

Living In Light of Eternity October 22nd & 23rd, 2016

Colossians 3:1-4

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Every Christian has experienced, in a very personal way, the transforming power that enables us to see beyond the circumstances that we face daily. The power of Jesus and the testimony of the gospel gives us an understanding to see the big picture of redemption, the kingdom of heaven, and the glorious conclusion that is to take place at the end of the ages. As we look into this passage, we are challenged to live mindful of a kingdom that is not visible to most people.

“If then you have been raised with Christ,…”

Romans 6:4 “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

↳ A spiritual resurrection through the power of Christ is the springboard that enables us to move ahead and live with a mindset that completely opposes the thinking that existed in our lives before the knowledge and experience of the gospel.

Ephesians 2:5-6 “even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

↳ As we experience His gift of salvation, we realize that the grace of God, the gospel which we preach, has placed every Christian in a whole different realm. What a privilege – and our privilege leads to responsibility!

❖ We are called to live in a new realm that has its source directly from a spiritual life.

⇒ We are to live separated from the world. Our spiritual position gives us a completely different perspective than most people have today, which differentiates Christians from the rest of the world!

“Seek the things that are above,…”

❖ God has given His Church a new aim in life.

By nature we focus on the things that are around us continually, but God commands us to seek the things that are above. We are challenged to focus on a kingdom that is not visible to human eyes. The more we set our minds on the world, the more affected we are going to be by the concerns of this life. Living in this world without a spiritual perspective will lead us to act like the world.

↳ The world in which we live today is greedy, angry, confused, fearful and hopeless.

Colossians 3:2 “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

❖ As we are challenged to seek the things that are above, God explains this commandment to us with a double approach.

☞ We are called to set our minds on the spiritual kingdom.

☞ We are called to turn away from this world.

Luke 12:32-34 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

↳ In God there is hope, life without fear, purpose as we invest in the kingdom and abundant joy.

❖ We are called to live with our hope in God.

1 Peter 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials.”

❖ We are called to live without fear in this world.

Colossians 3:3 “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

☞ Fear is a reaction that comes directly from unbelief.

❖ We are called to live with purpose investing in the kingdom.

Luke 12:33 “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.”

❖ We are called to be joyful.

1 Peter 1:6-9 “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Endnote:

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