

**Living Resurrection Life**  
**Col 3:1-4 Part 3**

**I. Remember 3:1 “Therefore”...**

**A. Turn to Colossians 3:1 and let's read!**

**Col 3: 1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**B. OBVIOUS POINT – Focus on things above, Jesus Christ**

**C. IMMEDIATE CONTEXT: “Therefore” after 2:8-23**

**D. Let's read 2:6-23**

1. Important to Notice 2:6-7
2. Just as 3:1-4 is IMPORTANT turning point in Letter – so were 2:6-7
3. In fact, 3:1-4 FOLLOWS/BUILDS ON/Leads us DEEPER based on 2:6-7
4. Of Course 2:6-7 built off 1:13-2:5!
5. Now you know why we did Last week's sermon!
6. 2:6-7 Live the Christ-centered life!

**Col 2:6** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and overflowing with gratitude.*

7. 2:8-23 Paul's teaching AGAINST the ERROR of the False Teachers
  - a) Against Worldly Wisdom / Philosophy

**Col 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, **10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; **11** and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; **12** having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

- a) Against LEGALISM

**16** Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— **17** things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

- a) Against MYSTICISM

**18** Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without

cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

a) Against ACETICISM

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

**E. SUM 2:8-23 as**

1. “FEEDING the FLESH –
2. “FOLLOWING the FALLEN LIFE!”
3. “WALKING in THE Religion of the WORLD”

**F. 2:20 KEY to you – YOU DIED to ALL THIS STUFF!**

Col 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

**II. Col 3:1-4 Structure**

**A. Col 2:20 SHOWS us the first KEY Point to our STRUCTURE of 3:1-4 = We’re in a sub-section**

1. Paul JUST FINISHED teaching us NOT to FEED the FLESH /FOLLOW THE FALLEN LIFE
2. Now he teaches the us Christian way – LIVING the RESURRECTION LIFE

Col 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world,

Col 3: 1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ...

**B. LOOK at the STRUCTURE of 3:1-4**

1. View ONE: Reminder/Responsibility/Reason

a) **Reminder:**

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,

b) **Responsibility**

keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

c) **Reason:**

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory

## 2. View TWO: Facts/Focus/Function!

Vs.	Facts/Foundation	Focus	Function
1	[Since] <u>you</u> have been raised up	with <u>Christ</u>	keep seeking the things above
		where <u>Christ</u> is, seated at the right hand of God	
2			<u>2</u> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
3	<u>3</u> For <u>you</u> have died	[2:20 with <u>Christ</u> ]	
	your life is hidden	with <u>Christ</u> in God.	
4	<u>4</u> When <u>Christ</u> , who is <u>our</u> life, is revealed, then <u>you</u> also will be revealed with Him in glory	<u>Christ</u>	

- a) **FACTS:** What God has done for YOU – Past, Present, Future
- b) **FOCUS:** Jesus Christ!
- c) **FUNCTION:** Seeking / Set Your Mind = Action!

**C. Connections to 3:1-4**

## 1. Backwards!

a) Col 3: 1 Therefore

(1) Ties to 2:8-23

b) if you have been raised up with Christ,

(1) 2:6

Col 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord 7 having been firmly rooted...in Him

(2) 2:10-15

Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

(3) Ties to 2:20 died with Christ

c) keep seeking

(1) Ties to 2:6 again

**Col 2:6** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

d) the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

(1) Col 1:15-23 LORDSHIP of Christ!

e) 2 Set your mind on the things above,.

(1) Back to 2:6 again – So walk in Him!

f) not on the things that are on earth

(1) Back to 2:20-23

**Col 2:20** ..why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, **21** “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” **22** (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? ∴.

(a) All EARTH-BOUND religious things!

g) 3 For you have died

(1) Back again to 2:11-13,20

**Col 2:12** having been buried with Him in baptism, ... **13** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive

**Col 2:20** If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world,...

h) and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**Col 1:26** *that is,* the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, **27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Col 2:2** that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, *that is, Christ Himself,* **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(1) He’s our Life!

2. Forward-looking Connections:

a) Pretty Obvious (summary of Last week’s sermon)

b) What are the “things above” – Christ-like Living?

(1) = Col 3:12-4:6

(2) “Put on” of 3:12-17

**Col 3:12** ... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, ... **14** Beyond all these things *put on* love, ... **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,...and be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...**17** Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

(3) Commands for Household 3:18-4:1

**Col 3: 18** Wives, be subject to your husbands, .... **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. **20** Children, be obedient to your parents in all things... **21** Fathers, do not exasperate your children, ... **22** Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth... **23** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, .... **1** Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, ...

