

Lesson 31  
Col 3:1-4

Col 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. NIV

'No one longs for eternal, incorruptible, and immortal life, unless he be wearied of this temporal, corruptible, and mortal life' (Augustine).

In this passage of Scripture Paul turns from the warning of false teachers and empty philosophy and begins to focus his readers on the reality and significance of their being in Christ.

### I. Your True Existence

- a. 'For you died once for all,' in your Head, Christ, with whom you are **one by faith**. Rom 6:4-10
  1. This does **Not say**, you must die practically to the world in order to become dead with Christ.
  2. It is assumed as once for all **accomplished** by Christ, our Representative, with whom we become identified in regeneration.
- b. If you died in Christ, then you were raised when He was raised. Your life has been and is **hidden in Christ**. There are two aspects of hidden:
  1. **Planted** like a seed buried in the earth. Matt 13:31
  2. **Protected** Ps 83
- c. Since Christ's glory now is hidden from the world, so the believer's real **inner life**, in communion with Him, is hidden from the world.
- d. The element and sphere in which our life is hid is 'in God,' at whose right hand Christ sits. Our life is **not in ourselves**. Col 3:1,
- e. When Christ, the **Source and Essence** of our life, shall manifest Himself in glory, then shall our hidden life be manifest. John 11:25; 14:19-20
- f. Christ's manifested life in us will be the **natural result** of the development of his present inner life now being worked into us. 1 John 3:2
- g. "**glory**" will be the prominent characteristic of that life. 1 Cor 15:43
- h. Our present citizenship is in the "Jerusalem which is above", and this demands a continuing **transformation** of our mind and will to that reality. Gal 4:26; Rom 12:1-2

### II. In Light of This Truth

- a. Set (**stronger than seek**) your mind on the things above, not on the things of earth.
- b. This means to be **intensely** interested in them. What are the "things above"?
- c. Take into **account and ponder** who we are in Christ. Phil 4:4-8
  1. The **peace** that we have with God
  2. The **enjoyment** we have in Christ
  3. Be **intensely** interested in things that are:
  4. **True** Truth is a representation of things as they are from God's perspective.
  5. **Honest**. Worthy of reverence, veneration from God's perspective.

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6. **Just.** In accordance with the loftiest conception of what is right. All that you owe to God, to your neighbor, and to yourself.
7. **Pure.** Not mixed with unchaste or immoral elements that would debase the soul and exclude you from the presence of God.
8. **Lovely** and Of good report. That which inspires love. Those things that will render us beloved, and make us well spoken of by God as well as others. IE: The thoughts of a diligent servant.
9. **Virtuous.** Things that promote the general good of mankind. IE: The golden rule.
10. **Praise.** Whatever is praiseworthy from God's perspective.
11. We must avoid the pursuit of and fascination with "things on the earth;" those things which accrue to and foster **only the good of the self.**  
Wealth, honor, pleasure, material comfort, etc.,

**III. Application:** One of the greatest challenges of living in 21<sup>st</sup> Century U.S is the continual enticement we experience to be drawn into the "things on earth".

- a. Since things on earth constitute a replacement value for the things of God they are idols.
- b. For believers, whatever we make an idol of will be a cross to be borne by us.
- c. To what extent have you become an idol worshiper?
- d. What can you do about it?

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