

# Heavenly Minded and Earthly Good Colossians 3:1-4

## 1. "If Then..." Some Background

The Church in Colosse:

- Was a major trade city, now the trade route was cutoff and isolated the town.
- False teachers were infiltrating the church:
  - The Church was composed of converted Jews and Gentiles
  - Jews were tempted to add Old Covenant requirements
  - Gentiles were tempted to add pagan worship practices
- Epaphras went to Paul for help.
- Paul reaffirms the centrality of Christ. (Col 1:15-23):
  - Christ is the image of the invisible God, maker of all things
  - Christ is the head of the Church, the beginning, and the end
  - Outside of Christ, we are dead and hostile to God
  - In Christ we are holy and blameless before God
- Paul directly confronts the false teachers (Col 2:20-23):
  - In Christ we should be dead to the world
  - Men's regulations have no value in curbing self-indulgence
  - Human effort and philosophies will always fall short of the righteousness of God



## 2. "1. If then you have been raised with Christ..."

- As Christians, we are co-resurrected with Christ, putting Him on like a garment (1 Cor 6:17, Gal 3:27, Eph 1:3-6)
- Our life and our worship must be consistent with who we are in Christ, not "of this world" (John 8:23, John 18:36, Rom 12:1-2)
- We are called to be transformed, to be separate (Isaiah 52:1-12)

## 3. "... seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

- Seek! This is an action word. Translated "set your mind on". As a compass points north, our thoughts and lives should point to heaven, to be with Christ
- In Christ we are "able to not sin". Our minds must be set on what the Spirit desires. (Rom 8:5)

- With the power of Christ (Psalm 110:1, Luke 22:69, Heb 1:3)
- This world is a temporary home (Phil 1:21-24, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Peter 1:3-7)

## 4. "3. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

- The old self is dead (2 Cor 5:17)
- Our life is in Christ alone, hidden protected, sealed (2 Peter 1:3-4)
- Don't be a spiritual zombie, living in the wrong world (Romans 8:31-39)

## 5. "4. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

- We are God's Children (1 John 2:28)
- We will never die (John 11:25)
- Our Citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:19-21)

## 6. Point of Application:

- Heaven mindedness must be a reality of our Christian life
- All human attempts to become godly (legalism, mysticism, any compromise of the gospel message) will fall short and are in direct opposition to God's desire for us and for the church
- The "Therefore" in verse 5 and the "Put on then" in verse 12 connect the first four verses to the rest of the chapter (Col 3:5-13)
- The "Above all these" in verse 14 provides the answer to how we are to do this:

***Colossians 3:14-17 "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."***