

## NOTES ON COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Colossians 3:1; "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

### THREE THINGS INVOLVED IN THIS VERSE

#### 1. A POSSESSION

1. The possession is life through Christ's resurrection.
2. With the burial of the old man by baptism into death what then?
  1. They were to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4) because they had put on the new man (Col. 3:10) which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. See Col. 3:9 also
  2. In this process it is said that "our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin (Rom. 6:6).

#### 2. A PRIZE

1. The prize is "the things that are above."
2. In seeking this prize we must practise the upward look.
3. Our visions influence and in a very great measure control our daily lives. Let us be careful of the direction of our "look."
  1. Look not at the things which are seen for they are of the earth. We must look down to see them. 2 Cor. 4:18
  2. We must look at the things which are not seen for they are the eternal things. 2 Cor. 4:18
4. One of the penalties of sin is impaired will-power. Sin keeps us looking down leaving us without the will power to look up to the higher and more noble things.

#### 3. A PURSUIT

1. "Seek the things which are above." This is the pursuit.
2. Some has said that when Paul said, "Seek those things which are above it as though he had said:
  1. "Remember your rank and standing, and act in accordance with it; labor to be worthy of it."
3. Our pursuit of those things which are above may be marked by several things:
  1. The change may be marked by self-restraint.
  2. It may be marked by the absence of chatter about self and our petty likes and dislikes.
  3. The best inscription for your tombstone is not:
    1. I shall arise, when earthly life is over, when the graves unclosethe best inscription is:
    2. I arise, I am delivered, I am quickened, I begin to live upward, through Christ, for Christ, unto Christ.

### THE HIDDEN LIFE

Colossians 3:2-4: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

### TWO VERY SIMILAR EXHORTATIONS

1. "Seek those things which are above." This is preceded by the reason for such seeking: "If ye then be risen with Christ." Verse 1
2. "Set your affection on things above." The reason for setting your affection on things above: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Verses 2, 3







THE HIDDEN LIFE, Continued; Four things to consider:

1. THE NEW LIFE HIDDEN IN GOD

1. That Paul speaks of the Christian life as a hidden one, it is neither a paradox nor a mystery though at first it might seem so.
2. Christianity is not simply a Theory, or a Speculation; but a life.
  1. It is a life and a living process - Not some dormant something to spring to life once or twice a year and dead the remaining time.
3. Christians have died but they are not dead.
  1. Christians may be like the tree in the winter, not dead, but the life is hidden.
  2. When the Spring comes, its life shows itself in glory. Verse 4  
When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

2. THE COMING MANIFESTATION

1. The present has in it the promise of the future. "Ye shall also appear with him in glory."
2. If our affections are habitually set on things above this is the surest evidence of our relation with God through Christ.
3. Setting the mind on things above is conducive to the right discharge of duty and the right endurance of trial. Divine contemplation looks at things not on their earthward side but on their heavenward side. We look above and contemplate the coming manifestation of Christ into our lives now and in eternity.

3. OUR PRESENT DUTY

1. "Set your affection on things above." In setting our affection on things above there are some things we cannot do:
  1. We cannot pray for food and expect the ravens to bring it to us.:17: even though God so fed Elijah at the brook of Cherith. 1 Kings 1-7
  2. We cannot pray for peace, and give way at the first provocation to ill-temper and irritability.
  3. We cannot pray for usefulness and refuse the opportunity to practice it.
  4. We cannot pray for success and expect to achieve it without work.
  5. Some one said that, "prayer means not the halting of effort, but it becomes the spurs to greater effort."

4. THE OLD LIFE LEFT BEHIND

1. We have died to the attractions of the world.
2. The new life that we now enjoy had its birth in the death of the old nature, the old man has been crucified and we now go forth as a new man.



