

Christ the Source of Risen Life Colossians 3:1-4

INTRO: Chapter one and two of Colossians are the doctrinal chapters while chapters three and four are the practical chapters of this great book of the Bible. In chapters one and two, we have the declaration and defense of the truth; in chapters three and four, we have instruction on the demonstration of that truth. “There are some Christians who will defend the truth at the drop of a hat, but their personal lives deny the doctrines they profess to love” (Wiersbe 98). Titus 1:16 says: “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him.”

The heathen religions of Paul’s day taught that what a person believed had nothing to do with how that person behaved. Some folks today are following the path of heathenism while claiming to be Christians.

Friends, the risen life in Christ is a life of duty. Chapters three and four bring duty to doctrine.

I. Vs 1, A REMINDER

A. Vs 1a, “If ye then be risen with Christ’ (This ‘if’ is not a matter of doubt or a way of expressing a question mark; this is a way of expressing a condition.) ‘seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.’ Let us keep in mind, believers are risen with Christ in the sense that, so far as this world is concerned, they have reckoned themselves dead” (Gutzke 51).

1. At the moment of salvation, believers enter into the death and resurrection of Christ.
2. Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
 - a. This verse shows the union that the believer has with the Lord Jesus. Believers and Christ have a shared life.
 - b. Romans 6:3-4 teaches the same truth. The obedient believer, by baptism pictures what has happened to him spiritually. As the waters close over him, it is as if he was buried in death; as he comes out of the water, it is like being resurrected to new life.
3. By saving faith, believers have entered into a new realm.

They have passed from the realm of darkness [spiritual life] (Jn 5:24-25).

- a. Believers possess a new divine nature and eternal life.
 - b. Believers have more than an endless spiritual existence. They also have a heavenly quality of life now. Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection has sought, bought, and brought this to believers.
 - c. All believers have a responsibility to live a risen life, a quality life (Rm 6:11-14, 17-18).
4. Since the Colossian believers were raised with Christ, they had no need to seek salvation or abundant living apart from Him. Why would they and why would we go to broken cisterns when the fountain of living waters is at hand (Jer 2:13).
- a. Christians possess within themselves the life of the resurrection, the power of the resurrection, and the person of the resurrection (Eph 1:17-20).
 - b. Believers are to let this position with Christ transform their entire lives: mind, heart, and will (Phil 3:10).
- B. Vs 1b-2, Christians are to “seek those things above...”
1. “Seek” the verb seek, *zeteo*, implies perseverance, to seek in order to find, to make your aim by thinking, meditating, and inquiring into. Believers are to be constantly seeking “those things which are above.” Spiritual growth is an effort: an effort of prayer, Bible study, and perseverance.
 - a. The emphasis is not on the seeking, but the object sought: the things that are above are to be constantly sought after.
 - b. We are to seek for the right treasure (Mt 6:33). We are to seek on, to press on toward the mark, not looking back.
 - c. The things above are spiritual values from the heart of Christ bestowed on them that diligently seek Him by faith (Heb 11:6; Mt 7:7). These are life changing values.
 2. “Where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”
 - a. The exalted Christ has the right, the resources and the power (Eph 1:3) to bestow whatever gifts the

- Christian needs. He is rich in grace (Eph 1:7), and He is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4-6).
- b. The ascension of the Lord Jesus and His coronation at the Father's right hand as a Fountain of blessing for His people brings comfort.
 - c. Hebrews 1:3 says of Christ: "When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." King says: "The cross was the payment in full; the resurrection was God's receipt. He undertook, at the Father's will, to drink our cup of woe, till His drinking to the last bitter dregs, He handed back the cup to the Father, and said, 'It is finished'.(75-76)."
3. Vs 2, The phrase "set your affection" is from the Greek word *phroneo* meaning "to direct your mind to, to have this inner disposition." It is in the present tense denoting continuous action. Lightfoot says: "You must not only *seek* heaven, you must also *think* heaven" (209).
- a. Christians are to ponder and yearn for things above. Christians can no longer be concerned about the passing things of earth.
 - b. The believer who practices what is taught in verses one and two will have a new set of values. He will go on using the things of the world, but not in the same ways. He will:
 - 1- Set giving above getting.
 - 2- Set serving above ruling.
 - 3- Set forgiving above avenging.
 - c. The Christian standards will be God's not man's.
 - d. The source of heavenly thoughts is the Bible (Rm 12:2; Phil 4:8).
 - e. Heavenly values dominating the mind produce godly living.

II. VS 3, THE REASON FOR A HEAVENLY DISPOSITION

A. Heavenly living is to be the norm for the believer.

1. Believers have died to the world and its system (Gal 6:14). It is no longer they that live, but Christ living in them. They are dead to their old selves, dead to sin. This death took place at salvation. I Samuel 25:29 says that the life of the

believer is bound up in the bundle of the living Lord. "...The soul of my Lord shall be bound in bundle of life with the Lord thy God."

- a. In eternity, He chose us (Eph 1:4).
 - b. He called us in time (II Thes 2:13-14); and we're united to Christ by living faith.
2. Believers are dead to sin and are new creations in Christ (II Cor 5:17).
- B. The life of the believer is "hid with Christ in God."
1. When a person dies, he is said to be dead and buried, hidden in the earth.
 2. The believer is dead to the world, his new life is concealed from the world. Unbelievers cannot grasp the believer's new life. It is hidden from them (I Cor 2:14).
 3. Believers are eternally secure, hidden from wrath (Jn 3:16; Rm 8:31-39).

III. VS 4, THE COMING REVELATION

- A. It is certain that when Christ, the source of the believer's life, return there is going to be a revelation.
- B. Right now Christ is seated at the Father's right hand. One day, He is coming for His bride and her attendants (I Thes 4:13-18).
1. When Christ comes for us, we will enter into eternal glory with Him.
 2. When Christ comes back to the earth to set up His millennial kingdom, we are going to appear with Him in glory (Rev 19:11-14).

CONCLUSION: Is your life hid with Christ in God? Christ is in the Father and the Father is in Christ (Jn 1:18; 10:30). Are you in Christ?

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