

# Pursuing and Pondering What Counts: *Preparing Your Life to Follow What Really Matters*

## Colossians 3:1-4

<b>BGT</b>	<sup>1</sup> Εἰ οὖν συνηγήθητε τῷ Χριστῷ, τὰ ἄνω ζητεῖτε, οὐδ' ὁ Χριστός ἐστιν ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ θεοῦ καθήμενος· <sup>2</sup> τὰ ἄνω φρονεῖτε, μὴ τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. <sup>3</sup> ἀπεθάνετε γὰρ καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν κέκρυπται σὺν τῷ Χριστῷ ἐν τῷ θεῷ. <sup>4</sup> ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ.
<b>NKJ</b>	<sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ <i>who is our life</i> appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
<b>KES</b>	Since therefore you were raised in Christ, the upward [things] be seeking, where the Christ is in right of the God sitting; the upward [things] be thinking, not the [things] upon the earth. For you died and the life {sing} of you {pl} has been concealed with the Christ in God. When the Christ (the Life of us) is revealed, then also we ourselves with him shall be revealed in glory.

Christ is supreme and His work is sufficient...

- External Standard Based Upon OT Diet and Days (2:16-17) – False Spirituality of **Legalism**
- External Standard Based Upon Individual Experience (2:18-19) – False Spirituality of **Experience**
- External Standard Based Upon Man-Made Rules (2:20-23) – False Spirituality of **Aceticism**

### I. Application – WHAT? – Our Pursuits and Ponderings Should Match Our Position (3:1-2)

#### A. Certainty – “Since”

#### B. Our Position – “you were raised” (aor pass pl)

*Col 2:12* – buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with [Him] through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

We are empowered to do what is right!

#### C. Our Two Practices

1. Command #1: **Be continually seeking** – what you pursue or work toward
  - **Matt 6:31-33** – “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
  - **1 Cor 14:12** – “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual [gifts, let it be] for the edification of the church [that] you seek to excel.”
2. Command #2: **Be continually thinking** – what you ponder or think about

#### D. Our Two Possible Directions of Focus

1. The upward things
  - **John 8:23** – And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”
  - **Phil 3:14** – I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
2. The upon the earth things
  - **3:5** – Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
  - **Matt 6:19-21** – <sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
  - **Luke 8:7,14** – <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. <sup>14</sup> Now the ones [that] fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
  - **1 John 2:15-17** – <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that [is] in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
  - **James 4:4** – Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

## II. Explanation – HOW? – Your Eternal Life (Your Living Power) Is Secure in the Eternal Lord (3:3)

### A. The Penalty and Power of Sin Has Been Broken (“you died”)

*2:20 – Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as [though] living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations*

### B. The Power for Living Has Been Provided (“the life {sing} of you {plural} has been concealed...)

*Rom 6:1-4 – 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

*Gal 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved*

## III. Motivation – WHY? – The Promise for the Future Changes the Pain of the Present (3:4)

*“When the Christ (the Life of us) is revealed, then also we with Him shall be revealed in glory.”*

### A. Jesus Christ Our Lord Is Coming Back

*1 John 2:28 – And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*

*1 John 3:2-3 – <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### B. Jesus Christ Our Lord Is Coming Back and Will Judge His Followers

*Matt 16:24-27 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*

*2 Tim 4:1-2 - <sup>1</sup> I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

*Rom 14:10-12 – <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. <sup>11</sup> For it is written: "[As] I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

*2 Cor 5:9-10 – <sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

### C. Jesus Christ Our Lord Is Coming Back with Us in GLORY (what on earth really matters?)

*2 Peter 3:10-18 – But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation – as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable [people] twist to their own destruction, as [they do] also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know [this] beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

*1 Thes 4:13-18 – But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive [and] remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.*