

Pursuing and Pondering What Counts (Col 3:1-4) – Part 1

- BGT** ¹ Εἰ οὖν συνηγέρθητε τῷ Χριστῷ, τὰ ἄνω ζητεῖτε, οὗ ὁ Χριστός ἐστιν ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ θεοῦ καθημένος· ² τὰ ἄνω φρονεῖτε, μὴ τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. ³ ἀπεθάνετε γὰρ καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν κέκρυπται σὺν τῷ Χριστῷ ἐν τῷ θεῷ. ⁴ ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῆ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ.
- NKJ** ¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
- KES** 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.

WHAT: Our Practices Are to Match Our Position (3:1-2)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

A. Our Certainty – “Since”

B. Our Position – “you were raised” (aorist passive 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.

Because of our position, we are empowered and enabled to do what is right!

C. Our Two Commanded Practices

Command #1: Be continually _____

What you are pursuing or working towards

- **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."

Command #2: Be continually _____

What you are pondering or thinking about

D. Our Two Possible Directions of Focus

Direction #1: The “_____” 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.

Direction #2: The “_____ the “_____” 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** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- **Luke 8:7,14** ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ¹⁴ 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** 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.