

The Resurrection of Jesus! - Colossians 3:1-4

April 4, 2021 Pastor Adam Hall



Introduction and Background

- but does every Canadian who celebrates Easter actually understand what Easter is all about?
- Easter is the celebration of the death and _____ of Jesus Christ
- here in Colossians 3 we see the application of a risen Saviour
 - Jesus was raised from the dead
 - in Christ we are made alive together with Christ
- because of these two truths we are commanded to live a _____ life which is a life conformed to the gospel of Jesus!

Outline

- 1) (3:1a) Raised with Christ
- 2) (3:1b-2) Seek and Think
- 3) (3:3-4) Hope for the Christian

Colossians 3:1-4 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1) (3:1a) Raised with Christ

If then you have been raised with Christ

- this could also be translated “_____ if you have been raised with Christ”
- Paul with this “therefore” points us to the passages that speak about the _____ life that is found in the Lord Jesus Christ

- Paul is pointing us to some essential gospel passages in Colossians

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Colossians 2:13-15 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- just look at the condition of every human apart from the grace of God

1:21 – alienated from God, hostile in our _____, doing evil deeds

2:13 -- dead in trespasses – we are _____ in sin, meaning we are dead to God and lack the ability even to do good

2:13 -- uncircumcision in the flesh – meaning we are not in a _____ relationship with God

- these verses teach total depravity or the utter sinfulness of humanity

- but look at the _____ of God in these passages

1:22 – God has reconciled us by the death of Christ

- because of God's reconciling work through Christ, we are made _____, blameless and above reproach before God
- when the Lord looks at those who have received Jesus and His work by faith, He sees the _____ of the Lord Jesus
- it is like we have _____ sinned, we are spotless and without accusation even though our nature and our behavior was anything but goodness and holiness

2:13 God made us _____, because we were dead in sin

- God has _____ all our sin through Christ Jesus, meaning all the past sins and all the sins in the future are forgiven in the Lord Jesus Christ

2:14 the record of the _____ of our sin has been cancelled by means of the Cross

- imagine that your sins are written down on a document and then through Christ and His work, our criminal record is wiped out
- we see our true condition in Colossians: dead, alienated from God
- but we see the beauty of the Lord Jesus
- He has made us _____ and has reconciled us to God
- therefore because of the work of Christ, because he has made us alive with God by means of His work upon the Cross, we are called, commanded and exhorted to do these things!

2) (3:1b-2) Seek and Think

(3:1) seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- because we have been made alive together with the Lord Jesus we are called to _____ living!
- we need to be clear, you do not live this way to be made alive, we do not seek the "things that are above" so that we can have new life
- NO! We have been made alive and therefore we seek the things that are above!
- the word "_____" means to "strive for, aim (at), try to obtain, desire, wish (for)"
- this is an active pursuing or striving after
- what are these above things that Paul is talking about?
- note that the above things are in direct contrast to the things of the earth in Colossians 3:2
- so Paul has in mind that we should think about the _____ that is found in the Lord Jesus Christ
- we are to seek/desire the glory of Heaven and the _____ of Heaven

- Paul speaks about this same desire of the hope of Heaven in Philippians

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Paul has already mentioned the hope of Heaven several times in this letter

- there is hope in the gospel stored up for us in Heaven

Colossians 1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in Heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under Heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- but Paul here calls us to think heavenward

- Jesus is at the _____ hand of God in Heaven

- this means Jesus is sovereign over the earth, ruling with the Father, Jesus is at a special place of authority and prominence in _____ in relation with the Father

- Stephen describes what he sees just before he is taken to be with the Lord and stoned by the Jews

Acts 7:55-56 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

- we are called to have our _____ set upon Christ, His glory and His rule because He is at the right hand of God

(3:2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- not only are we to _____ the above things but we are commanded to _____ our minds on the "things that are above"

- this word "set your mind" really means to "_____" or "be consumed with your thoughts"

- the famous pastor Richard Baxter wrote a great book called, "The Saints of the Heavenly Rest"

- there is no doubt or debate that the battle with sin starts in our minds

- so Paul calls us here to be _____ minded or Biblically minded!

