

Series "Jesus Is First"
"Seeking The Things Above"
Colossians 3:1-4
Part-10

It does little good if Christians declare and defend the truth, but fail to demonstrate it in their lives. Character determines the nature of our conduct!

Galatians 1:4-5; Titus 1:16

We need to start with is **Doctrine**; that is what Paul always did; then he goes to **Duty. Principle – Practice, Wealth – Walk**

"A good teacher not only informs people of what is wrong, but also what is right."

Thought Of Our Passage: "Genuine Spiritual Living Is Built On The Believer's Association With The Risen Christ."

1. Verse 1 – Believers Raised With Christ

2. Verses 2-3 – Believers Died With Christ

3. Verse 4 – Believers Will Be Revealed With Christ

1. Verse 1 – Believers Raised With Christ:

Colossians 3:1

"Therefore" – what is the "therefore" there for? Paul has warned about the dangerous teachings that had crept into the church: Verses 16-17 – Legalism; Verses 18-19 – Mysticism; Verses 20-23 – Asceticism.

Colossians 2:20-23

1. Colossians 1 – DOCTRINE: CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DECLARED.
2. Colossians 2 – DANGER: CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DEFENDED.
3. Colossians 3-4 – DUTY: CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DEMONSTRATED.

Romans 1-11 – Paul lays out systematically our great salvation,
Romans 12-16 – practical; Romans 12:1.

Galatians 1-4 Doctrinal, then 5-6 Practical; Galatians 5:1.

Philippians 1 lays out the doctrinal teaching, then in Philippians 2-4 – Living.

Philippians 2:1

1 Thessalonians 1-3 Doctrine, then 4-5 Duty; 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

Colossians 2:20

“if” – “since you have;” it is not a question but it was a true statement.

Colossians 2:23

The Scope Of Our Position: (Co-Resurrected) “you have been raised up with Christ” – This is the basis of our holiness, Romans 6:1-10.

Our Spiritual Position Is Identified With His Spiritual Location: Our new potential for every Christian!

Colossians 2:12-13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Paul mentions 4X in 4 Verses “Christ.” That’s Our Focus!

The Command For The New Pattern Of Life: “keep seeking the things above,” – The Goal Is Heaven, So Seek The Things Above!

“keep seeking” – it is “to be continual, to pursue with diligence.”

What are we to seek? “things above,”

That is Jesus Christ Himself. Matthew 7:7-8

We Are Seated With Christ: “where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” – “position of majesty and authority,” Psalm 110:1.

Jesus is now seated because He completed His Work of redemption.

Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 10:11-14

2. Verses 2-3 – Believers Died With Christ:

Colossians 3:2

“Set your mind on the things above,” – (Positive) same as Colossians 3:1.

“Set your mind on the things above,” – “the thoughts and attention need to be continually directed towards this goal of the things above.”

“You must not only seek heaven, you must think heaven!” We need to be heavenly minded so we can be earthly good.

“Set” – “to set continually,” daily desire and urgency.

(Negative) “not on the things that are on earth.” – This does not mean that the Christian is to live in a mystical fog and neglect the affairs of this world!

Material Things – Our life is our money.

Immaterial Things – Earthly honor, position, advancement.

Matthew 6:21

Our perspective on this temporal life should be filtered through the eternal. It's not going to last, it's all going to burn, it's not going to matter!

The mind-set begins with prayer: John 15:7

Colossians 3:3

A Past Reality – (Justification) “For you have died” – We have died to sin, Romans 6:2; Colossians 2:20; Galatians 2:20.

A Present Truth – (Security & Safety) “and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” – The term “hidden” – “safety or secrecy,” John 10:28-29.

Life has so many changing factors; we are secure in Jesus Christ; Satan or man cannot touch us!

“hidden” – “concealed, unseen;” the believer’s life is not understood by the watching world.

3. Verse 4 – Believers Will Be Revealed With Christ:

Colossians 3:4

“When Christ, who is our life,” – Not only have we died, but Jesus Christ is our life.

A Future Expectation – (Future Position) “is revealed,” – “appears, open display;” This is the glorious Second Coming, Matthew 24:29-31.

Revelation 19:11-16

Our final destination is not the grave, cemetery, a crypt, or mausoleum, urn or niche, but with Him in glory!

Romans 8:29-31; Philippians 3:20-21

Application:

1. Our Evaluation Of This Temporal Life Should Be Filtered Through The Eternal. It's Not Going To Last, It's All Going To Burn, It's Not Going To Matter.
2. We Should Pray That Our Minds Would Be Set On Things Above. The Goal Is Heaven, So We Should Be Seeking The Things Above.
3. We Rejoice In Anticipation Of Our Future In Him. Our Final Destination Is Not The Grave, Cemetery, Crypt, Mausoleum, Urn or Niche, But With Jesus Christ In Glory.