“Set Your Mind On The Things Above”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 7th, 2018

Text: Col. 3:1-4

### Intro

1. Paul addressed some of the problems the saints at Colossae faced:
   1. *Col. 2:8-12, 18-23:* Completeness of Christ challenged by human influences:
      1. Human philosophy, Perverted gospel, Self-made religions
2. After acknowledging the problems the church faced, and the solutions given, Paul further strengthened them by reaffirming their goal: Heaven! *(Col. 1:5: They had the hope of Heaven)*
   1. Col. 3:1-4: He shows them the ultimate way of overcoming challenges: Setting our minds on things above “where Christ is seated.”
3. The “above” identified:
   1. “Where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” *(Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 1:3; 10:12; 12:2; I Pet. 3:21-22)*
   2. The dwelling place of God is called “the Father’s house” *(Jn. 14:2)*
   3. Jesus ascended to the Father *(Jn. 20:17; Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:10)*
   4. The “above” of Col. 3:1-4 then identifies the dwelling place of God & Christ!
4. There are four reasons why Christians should set our minds to seek things above…

#### “If you have been raised up with Christ” (Col. 3:1-2)

* 1. We do not have to wonder when we were raised up with Christ (Col. 2:12)
     1. Rising up from the waters of baptism we are raised up with Christ.
        1. Sins are forgiven (*Acts 2:38;* Col. 2:13)
        2. Begin a new life (Col. 3:9-10; Rom. 6:3-4)
  2. This new life emphasizes the value of spiritual things (Mt. 4:4; 6:19-20)
     1. Col. 3:5: Material things are instruments to be used – not gods to be worshiped
     2. I Tim. 5:8: They are used to serve our families
     3. Eph. 4:28: They are used to help others
     4. I Cor. 9:14; *Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:15-17:* They are used to support the preaching of the gospel
     5. Mt. 6:24: One cannot serve two masters
  3. If raised up with Christ, should be thinking of Heaven and focused on things above!

#### “For you have died” (Col. 3:3)

* 1. “Dead” means separated.
     1. *Js. 2:26:* Physical death is the result of the separation of the spirit from the body.
     2. *Eph. 2:1:* Spiritual death identifies the one who, by sin, is separated from God.
     3. Col. 3:3: “Dead” also indicates the relationship of the Christian to the world and its lusts.
  2. Those who are “dead to the world” are urged to “put to death” certain evil practices.
     1. Col. 3:5: The Christian is to be dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (Greed or covetousness amounts to idolatry!)
     2. Col. 3:9: The Christian has been separated from an old life of sin.
     3. II Cor. 5:17: One must live like a new self in Christ.
     4. Eph. 4:20-24: The old self must be put away (Rom. 6:6-7, 11).
  3. The new self is spiritual while the old self is carnal! (Gal. 5:17: At war with each other)
  4. Dying to the world is to live for Christ, which is to seek the things above!

#### “Your life is hidden with Christ” (Col. 3:3)

* 1. The objective of the Christian life is to “live Christ” (Phil. 1:21).
     1. Col. 1:27: Christ must live in us to have hope of glory.
     2. Col. 3:16-17: Christians must live under the control of Christ.
        1. Dwelling in His authority.
  2. The purpose of the Christian life is to serve Christ.
     1. Does Christ want me to live for things on earth or for things in heaven? (*Mt. 6:19-21; I Jn. 2:17)*
     2. Mt. 6:19-21: One whose heart is set on earthly things will be controlled by these things (will perish with these things – I John 2:15-17)
  3. One whose life is hid with Christ will live:
     1. Sexually pure (Col. 3:5)
     2. Emotionally balanced (Col. 3:8-15)
     3. To help others (Col. 3:12-13)
     4. A life of love (Col. 3:14)
     5. A life of peace (Col. 3:15)
     6. A life of service (Col. 3:24; Rom. 1:9: To God; II Cor. 11:8; Gal. 5:13: One another)
  4. The one whose life is hid with Christ seeks the things above!

#### Christ Shall Appear (Col. 3:4: “Revealed”)

* 1. No need to speculate about when Christ shall come again…
     1. *Mt. 24:36:* “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”
     2. He will come like a “thief in the night” (Mt. 24:43; I Thess. 5:2-4; II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; 16:15) and saints must be “alert” and ready! (I Thess. 5:6)
  2. When He shall appear:
     1. The dead shall be raised *(Jn. 5:28-29; I Thess. 4:16-18)*
     2. Earth and its works will be burned up *(II Pet. 3:10-12)*
     3. Judgment day will commence *(Mt. 25:31-46)*
  3. Christians will receive heavenly bodies like that of Jesus.
     1. Rom. 6:8-9: “If we have died with Christ” (Col. 3:1) then we will live with Christ!
     2. Phil. 3:20-21: Transformed from the humble to the glory.
     3. I Jn. 3:1-3: We shall be “like Him.”
     4. *I Thess. 4:13-18:* We shall be with Him forever! (John 14:1-3; I Jn. 2:17)
  4. No wonder we are told to look forward to His coming! *(II Pet. 3:11-12)*
  5. If we are hastening His coming, we will be seeking things above!

## Conclusion

1. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” *(Mt. 6:21)*
   1. Do you seek the things of the earth?
   2. Do you seek the things above?
2. The Christian is to set his mind on going to Heaven!
3. Let us set our minds to seek the things above “where Christ is seated!”
4. If not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized! Eternal life is greater gain than anything the world can offer!
5. If a Christian, that has erred, repent & store your treasure in heaven!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!