

# Colossians: Jesus Our All In All

## Colossians 3:1-4

### Colossians 3:1

*(KJV) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*(NIV) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, your identity is in Him alone! I tell you this with great joy, beloved, as Paul writes this with great joy for the born-again Colossian believers.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What specific spiritual disciplines will help remind you daily of your resurrection life in Jesus?

### **Romans 10:9**

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*Thou shalt be saved!* Now, Paul in 1 Corinthians exhorts that church not to forget or lay aside the original Gospel they heard, and on which they took their stand, and through which they were imparted with their new identity in Jesus.

### **1Corinthians 15:1-2**

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

Paul's use of the words *if* and *since* then are important here as he is exhorting them to recall, remember, and embrace their identity in Jesus Christ through the Gospel. Then, Paul's next exhortation serves to fortify their faith through *focus* on the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe this can be a literal mental image in our minds of Jesus seated at the right hand of God. And why is Jesus high and exalted to the highest place in heaven?

### **Hebrews 12:2**

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Beloved, this is no religious *fantasy*, this is our Scriptural *reality!*

Why does Paul exhort the born-again Colossians to set their minds on things above? Well, the false prophets have no part in the kingdom of God. They are disconnected from God by virtue of their deception and falsehood - dead as they are to the truth and saving power of the Gospel. These false teachers operate out of the spirit of the world (1 John 2:15-17), and not

out of the Holy Spirit. Since the Colossians are born-again, they need only to *look away* from the dead, carnal religion of the false prophets, and *look to* their eternal home with the living Christ Jesus.

### **Matthew 6:33**

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

This is the upside-down paradigm of Holy Scripture. We first seek God and His eternal priorities - things that matter for eternity rather than temporal needs. We surrender to God's refining work in us through His Word and Spirit. *Then*, God will take care of all our needs, the things that the world clamours after.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Identify areas of need in your life in which you have not yet trusted for God's provision.

### **Colossians 3:2**

*(KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.  
(NIV) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

Paul exhorts the Colossian believers, and all of us, to maintain a focus on heaven and eternal matters, on Jesus and not the idols of this earth. The world system (1 John 2:15-17) is attuned to our flesh, and will make its demands, the Evil One is bent on distracting God's children at every turn. So, beloved, our minds and hearts need to be constantly recalibrated back to things above. One way we can do this, is understand that there is a battle for our attention and affection all the time. Our thought life must be reigned in and reigned over by the Holy Spirit:

### **2Corinthians 10:3-6**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Indeed, the only way to have victory over the world system is to activate and allow the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit to cast down thoughts that exalt themselves against God's Word. Then, and most importantly, we can take captive carnal thoughts and replace them with truth.

Paul exhorts the Colossian believers not to fight falsehood in the flesh, but that they should align their minds and hearts with who they are in Christ.

### **Colossians 3:3**

*(KJV) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.  
(NIV) For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

This is the beautiful exchange that happened when we accepted Jesus as the Lord and Leader of our lives! While our old lives were nailed to the cross at Calvary, our new lives are hidden with Him in heaven. Hallelujah!

**Romans 8:11**

*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Oh beloved, the good news does not stop at salvation, for God has also provided the power to live out our calling and destiny in Christ through the indwelling Holy Ghost.

**Colossians 3:4**

*(KJV) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

*(NIV) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

He is our life! Inside of you and I resides no good thing (Romans 3:10-18) except Jesus. And that is a good thing. We will do well to meditate on the truth of who we are in Jesus until the Spirit of God reveals more revelation and power in this knowledge. So, stay in His Word - read it, speak it, write it, remember it, live it!

Understanding who we are in Jesus Christ is more than the key to unlocking this chapter of Colossians. Our identity in Him is how God sees us now, and how He is able to impart all the fruit of the Spirit and the ultimate victory and witness of Jesus in our lives in this world.

- Reverend Darren McClelland