all things were created by Christ in heaven and earth" 1:16
  - b. "all things were reconciled to Christ by his death." 1:20
  - c. Thus, there is no dichotomy since Christ is the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of ALL THINGS
- 5. Paul was critical of the same thing to the Philippians, urging them to avoid earthly things (Phil. 3:19) and thinking and have Christ's mind:
  - a. Phil. 2:2 one mind, like minded
  - b. Phil. 3:20 citizenship in heaven

#### 3:3 – "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

	599 [e]	1063 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2222 [e]	4771 [e]	2928 [e]	4862 [e]	3588 [e]
	apethanete	gar	kai	hē zōē hymōn		kekryptai	syn	tō	
3	ἀπεθάνετε	γάρ ,	καὶ	ή	ζωὴ	ύμῶν	κέκρυπται	σὺν	τῷ
	You have died	for	and	the	life	of you	has been hidden	with	-
	V-AIA-2P	Conj	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-G2P	V-RIM/P-3S	Prep	Art-DMS

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5547 [e]
               1722 [e] 3588 [e]
                                  2316 [e]
Christō
                                   Theō
                         tō
               en
Χριστῷ ἐν
                         τῶ
                                   \Theta\epsilon \tilde{\omega} .
Christ
               in
                                   God
N-DMS
               Prep
                         Art-DMS N-DMS
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- 1. Close association between you the believer and Christ the risen Lord
- 2. Security of the believer
- 3. Hidden along with the treasure in Christ Colossians 2:3 "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
  - a. This is historical truth rather than mystical
  - b. This true identity is only found in Christ

### 3:4 - "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

	3752 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	5319 [e]	3588 [e]	2222 [e]	4771 [e]	5119 [e]	2532 [e]
	hotan	ho	Christos	phanerōthē	hē	zōē	hymōn	tote	kai
4	ὅταν	ò	Χριστὸς	φανερωθη ,	ή	ζωὴ	ύμῶν* ,	τότε	καὶ
	When	-	Christ	may be revealed	the	life	of you	then	also
	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-ASP-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-G2P	Adv	Conj

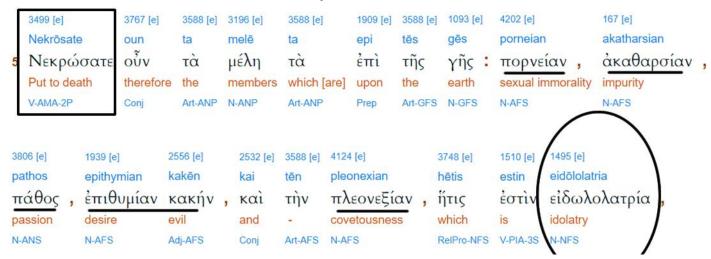
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1722 [e] 1391 [e]
4771 [e]
         4862 [e] 846 [e]
                            5319 [e]
hymeis
                            phanerothesesthe
                                                           doxē
                 autō
         syn
                                                   en
ύμεῖς
         σὺν
                 αὐτῷ
                            φανερωθήσεσθε έν
                 Him
                            will appear
you
         with
                                                           glory
PPro-N2P
                 PPro-DM3S V-FIP-2P
         Prep
                                                   Prep
                                                           N-DFS
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- 1. "appears" phanerothe "to make visible", "to make clear". Used to say "make clear", "make visible", "manifest".
  - a. 1 John 3:2 uses *phaneroo* which means "become manifest" "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we

know that when **he appears** (or, "it appears") we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

- b. Other Greek words used of Christ's return and appearing:
  - i. Parousia = "coming"
  - ii. *Epiphaneia* = "manifestation", "appearance" epiphany"
  - iii. Apokalypsis = "revelation"
  - iv. Phaneroo = (used here) "appears"
- c. Romans 8:19 "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God."
  - i. "revealing" here is apokalypsin meaning "an uncovering", "a revealing"
- 2. This is the final phase of salvation where the life of Christ manifests in us in glorification

# 3:5 – "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."



- 1. "Put to death" the "earthly"
  - a. Aorist action in the present or the future
  - b. Imperative command
  - c. Active the subject does this action. In this case "you" or "you all"
  - d. Second Person Pronoun Plural- "You" and "You all"
  - e. Meaning "to put to death" and can be used to say:
    - "Make as dead"
    - i. "Render weak"
    - ii. "Reduce to impotent"
- 2. Five of the eleven vices (5 of first 5) that Paul lists deal with sexual sin.
  - a. "**sexual immorality** *porneia* any sex outside of marriage. Associated with idol worship in the OT (Isaiah 47:10; Jer. 3:9; Ezek.23:8; Mic. 1:7;
  - b. "impurity, meaning "uncleanness"
    - i. in the OT this was manifest in two ways:
      - 1. Ceremonially impure concerning ritual worship;
      - 2. sexual immorality. Paul uses impurity to refer to sexual immorality in Rom. 1:24; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal.5:19
  - c. "passion" pathos means "that which befalls one", "a passion", "a suffering"
    - i. Used to say: "suffering", "emotion", depraved passion", "lust"
    - ii. here it refers to lust and uncontrolled shameful passions.

