

# Suffering from “Eternity Amnesia”?

Colossians 3: 1-4

July, 2019

## Colossians 3: 1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

# Since ... what?

- You have died with Christ; you were buried with Christ; you have been raised with Christ (see Colossians 2: 11-15, 20)
- For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3: 3)
- Hidden: not visible
- Hidden: safe and secure

# Only 2 possibilities; 2 mindsets

- above / below
- heaven / earth
- Above: Christ is seated at God's right hand
- Below: Satan's territory
- Above: eternal
- Below: temporary

- When was the last time you thought about things above ? (mind preoccupied with eternal things)
- When was the last time you desired something above ? (heart seeking eternal things)

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor. 4: 18)

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. (2 Cor. 4: 18; NLT)

Suffering from “eternity amnesia”?

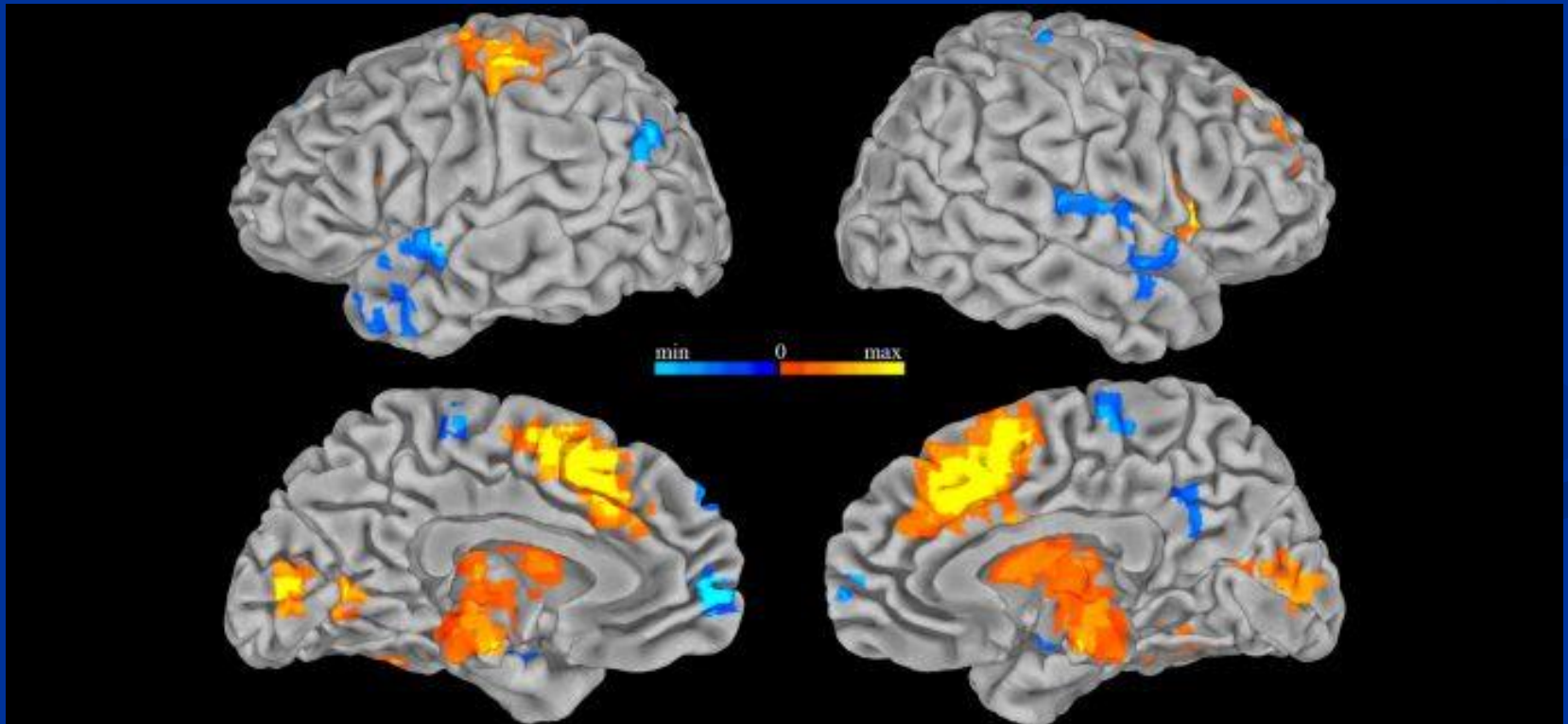
# Our mindset determines ...

