

May 10, 1964; Col. 3:1-15

Introduction

1. Christ, our life.
2. Our life in Christ.
3. Our life hid with Christ in God.

1. IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST. This statement implies certain things:
 1. That we have repented. Repentance is one condition of salvation. Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30.
 - (1) In repentance there has been a complete turning away from sin. There has been a death. Romans 6:1,2; Col. 3:3
 2. That there has been a resurrection. Rom. 6:4,5; Col. 2:12,13
Ephesians 2:1
 3. Since there has been a resurrection; there is a new life. So we also should walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4
2. Summing it all up:
 1. There has been repentance-a death, a resurrection, a new life. (Newness of life)
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:17; Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
 - (2) Col. 3:1; If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE RISEN (NEW) LIFE

1. Seek those things which are above. Col. 3:1 How these things are to be sought:
 1. By our fuller-growing knowledge of him. John 17:3; And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent
 2. By our growing love toward him. 1 John 4:19; We love him because he first loved us.
John 3:16
 3. By setting (fixing) our mind on things above. Col. 3:2 What this means:
 - (1) Master the flesh by rising above it, instead of fighting it on its own ground where it has the advantage
 - (2) Setting our minds on things above we take care not to be overcharged with: Luke 8:14: And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
 - (3) Setting our minds on things above meansthat we are seeking a country: Hebrews 11:16:
But now they desire a better country, that is an heavenly: Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.
 4. NOTE: You never sought for anything of which you did not have some knowledge, and having knowledge there must be a corresponding desire for the known.

DUTIES OF THE RISEN (NEW) LIFE Col. 3:5-11

1. Mortify therefore (put to death) your members which are upoh the earth. Col. 3:5
 1. Chained to habits, mortification is no simple matter. When mortification of the physical kind is approaching, the suffering is intense.
 2. The lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the mind and heart, cannot be mortified by magic.
 - (1) Like executioners, we must sit beside our darling sins and nail them all to the cross of Christ.
 3. The word "mortify" implies that sin is not to be allowed to die out of itself; we must kill it, and that it is a painful process in doing so.
 4. These things must be mortified; put to death, otherwise, "For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Col. 3:6

Colossians 3:1-15

Next Sunday: Paul writes to His Friend Philemon

MORTIFY AND PUT OFF SOME THINGS AND PUT ON SOME THINGS. Col. 3:5, 8, 10, 11

1. MORTIFY WHAT? Let Paul name them:

1. MORTIFY: PUT OFF THE OLD MAN WITH HIS SINS. There must be:

1. Death to corrupt living. I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1

(1) Corrupt living described: Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection (sensual passion); evil desire (evil concupiscence); covetousness, which is idolatry. Col. 3:5

(2) Evils such as these, and on which Paul says God's wrath rests, must be slain.

2. Death to wrong conversation. The sins of speech:

1. Anger: a sort of a settled hatred.

2. Wrath: A tumultuous outburst of heated passion.

3. Malice: Malignity, spitefulness.

4. Blasphemy: slandering; taking the name of God in vain.

5. Filthy communication: Foul-mouthed abuse in filthy stories ETC.

6. Lying: Falsehood needs no description. All six of these evils of speech are to be slain.

3. Death to conventional distinctions. Col. 3:11 Four such distinctions here mentioned:

1. National distinction: Neither Jew nor Greek.

2. Ceremonial distinction: Circumcision nor uncircumcision.

3. Distinction of culture: Neither Barbarian nor Scythian.

4. Social distinctions: Neither bond nor free. BUT CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL. Verse 11

2. PUT ON THEREFORE, AS THE ELCET OF GOD. Col. 3:12-15 Here we have the characteristics by which a Christian is known and recognized. They are:

1. BOWELS OF MERCIES—A HEART OF COMPASSION

1. This is necessary if we are to be like Christ who often was "moved with compassion" putting forth a healing hand. Hebrews 4:15; "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

2. KINDNESS. A kind heart is a cheerful heart.

our infirmities: but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

3. HUMBLENESS OF MIND.

1. Compassion, kindness, and humbleness go hand-in-hand

4. MEEKNESS.

1. Without meekness no man can be a follower of Christ. Meekness is not constantly vindicating itself and disputing with assailants.

5. LONGSUFFERING—FORBEARANCE—FORGIVENESS

1. This will avert any quarrel, for which two people are always needed. Sometimes you hear of a man quarreling with himself...but not often. TO WHAT EXTENT SHALL WE FORGIVE: "As Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Col. 3:13

6. CHARITY—LOVE.

(Col. 3:14, 15)

1. "Above all these things put on charity (love) which is the bond of perfectness."

2. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be ye thankful." Here we have the threefold cord of grace of an attractive, loving, thankful Christian. WE HAVE:

(1) Love

A. Love is the element of all other graces. It is the sphere in which they are exercised. It is the bond of perfectness that hold together.

(2) Peace

A. This peace is described as the peace of God—Christ. In Christ we have peace, in the world we have tribulation. John 16:33

(3) Thankfulness

A. Love, peace, and thankfulness become the umpire of the heart in the war of passions and conflict of claims that so often sweep about us.

DEARBORN, VALLEY

Church of Christ

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