- Paul now gives us a negative command, we are not to think about things of the earth

- the things of the earth are not necessarily earthly possessions but things that are _____

- in Colossians 3:5-8 Paul describes these earthly things that we are to put off

- how do we put these earthly things off? Do _____ store them in our minds

Colossians 3:5-8 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

3:5 – the earthly things mentioned here are the sexual sins or sexual immorality

- but Paul goes further to the issue of covetousness and _____

3:8 – anger and wrath, malice, slander

- these are the sinful attitudes that we must _____ in our minds with the joy of Heaven

- Do you see we are called here to think about Heaven and the _____ of Christ and to not let sin have free rent in our _____!

3) (3:3-4) Hope for the Christian

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

- Paul makes this bold declaration that they – the Colossians Church – have _____

- what Paul is saying here is that they are dead to sin, they no longer are under the authority and power of sin in their lives

- they can now choose _____ to sin and not to indulge in _____

- Paul actually says something similar to this in the book of Galatians

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- what Paul is getting at, is that in _____ your old sinful nature has been conquered by the Cross of Christ, so you can have _____ over sin by the power of Christ!

- in Christ there is _____ life and therefore new living

- now I want you to imagine that this is our old life, we are playing in the mud, the _____ and the stench

- but Jesus gives us a new life and brings us to a beach where the water is so clean you can drink out of the lake
- the beaches are perfect with no garbage
- imagine if I knew about this perfect beach and I still kept going back to the garbage dump to play and relax
- how foolish that would be to go back to our sin and that is why Paul reminds us that we are _____ to our old ways
- in Christ our lives are _____ with Christ in God
- this word "hidden" has this idea of being hidden for safety
- we are safe and secure under the shelter of Christ
- because of Christ and His work, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension we have a refuge in Him, we have a _____ in Him
- Praise the Lord that we can know the Lord and experience this truth of the shelter in the Lord Jesus

(3:4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- the appearing of the Lord Jesus that Paul is referring to here is the _____ coming of the Lord Jesus
- first we see the importance of the Lord Jesus for believers, that Jesus is our _____
- Jesus brings us from _____ to life, we have died to experience life in God through Jesus Christ
- because of this new life in Christ we can look forward to the eternal _____ that Jesus offers

- Paul even encourages us in that hymn with the power of the resurrection

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- Jesus is the head of the church is the source of _____ for the church and Jesus is the _____ over the church
- Jesus is preeminent which means that Jesus is supreme there is no one _____ than Jesus on the earth!
- Jesus is the first born from the dead: the resurrection of Jesus allows those who are in Christ to have the same _____!
- and the hope for the Christian, when _____ comes again, is that He will take those who have Christ as their "life" with Him forever in Heaven

Application

1) Joy in the Resurrection of Jesus

- there is unbelievable _____ and _____ found in the person and work of the Lord Jesus
- just think of the promise of hope in Colossians 3:4
- when Christ appears then you will also appear with _____ in glory
- God physically raised Jesus from the _____ to guarantee the resurrection of those who have received the grace of Christ through faith
- because of the bodily resurrection of _____ we who trust in Christ alone, can have confidence that our sins are _____ - the God who raises the dead can forgive sin!

Romans 4:23-25 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

- Good Friday and Easter Sunday are a two part deal, you cannot have one without the other
- if you disregard the _____ of Christ on the Cross then His resurrection has no meaning
- if you disregard the resurrection of Jesus then His death has no meaning
- Jesus was raised for our j _____, so we could be declared righteous in the sight of God
- our sins though they are many, His work of grace is much, much, more!
- today if you do not know the Lord Jesus and are not _____ in His grace to _____ you all the sin you have committed, then come to Jesus now in faith and receive His grace and forgiveness

2) Fill Your Mind With God's Words!

- Paul has given us two commands here!
- we are to _____ and to _____ about the above things!
- society, culture, social media and the sinful world often gets in the way of our obedience, especially in this area of our seeking and thinking!
- we often want and desire to ponder the things of the earth
- but God calls us to fill our minds with the gospel and His _____!

Colossians 3:12-16 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace

of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- over this weekend consider taking some extra time and fill your mind with the _____ of God
- think about the _____ laid up for you in Heaven
- think about the fruits of the Spirit or the Godly characteristics that we are to put on!
- allow the Word of God to dwell in you richly and deeply by the power of the Holy Spirit

Sunday – April 11th

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

How to Discern Truth

Service 1 – 9:30 am

Service 2 – 11:00 am - Communion

Service 3 – 1:00 pm (video sermon)