- set of values determining how we make decisions
- our priorities
- what we say and do

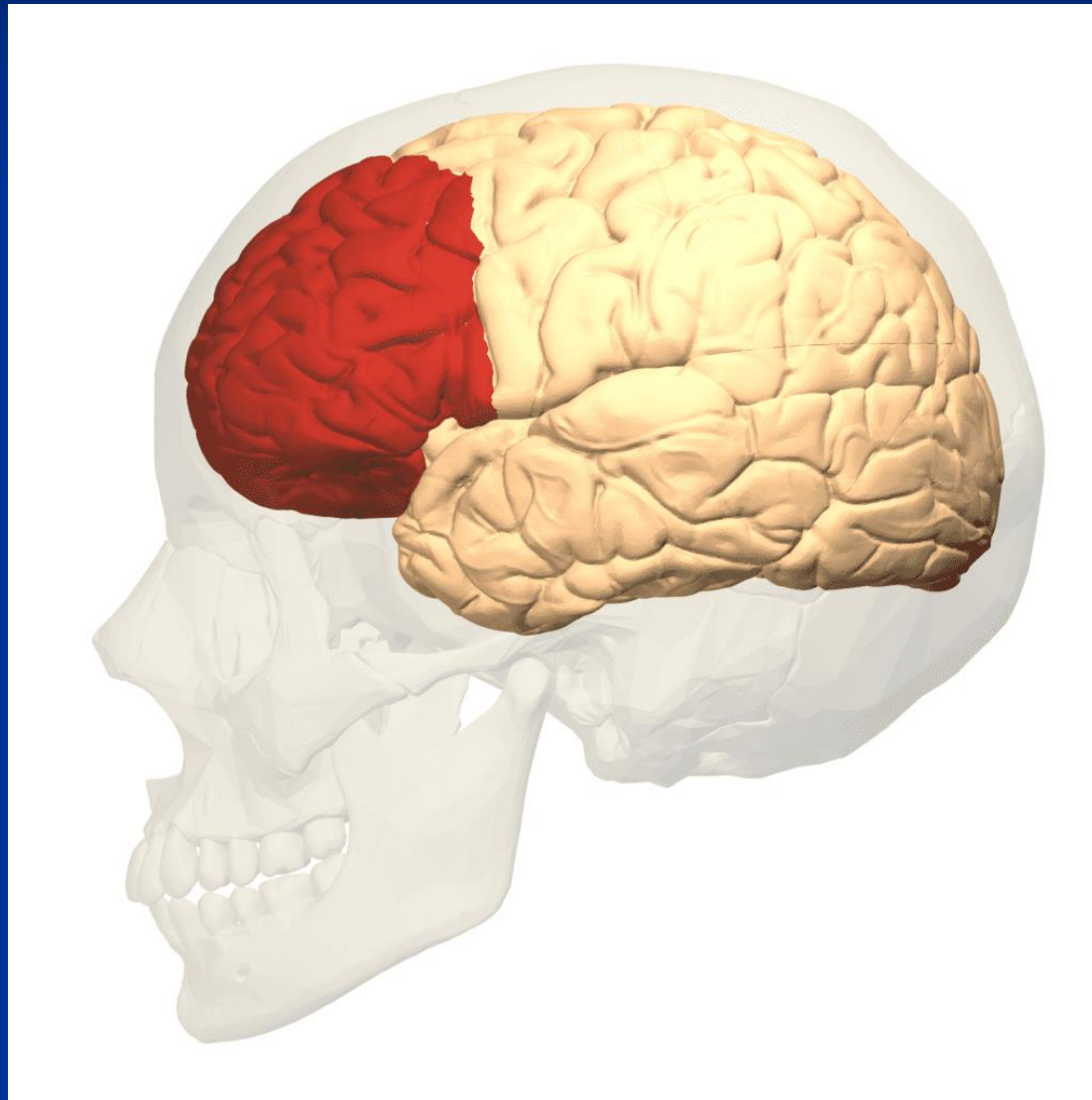


# fMRI Studies

- measures brain activity by detecting changes associated with blood flow
- blood flow linked to neuron activity
- increased blood flow = increased neuron activity