- iii. Paul uses this to refer to the behavior of "the pagans who do not know God in 1 Thes. 4:5 and Rom. 1:26.
- d. "evil desire" or "covetousness" epithumian kaken used to refer to:
  - i. Kaken means "evil", "bad"
  - ii. Epithymian means "desire", "passionate longing", "lust", "an inordinate desire"
  - iii. general sinful desires (Rom. 6:12; 7:8; 13:14; Gal. 5:16)
  - iv. illicit sexual desires (Rom. 1:24; 1 Thes. 4:5)
- e. "greed" or "covetousness" pleonexian, meaning:
  - i. "advantage" or "covetousness
    - 1. This is a desire for advantage
    - 2. It is a driven aggression to have more
  - ii. The word comes from combination of two words:
    - 1. pleion = from "more", "numerically more" and
    - 2. echein which means "to have" and "desire to have more".
  - iii. Meaning, "
  - iv. This could lead to the next statement "which is idolatry" -
    - 1. in this case to have more spiritual insight and more revelation than what the Lord gave.
    - 2. Thus, in context, mysticism is idolatry.
    - 3. Or, if it stays with the theme of sexual sin, to want more sex in illicit ways is idolatry. ...
    - 4. "which is idolatry"
      - a. anything that interferes with our relationship with God, his Spirit, the life and its source of power "is idolatry" because it gets in the way of allowing God's nature and our new life to flow, grow and show.
      - this first list of six vices ends with a description for the 6th vice just as the second list of six also ends with a description of the 6th (11th) vice

#### 3:6 - "On account of these the wrath of God is coming."

	1223 [e]	3739 [e]	2064 [e]	3588 [e]	3709 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1909 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	3588 [e]	543 [e]	
	di'	ha	erchetai	hē	orgē	tou	Theou	epi	tous	huious	tēs	apeitheias	
6	δι'	ά	<b>ἔρχετα</b> ι	ή	ὀργὴ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	«ἐπὶ	τοὺς	υίοὺς	τῆς	ἀπειθείας>	,
	because of	which things	is coming	the	wrath	-	of God	on	the	sons	of	disobedience	
	Prep	RelPro-ANP	V-PIM/P-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	Art-AMP	N-AMP	Art-GFS	N-GFS	

- 1. "On account of these"
- 2. "the wrath of God" this was an OT concept Zeph. 1:14-15
- 3. "is coming"
  - a. Paul spoke of the wrath of God being revealed in time or in his own day as in Romans 1:18-32, "The wrath of God IS being revealed from heaven....."
  - b. Paul also spoke of the wrath of God being revealed at the end of time at the final judgment as in Romans 2:5 "because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."
  - c. Eschatological Wrath in:
    - i. Romans 5:9 "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"

- ii. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 "...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."
- iii. Romans 2:7-8
- 4. In light of Paul having just spoken about the day Christ's glory is revealed it is fitting that Paul is talking about the pouring out of God's wrath in the final judgment.

#### 3:7 – "In these you too once walked, when you were living in them."

	1722 [e]	3739 [e]	2532 [e]	4771 [e]	4043 [e]	4218 [e]	3753 [e]	2198 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]
	en	hois	kai	hymeis	periepatēsate	pote	hote	ezēte	en	toutois
7	έν	οἷς	καὶ	ὑμεῖς	περιεπατήσατέ	ποτε	ὅτε	ἐζῆτε	έν	τούτοις .
	in	which	also	you	walked	once	when	you were living	in	them
	Prep	RelPro-DNP	Conj	PPro-N2P	V-AIA-2P	Prtcl	Adv	V-IIA-2P	Prep	DPro-DNP

- 1. "once walked" the old practices and old nature
- 2. "when you were living in them."
  - a. the old life and life source
  - b. the once/now contrast as seen in Colossians 1:21; 1:22; 2:13 is presented as in Eph.4 –
- 3. See stages of revisionism from Ephesians
- 4. Paul's focus here is to compare their NEW life to their OLD life which has died in Christ.
  - a. This means they need to live in the NEW way and "put to death" the OLD ways.