(4) Prayer, Conduct, Speech of 4:2-6

**Col 4:2** Devote yourselves to prayer, ... **5** Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, ... **6** Let your speech always be with grace, ...

c) What are “things of the Earth” to NOT DO/Focus on?

**Col 3:5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ... **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, ...,

### III. What is Your Foundation? 3 FACTS of Your FOUNDATION

**A. 2:20-3:4 Paul changing tenses**

**B. Fact 1: Past: Finished work of Jesus Christ in your life.**

1. 2:20- 3:1 Past act with continuing results

2:20 If you have died with Christ... 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ...

2. Past act: you are in the state of having died with Christ

3. Continuing results: It's an action in the past whose results continue on into eternity. = salvation.

4. Remember we just saw this taught in 2:12-13

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, ... **13** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive ...,

5. Paul taught this to the Ephesians

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

6. Most detailed in Rom 6

Ro 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

7. Point: You ARE ALIVE in CHRIST NOW!

8. Remember too – “with Christ”

a) From God's perspective – what Christ did, we did too!

b) “with” started back in 2:12 and continues – our INTIMATE relationship WITH Christ!

**C. Fact 2: Present**

[Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.](#)

1. At the point that you were saved,
  - a) your life was hidden with Christ
  - b) the result of that continues today /will continue into glory
2. Your life right now stands hidden with Jesus Christ in God.
3. What does “hidden” mean? “Your life is hidden with Christ in God”?
  - a) Context is v.1-4.
  - b) V.4 Your “life” will be revealed when Christ returns
  - c) Therefore – “hidden” is your fully glorified final, eternal self!
  - d) A couple of Points:
    - (1) Your “life” is REAL now!
    - (2) No one can see it –
      - (a) World doesn’t see it
      - (b) YOU don’t see it!
    - (3) You have a desire for it
    - (4) You see glimpses of it, try to live it
    - (5) BUT your redeemed soul is incarcerated in your fallen flesh
  - e) Often talk about position vs. practice
    - (1) “hidden” = PRACTICE equals POSITION in fully glorified you!
    - (2) BUT – how does God see you?
    - (3) He sees you IN CHRIST – He’s see the real you THROUGH Christ!

**D. Fact 3: Future**

[Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.](#)

1. Literally, v.4 reads – “When the Christ is revealed – the life of you”
2. We saw what Paul is saying...
  - a) It’s all of Christ
  - b) He’s done it all in the past
  - c) He’s doing it all in the present
  - d) He’s going to bring us to glory with Him in the future.
  - e) He’s our life.
  - f) Literally “Christ – the life of me!”

**IV. Where Do You Focus? Jesus Christ / Things Above**
**A. Jesus Christ = Theme of 3:1-4**

1. 5 times in 4 verses He is referenced
2. He is the OBJECT/Center of every verse / phrase in V.1-4

**B. Look at 3:1-2**

Col 3: 1...keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1. Focus = “the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God”
2. “the things above” is defined three ways
  - a) “where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” = focusing on PERSON of Christ, exalted by God!
    - (1) The one whom you are in spiritual union with Based on your resurrection WITH HIM
    - (2) V.4 will add – HE IS YOUR LIFE!
    - (3) “seated at the right hand of God” = the EXALTED Christ
      - (a) Paul is alluding to Ps 110:1  
Ps 110: 1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”
      - (b) Which he expanded on in Ephesians  
Eph 1:19 ... These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
  - (4) FOCUSING on “things above” = FOCUSING on the EXALTED CHRIST!
  - (5) Remember the context of the False teachers – you need to have other angels in your path to Christ – more than just Christ to be saved!
  - (6) Paul – NO –
    - (a) You’re in Spiritual union with Christ!
    - (b) JUST LIVED focused on the exalted Christ!
- b) And, “things above” = 3:12-4:6 in detail as Christ-like LIVING in a section of “put on”
  - (1) “the things of above” = kindness compassion, gentleness, ...forgiveness, peace, submission...”
- c) And, in contrast to “the things that are on the earth” (v.2)
  - (1) SO, Not the things of 3:5-9 that we are to PUT OFF!
  - (2) John said it this way:  
1 Jn 2: 15 Do not love the world nor 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
    - (a) Things on the earth=things of the world!

