

Text: Col. 3:1 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Intro: Paul now explains how we engage in the principle of cutting away of the flesh/old-self. The false teachers at Colosse have attacked the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. For Paul the answer lies above where Christ is seated..

—**Set your heart above**

—Paul actually says this twice “**set your hearts on things above**” (Col. 3:1); and again “**Set your minds on things above**” (Col. 3:2). NIV

—This is very deliberate and intentional action; the Greek word ζητέω zēteō, translated “**set**” can also be translated “**seek**”—Matt. 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; **seek** (ζητέω) and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

—The KJV translates Col. 3:1, 2 as both “**seek**” and “**set**”; it is “**seek those things which are above**” (3:1 KJV) and then “**Set your affection on things above**” (3:2 KJV).

—The object of **setting/seeking** are “**things above**”; and by “**above**” Paul means “**where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**” (Col. 3:1)

—Two things are absolute in this phrase; **Jesus is risen from the dead, seated at the right hand of God; and He rules in absolute power and authority.**

—Rom. 1:4 “and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.”

—Eph. 1:22 “And God placed **all things under his feet**”; Heb. 2:8 “and **put everything under his feet.**”

—Jesus is both supreme and sufficient for all things including salvation and hope for the future.

—For Paul, everything for the believer depends on **the core of our love and thinking centered in heaven.**

—More than anything God wants our hearts—**Deut. 5:29** “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always...”

—**Deut. 6:5** “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

—Jesus said it this way in **Matt. 6:33** “But seek (ζητέω) first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

—***This is important because***—**Col. 3:3** “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

—The concept of the word “***hidden***” is “***concealed***”; This suggests not only that our lives are secure, but also that they belong in a real and profound sense to the invisible spiritual realm.

— At the present time our connection with God and Christ is a matter of inner experience; one day it will come into full and open manifestation.

—Christ has brought us into the heavenly places (**Eph. 1:20**), and that should transform the way we think — including the way we think about ourselves.

—Our new life is to be patterned on the reality that Christ has brought us into the divine life, into the fellowship of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

—**2Cor. 4:18** “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

—We belong to God, and we should think and act like it—**Rom. 12:2** “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

—For Paul writing in Colossians, Christ center in all things; he starts with “Since you ***died with Christ*** to the basic principles of this world...” (**2:20**); that is followed by “Since, then, you have been ***raised with Christ***,” (**3:1**); and our lives are “***hidden with Christ in God***.” (**3:3**).

—Notice Jesus is the complete source of redeemed life; in **v. 3** he relates the basis of that true spiritual life, based in a *past reality* (***you died***); a

present truth (**now hidden with Christ**); and a future expectation (**appear with Him in glory**)

—Jesus is life itself for us; take some time and study these verses (**Phil. 1:21; John 1:4; 6:50–57; 14:6; 1John 5:12**).

—One day we will appear with Him and all of the universe will know we belong to Jesus—**Col. 3:4** “When Christ, who is your life, appears, **then** you also will appear with him in glory.”—this is our great hope!

—Paul writes in **Rom. 8:23** “Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly **as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**”

—The presence of the Holy Spirit in believers is the first installment of what we wait for “**eagerly**”—**Eph. 1:13–14** “Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of** those who are God’s possession — to the praise of his glory.”

—Believers have been redeemed (**Rom 3:24**) we know we are adopted (**Rom 8:15**) but we are waiting for the fullness of that experience at the resurrection of their bodies by the Spirit (**Rom 8:11**).

—Daniel saw this glorious moment—**Dan. 12:3** “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

—**Col. 3:5** “**Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”

—We absolutely cannot get caught up in the current cultural thinking about sex, lust, greed; Today’s philosophy is “it’s my body I can do whatever I want with it!”

—It is of great importance what we do with this body.

—The Greek is literally “**your earthly members**”; no part of your body is to be given over to “sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed”.

—We are not called to maim our physical body, but to **put to death the sinful passions and practices**; all of these things except the last one “**greed**” are sinful sexual activity.

—Leading the list and encompassing all is “**sexual immorality**” from the Greek word πορνεία porneia (pornography), it is sexual immorality of any kind.

—We are told to νεκρόω nekroō “**put to death**”; this verb suggests that we must not simply suppress or control evil acts and attitudes; rather, we are to **wipe them out and completely exterminate the old way of life**.

—The verb also suggests that we must do so in a vigorous, possibly painful act of personal determination.

—Paul calls these things “**idolatry**” which means that we put self-desire in place of God.

—These sins are the reason that God is going to visit His wrath on the earth—**Col. 3:6** “Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.”

—It was the reason God destroyed the earth by flood—**Gen. 6:5** “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become...”

—Paul adds to the list of sexual sins—**Col. 3:8** “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”

—The word “**rid**” means more lay them down, as you would a coat you take off.

—The Holy Spirit is the help in ridding us of these things—**Rom. 8:4** “in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, **who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit**.”

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