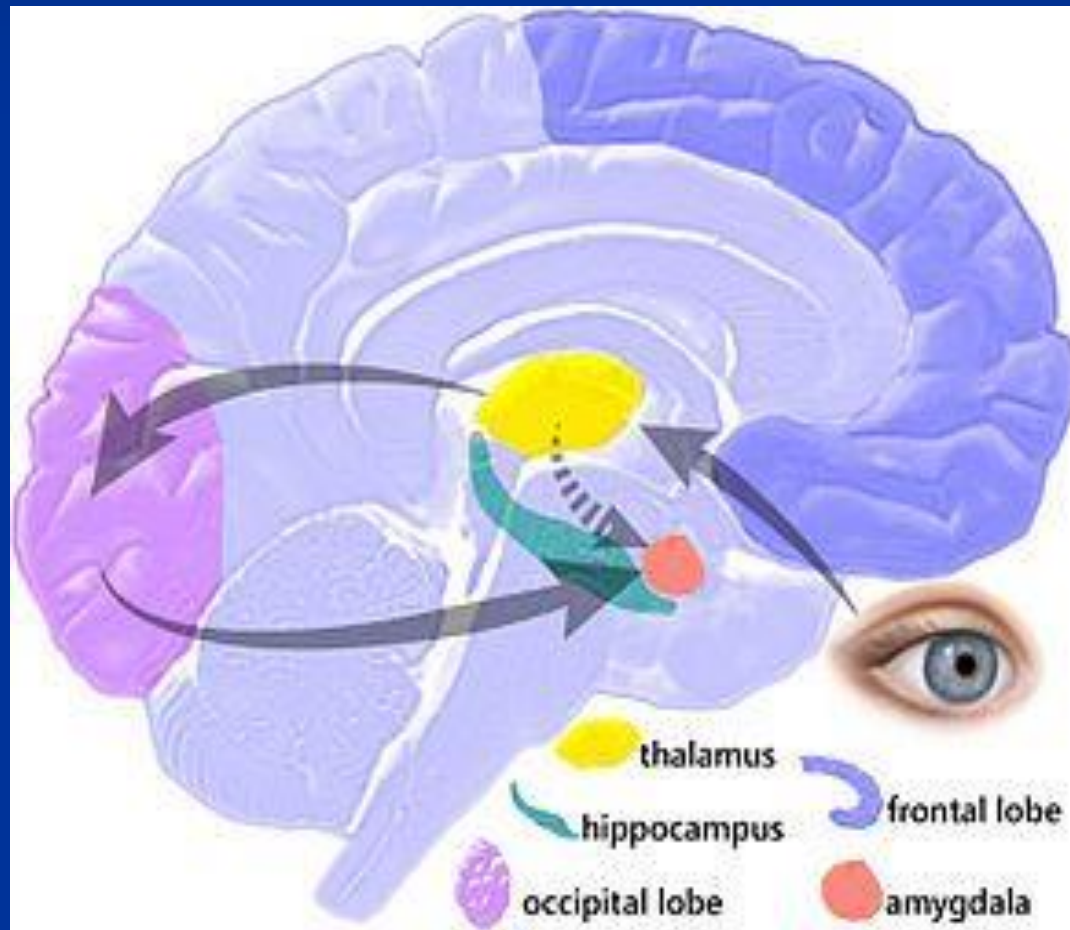


**Prefrontal Cortex:** orchestration of thoughts and actions in accordance with internal goals



**Amygdala:** perception of emotions such as anger, fear, & sadness; controls aggression

**Hippocampus:** associated mainly with memory, long-term memory



Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor. 4: 18)

- fMRI studies: Prefrontal Cortex, Amygdala and Hippocampus play important roles in our choices & decisions

# When “heaven” is our point of focus ...

- everything will be radically transformed
- everything will be radically rearranged

# Heavenly or Earthly focus determines our ...

- Attitude toward God
- Attitude toward Wealth & Possessions
- Perception of Ourselves & People
- Attitude toward Pleasure & Pain
- Commitment to a Lifestyle of Purity

# Heavenly focus leads to ...

- a healthy “fear” of God
- *coram Deo*

# Fear: powerful emotion

- healthy (beneficial) fear
- unhealthy (harmful) fear



# What motivates our decisions/actions?

- various fears ?
- “I think we are motivated by fear, worry, dread, and anxiety much more than we realize”
- How do you make your decisions?
  - Avoiding what we are afraid of?
  - Facing our fears to venture into something unfamiliar?
- fear of God ~ trust in God ?

# Defeat “little” fears with a “grander” fear

■ “Only when the grander fear of God rules your heart will you be free of all the little fears in life that chip away at your heart.” – Paul Tripp

- God is “above” all other gods
- God’s power and authority is infinite
- God’s wisdom is infinite

# The Fear of the Lord

- a result of knowing and experiencing God as King, Lord, and my Heavenly Father
- a result of knowing and experiencing God as the “High and Exalted One” as well as the “Suffering Servant”
- a result of knowing and experiencing God as the “Holy One” who hates sin and delights in forgiving sinners

# A heavenly focus determines our ...

- Attitude toward God – healthy fear of God
- *coram Deo* - in the presence of, or before the face of God

# To live *coram Deo*

- is to live our life in the presence of God
- under the authority of God
- to the glory of God

# What *coram Deo* looks like for one person

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)

# The story of Norm Miller

# Interstate Battery website: *About Us*

## **Our Purpose**

To glorify God and enrich lives as we deliver the most trustworthy source of power to the world.

We fulfill our purpose by doing business based on Biblical principles – such as honesty, humility, service, and care – in a way that is welcoming and loving to all. As a company contributor, you are free to interact with the purpose in whatever way is most meaningful to you. Our values, however, are unchanging, and we ask that our team members try their best to live them as they serve our key stakeholders: team members, customers, distributors and franchisees, suppliers and vendors, communities and shareholders. By creating a welcoming and caring environment, we hope to create a positive experience for our team members and everyone else whom Interstate touches, no matter their background or belief system.

## **Our Values**

Our Purpose is why we exist. Our Values drive how we go about that existence and represent who we are.



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(Colossians 3: 1-4)

# Suffering from “eternity amnesia” ?

- What values determine your schedule?
- What perspective determines how you decide?
- What do you believe is the purpose of your existence? This determines your priorities.
- How does your thinking shape what you do and say?