

SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Text: Colossians 3:2

Colossians 3:2

²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Introduction:

“If” is the biggest little word in the world. The “if” of our text determines heaven or hell. The “if” of our text demands that believers walk their talk. Paul tells us here that “if” we are saved there are some things that will be true of us. Here the great Apostle is giving both advice and encouragement.

Paul doesn't assume that all who will read this letter at Colossi are saved people. While he doesn't deal with a specific problem in the church he does include in his letter these verses that would tend to be somewhat evangelistic in nature.

Notice:

1. THERE ARE TWO GREAT COMMANDS (VS. 1-2)

Colossians 3:1-2

¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

A. Seek Those Things Which Are Above

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- Set Proper Priorities

Now everything rises and falls right here. If your priorities are not in order, your life will not be in order. If your priorities are not right, you won't be right. You don't have to pray about what your number one priority in life ought to be. You don't have to think about it. You don't have to discuss it. You don't have to look for it.

Our first priority should be to “seek ye first the kingdom of God – those things which are above.”

Now in order to seek the kingdom, you must first seek the King. Because you cannot have a kingdom without a king. The first priority of your life ought to be to seek the King of the kingdom.

It is not enough to seek the Lord. You must seek Him first. Jesus said, "seek first the kingdom of God." First things first means putting the Father first. There are three words I want you to circle in this passage. In v.30 circle the word faith. In v.32 circle the word Father. In v.33 circle the word first. You know the Bible says in Heb. 11:6, "Without faith it is impossible to please him."

- Seek Personal Purity

Not only are we to seek His kingdom, we are to seek "His righteousness." That is, not only are we to be seeking God's control over us, but we are also to be seeking God's character within us. The kingdom of God is not only to be inwardly experienced. It is to be outwardly expressed.

B. Set Your Affections On the Things Above

- What we love tells who we are
- Most people love the things of this world more than the things of the next.

2. THERE ARE TWO GREAT CONSOLATIONS (VS. 3)

Colossians 3:3

³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When we came to Jesus for salvation, we died!

Romans 6:6-8

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

A. For Ye Are Dead

The Results Of Our Death

- The body of sin might be destroyed

The idea is that through the new birth, the old man has died and is now unemployed. He should have no control over us.

- That we should not serve sin

The result of this death of the old nature is that we are free from its wicked influence in our lives. The old nature lived for one thing: To serve sin - Eph. 2:1-3.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and

sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

That we should experience true spiritual freedom

Again, Paul used the analogy of death to illustrate the truth that we are dead to sin. A dead man wants nothing! He is not tempted by drink, by sex, by money, by drugs or by anything else that might normally tempt the flesh. When a man dies, he is free from the temptation to sin. For the Christian, when we can reach the place where we are able to "reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin", then we can experience that same freedom from temptation.

B. Your Life Is Hid In Christ

- What a safe place to be
- Hidden safely in the arms of Christ
- To harm me it must be something stronger than Christ
- What can harm me if I am hidden in Christ?

3. THERE ARE TWO GREAT COMING EVENTS (VS. 4)

Colossians 3:4

⁴When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Paul closes this paragraph by reminding us that this world is not the best there is. We may have to deny our flesh down here, but it will be worth it all over there. We might have to battle Satan here, but we will enjoy victory there. When Jesus comes, our faith in Him will be vindicated and we will be glorified with Him.

Right now, every believer in this room battles the world, the flesh and the devil. Each of these enemies does everything they can to hinder us and to cause us to fail. One day, the battles will be over! This flesh will be changed and remade in His image, 1 Cor. 15:53-54; 1 John 3:1-3.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54

⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 John 3:1-3

¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but

we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

We will leave this world with its sin, its evil, its problems, its devil and we will go to land of perfection to bask in the glory of our Redeemer forever, Rev. 21:4.

Revelation 21:4

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Close:

We can summarize this message this way.

What Are we Seeking and Where is our affection?

Are we living our life dead to the power and penalty of sin?

Are we living our lives with and excitement and an expectancy of His return?