3. The contrast to “the things that are on the earth” SHOWS the METAPHOR that Paul is using

a) Remember back in 2:20?

Col 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

(1) = Things of the earth

b) Paul

(1) Things above = Righteous, Christ-like living focused on the Him!

(2) Things of the earth = worldly, sinful, things that pull you away from Christ – opposite direction!

4. Paul’s not done showing you WHY you focus on Christ!

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

a) How do these verses help you to focus on Christ?

b) THEY PULL YOU FORWARD to YOUR FUTURE!

c) = FOCUS NOW ON BECOMING what YOU WILL FULLY BE when your “life” = your glorified, fully-Christ-like life is revealed!

d) “becoming” is the best way to describe a Christian!

(1) I’m BECOMING Christ-like. Someday I will BE Christ-like (v.4)

(2) I am NOT what I was (unsaved of the world) NOR am I what I will be (glorified)

e) Scripture motivates us two ways!

(1) Based on what God has done for us (past)

(2) Based on what God will do for us (future)

(3) We are ALWAYS to live FOR ETERNITY KNOWING we can do so based on what HAS BEEN DONE for us ALREADY!

### **C. Important point not to miss about Jesus Christ in these 4 verses is in v.3**

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1. Literally: “your life has been hid with the Christ in God”

2. Back in Chapter 2, verse 20 had the same word I want you to see,

“If you have died with Christ”

3. The word to see is the word “with”

4. Very often we see Scripture say “in Christ”

5. Probably find 100 places where that phrase is used with some form of Jesus’ name

6. But - only 4 places where “with Christ” is used like this. Two of them in 2:20 / 3:3.

7. It is a relationship with – meaning intimate relationship.

8. And if we are “WITH CHRIST” “IN CHRIST”

9. If we have a intimate, personal relationship with Christ.

10. THEN we are to keep seeking the things above

11. We are to set our minds on the things above

12. AND WE ARE TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD TO PLEASE HIM IN ALL RESPECTS

**V. How Do you Function? SEEK and SET!**

**A. Seek: Col 3: 1 ... keep seeking the things above**

1. Seeking = Pursuing to OBTAIN Not “to discover/find”
  - a) = GOING AFTER to OBTAIN!
2. This is your WILL in Action!
3. Where do we know this word from?
  - a) Christ and the sermon on the Mount!
 

Mt 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
  - b) Same word, same form!
4. The Opposite is found in Phil 2:21
 

Php 2:21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.
5. Seeking = WILLFUL, CHOSEN PURSUIT to OBTAIN
6. And – it’s CONTINUAL = ALWAYS keep seeking!

**B. Set Your Mind: 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

1. Paul: NOT ONLY seek heavenly things, BUT THINK & ACT on heavenly things!
2. “Set your mind”
  - a) COMMON command for Paul - 26x used in NT – Paul is 23x!
  - b) Literally = “to think, set mind to”
  - c) BUT “expresses not simply an activity of the intellect, but also a movement of the will to action”
  - d) = thinking for purpose of motivating the will into action
3. I love the way Paul said this to the Philippians
 

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise,  dwell on these things.
4. Or Paul to the Romans:
 

Ro 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

**C. NOTICE: NOT Your emotions!**

1. SET your MIND and WILL and GET INTO ACTION
2. Did you know that your emotions FOLLOW your thinking?
3. They are ALWAYS consistent with what you are thinking/believing.
4. If you go around THINKING & BELIEVING bad thoughts, you’ll FEEL bad.
5. Don’t have time to prove that biblically today, but I’ve done so before!

**VI. CONCLUSION: A couple of closing thoughts!****A. Biggest TWO THINGS that hit me in this passage!****1. YOU HAVE NO LIFE OF YOUR OWN**

[Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.](#)

- a) Christ IS YOUR LIFE
- b) Therefore – His WILL is YOUR WILL
  - (1) His WILL for your LIFE is your WILL for your life
  - (2) His COMMANDS for your life are your ONLY way to live... they are what you should desire!
- c) AGAIN – YOU HAVE NO LIFE OF YOUR OWN

**2. YOU HAVE NO FOCUS or EVEN CONCERN for this WORLD**

[Col 3: 1 keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.](#)

- a) EXCLUSIVE COMMANDS
  - (1) You SEEK nothing else
  - (2) You THINK and ACT on nothing else
- b) You HAVE NO LIFE HERE!
- c) You are aliens and strangers here (Peter)

**B. Do you LIVE ONLY for CHRIST as an alien and stranger here?**