

*A Life Focused on Things Above**Colossians 3:1-5*

"We are not simply awaiting Christ's return, when we will receive our inheritance and enter our heavenly home. We already have entered heaven spiritually and are already a part of a new reality. Our physical environment is still earthly, but our hearts and minds are focused 'above,' giving us an entirely new set of priorities. There is both a spatial (above/not yet) distinction, and a temporal (now/not yet) distinction, for ours is a higher and greater calling." Grant Osborne

- I. Jesus' desire for all believers is to be filled with the knowledge of God's will with all spiritual wisdom and understanding (Col. 1:9). It is imperative that we understand this so that we remain true to him as our Lord and Savior. He does not want us to suffer from the consequences of sin because of a lack of heartfelt faithfulness, heartfelt love and heartfelt acknowledgement of God in our lives.

Hosea 4:1
1 Kings 4:20

Proverbs 1:29-33 *Since they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm.*

- II. Putting into practice the resurrection life requires "keeping" our hearts and minds focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2). Our gaze will either be on him or on the world; we can't have it both ways. If it's on him we will be blessed, if not we will find ourselves defeated and in a constant state of turmoil.

Col. 3:1-4

- A. When we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, God raised us into the permanent realm of his presence in our hearts. Since our lives are now protected by the Holy Spirit, we are to keep seeking with all diligence the things of God's kingdom. We are to engage our hearts and minds with his heart and mind so that we live his way instead of the world's way.

Col. 3:1-2
Eph. 2:3-10
Ps. 110:1
Rom 12:2
1 Cor. 2:12,14-16

- B.** When we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, he took our hearts (soul and spirit) and is keeping them safe from the oppressive insidious authority of Satan and his evil world system. Therefore we must take decisive steps to remain true to him in all that we do as we await our resurrection. We must remain "rapture ready."

Col. 3:3-4
Psalm 22:1-2, 5-6
Col. 2:20

- III.** When Jesus saved us, we became sanctified (made holy) through his sacrifice for our sins (Col. 1:22). Upon salvation, he set in motion a process whereby he progressively conforms us more and more into his likeness (progressive sanctification). It occurs because we are united to Christ, it is a work of the Spirit in our hearts that enables us to put to death the old sin nature and bring to life our new nature in Christ, it is effected by the means of the Word of God, it depends on obedient faith, and it is a process that will never be complete in this life.

Col. 3:5
Rom. 8:29
Rom 6:4,11,13
Rom. 8:5-13
Col. 1:13
Gal. 5:16-21
Gal. 5:22, 24-25
Jn. 17:17
Ps. 19:17-11

"The effect of obedient faith in the Spirit... is that the good elements of our moral nature are quickened and strengthened; our intellect, will, emotion, and conscience are quickened and purified; and the evil elements of our moral nature are weakened, mortified, further put to death, and yet never entirely in this life."
Robert Dunzweiler