### 3:8 – "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth."



148 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	4750 [e]	4771 [e]
aischrologian	ek	tou	stomatos	hymōn
αἰσχρολογίαν	έĸ	τοῦ	στόματος	ὑμῶν .
foul language	out of	the	mouth	of you
N-AFS	Prep	Art-GNS	N-GNS	PPro-G2P

- 1. "you must put them all away" apothesthe means "to get rid of" and can be used to mean putting away or taking off clothes. This word, apothesthe, is used with the contrasting verb enduo to mean "to put on" in:
  - a. Romans 13:12-14, "So let us <u>put aside</u> the deeds of darkness and <u>put on</u> the armor of light... not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, <u>clothe yourselves</u> with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."
  - b. Eph. 4:22-25 "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to <u>put off</u> your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to <u>put on</u> the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must <u>put off</u> falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body."
- 2. this second list uses the word ta panta translated "all"
- 3. imperative mood, the mood of command

- 4. These next five vices focus on our relationship with others in society, family, church, etc.
- 5. The phrase "from your mouth" is interpreted in two basic ways:
  - a. Applying to two sins of the mouth: slander and obscene talk
  - b. Applying to the entire list. This means this is a list of sins or manifestations of the sin nature through the mouth: anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk.
- 6. It appears that "from your mouth" modifies this entire list.
  - a. The writing of James in James 3:1-6 focuses on the sins of the mouth manifesting the inner sin nature.
- 7. **Anger-** *orge* emotions of hatred, focused on the inner man
- 8. **Wrath** *thumos* an outburst of passion, focused on the outer action (orge and thumos or anger and wrath are virtually synonyms in the NT
- 9. **Malice** *kakia* evil attitude that manifests in evil actions towards others. This is a vicious mind that will manifest in slanderous speech
- 10. **Slander** *blasthemia* is blasphemy against God (Matt. 12:31; Luke 5:21; John 10:33; Rev. 13:1, 5-6) but is slanderous speech when spoke against others (Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:22; Eph. 4:31; 1 Tim. 6:4). Of course, James says that to speak against men is to speak against God himself in James 3:9.
- 11. **Obscene talk** *aischrologia* similar to Ephesians 5;4 where the word *aischrotes*, "obscenity", is used.
  - a. But, this would seem to be obscenity in the form of abusive language towards people.
  - b. Thus, language that breaks unity and prevents peace in society, family and the community of believers.

### 3:9 - "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices"

	3361 [e]	5574 [e]	1519 [e]	240 [e]	554 [e]	3588 [e]	3820 [e]	444 [e]	4862 [e]	3588 [e]	4234 [e]	846 [e]
	Mē	pseudesthe	eis	allēlous	apekdysamenoi	ton	palaion	anthrōpon	syn	tais	praxesin	autou
9	$M\grave{\eta}$	ψεύδεσθε	εἰς	άλλήλους ,	ἀπεκδυσάμενοι	τὸν	παλαιὸν	ἄνθρωπον	σὺν	ταῖς	πράξεσιν	αὐτοῦ ,
	Not	do lie	to	one another	having put off	the	old	man	with	the	practices	of him
	Adv	V-PMM-2P	Prep	RecPro-AMP	V-APM-NMP	Art-AMS	Adi-AMS	N-AMS	Prep	Art-DEP	N-DFP	PPro-GM3S

- 1. "do not lie" this is the opposite of truth.
  - a. Since we are a people of Truth there is no place for lying or deception in our new behavior or language.
  - b. In Romans 1:25 "lie" contrasts with "truth" and in that context "truth" is reality and the "lie" is a false reality, false philosophy, false god, false religion:

"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen." – Romans 1:25

- 2. "you have put off the old man"
- 3. "with its practices"

# 3:10- "and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

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2532 [e] 1746 [e]
                             3588 [e] 3501 [e]
                                                3588 [e]
                                                         341 [e]
                                                                               1519 [e] 1922 [e]
                                                                                                       2596 [e]
   kai
            endysamenoi
                             ton
                                      neon
                                                ton
                                                         anakainoumenon
                                                                               eis
                                                                                        epianōsin
                                                                                                       kat'
                                                                               είς
            ένδυσάμενοι
                             τὸν
                                               τὸν
                                                         άνακαινούμενον
                                                                                        ἐπίγνωσιν
10 καὶ
                                      νέον .
                                                                                                       κατ'
   and
            having put on
                             the
                                                the [one]
                                                         being renewed
                                                                                        knowledge
                                                                                                       according to
                                      new
            V-APM-NMP
                             Art-AMS Adi-AMS
                                                Art-AMS
                                                         V-PPM/P-AMS
                                                                               Prep
                                                                                        N-AFS
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   Conj
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1504 [e]
            3588 [e]
                        2936 [e]
                                       846 [e]
eikona
                        ktisantos
            tou
                                       auton
εἰκόνα
           τοῦ
                        κτίσαντος
                                       αὐτόν ,
[the] image of the [One] having created
                                       him
N-AFS
           Art-GMS
                        V-APA-GMS
                                       PPro-AM3S
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- 1. "have put on the new self"
  - a. image of clothing is used where earlier Paul used the image of circumcision
  - the verb is a rist tense which indicates this event has already happened. Meaning, their identity has already changed, but their behavior needs to be brought in line with the new reality, new life, new nature, new kingdom, new power, new life source. (Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:17-5:1)
- 2. "being renewed in knowledge"
  - a. this is present tense which means this transformation in our lives is occurring now and is an ever-occurring process in our lives.
- 3. "after the image of its creator"

# 3:11 – "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."

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3699 [e] 3756 [e] 1762 [e]
                             1672 [e]
                                        2532 [e] 2453 [e]
                                                                4061 [e]
                                                                             2532 [e] 203 [e]
                                                                                                         915 [e]
                                                                                                                         4658 [e]
                                                                                                                         Skythës
                              Hellen
                                                 loudaios
                                                                                      akrobystia
                                                                                                         barbaros
   hopou
            ouk
                     eni
                                        kai
                                                                peritomē
                                                                             kai
11 ὅπου
            οὐκ
                     ἕνι
                              Έλλην καὶ
                                                 Ἰουδαῖος 🔒
                                                                                      άκροβυστία,
                                                                                                         βάρβαρος,
                                                                                                                         Σκύθης .
                                                                περιτομή
                                                                            καὶ
                                                                                                         Barbarian
                                                                                                                         Scythian
   where
            not
                     there is
                              Greek
                                                 Jew
                                                                circumcision
                                                                             and
                                                                                      uncircumcision
   Adv
            Adv
                     V-PIA-3S N-NMS
                                        Conj
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1401 [e]
             1658 [e]
                             235 [e]
                                    3588 [e]
                                             3956 [e]
                                                       2532 [e] 1722 [e] 3956 [e]
                                                                                  5547 [e]
doulos
             eleutheros
                             alla
                                     ta
                                              panta
                                                       kai
                                                                         pasin
                                                                                  Christos
            έλεύθερος ;
                            άλλὰ ∢τὰ⊱
                                                                         πᾶσιν Χριστός.
δοῦλος .
                                              πάντα καὶ
                                                                έv
slave
             free
                             but
                                              all
                                                       and
                                                                         all
                                                                                  Christ [is]
N-NMS
            Adj-NMS
                             Conj
                                     Art-NNP Adj-NNP
                                                       Conj
                                                                         Adj-DNP
                                                                                  N-NMS
                                                                Prep
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- Greek and Jew = National privilege
- 2. Circumcised and Uncircumcised = Legal or ceremonial standing
- 3. Barbarian and Scythian = Cultural
  - a. Barbarian was someone who did not speak cultured Greek, and their language sounded like "bar-bar-bar" to the cultured Greek
  - b. Scythian were the lowest of the low foreign barbarians
- 4. Slave and Free = Social Class

5. "Christ is all, and in all" = Christ (the Word, the Truth, Eternal Son, Creator, Judge, etc.) is the center and source of unity. Unity among mankind is something ONLY available in Christ. The world will never find unity.

# 3:12 – "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,"



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5544 [e]
                 5012 [e]
                                         4240 [e]
                                                        3115 [e]
                 tapeinophrosynēn
                                         prautēta
                                                        makrothymian
chrēstotēta
χρηστότητα , ταπεινοφροσύνην , πραΰτητα , μακροθυμίαν ;
kindness
                 humility
                                         gentleness
                                                        [and] patience
                                         N-AFS
                                                        N-AFS
N-AFS
                 N-AFS
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1. "Put on" – *enduo* (here *endusasthe*) means "to clothe or be clothed with (in the sense of sinking into a garment)"