

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 10 – Colossians 3:1-4

Risen Vision

Purpose: Christians will grow to live considering Christ and the truth of the eternal spiritual realm while also considering God's work in the world around us. This complex world view will shape how we live and serve.

Call to Worship

Rise and Read

Colossians 3:1-4 ESV

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

Prayer

Petition God for His work to help us live by faith and see things of earth through the lens of heaven. Gratitude for God's work to give us sight to look to Christ who is 1st Over All!

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

A Greater Heavenly View

A young man was living in a foreign land as a prisoner of war. He was given privilege and insight into the king's affairs. He was also given visions and dreams and interpretations for other people's dreams, especially the king's dreams and visions. The young man, Daniel, had been given a vision, but did not understand what was the meaning of the vision. So, he fasted for 21 days to humble himself and purify himself of anything that would keep him from hearing from God concerning the vision. A heavenly visitor spoke to Daniel to help Daniel understand the vision. He began by telling Daniel that the 21 day period of silence was due to the conflict in the spiritual realm and not due to Daniel. The visitor revealed that there was a great conflict with intense fighting and it took help to break through the fighting to deliver the message to Daniel.

Daniel's vision was a future spiritual reality given to Daniel in the earthly realm. Then, Daniel was given understanding that there was great conflict occurring in the spiritual realm, although

he couldn't see it. Daniel was seeking spiritual wisdom and understanding, and God granted it to him in a greater way than what Daniel initially understood.

The Christian no longer thinks only of the earth and in the flesh. They have been regenerated and given faith to understand and see the world through spiritual insight. Through faith, the Christian believes that there is a spiritual realm, that God is real and perfect, that they are sinful and doomed, that there is hope and Jesus has exchanged their wrath for His life of peace with God. As God transforms and sets His people apart, they grow to live by the faith they have been gifted and to live sanctified to do the good works God has given to them. Paul directs the Christian to turn their eyes and thoughts toward heaven. So, let's continue studying Paul's letter to the Colossian saints and learn more about God and what He is doing in us and through us, His people!

1st Over All Reminder

(SLIDE 2)

We Need God's Help

Be A Catalyst for Worship

God Makes Us Worthy to Walk

We Live to Show Christ is 1st Over All

We Will Live as Reconciled People

(SLIDE 3)

We Will Make Christ Known

We Will Live as "Connected In" People

We Will Live Liberated in Jesus Christ

We Will Live Sanctified in Jesus Christ

Read

Colossians 3:1-4 ESV (SLIDE 4)

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

Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)

Notes on Colossians 3:1-4

Evidence of New Life (v. 1-2)

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

The influence of justification and sanctification is that the mind of the Christian is regenerated and transformed to know that heaven exists, that God is real, and that the triune God sits in council with each other. This is the place where God dwells while also being present in all space. Paul writing that Christ sits at the right hand of God is a way for Paul to reveal the glory of Jesus Christ. This connects back to Colossians 1:15-20 where Paul writes that Jesus Christ is in a place of honor and authority. Jesus is not an ordinary person but is God and is the true man. After His resurrection, Jesus ascends to heaven and is given the seat of honor. Jesus Christ is the only living human being who dwells in heaven. That reminds us of who He actually is, being the God Man who is able to atone for the sins of people to make them good with God and indwell them to transform them from corrupt creatures who are ignorant of God and His work into the likeness of the Son of God who is set apart and obedient and pleases God in bringing Him glory and honor. Setting our minds on things above has two implications. First, we continuously think of, consider, and look for God in our existence. This is echoed from the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 where Jesus prays for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The Christian sees God working in the context of their life, pleads for God to work, and sees the effect of sin upon mankind and all of creation. Second, the place where Jesus is seated will be the Christians' permanent home. They long to be with God. They long to lose their veil that keeps them from seeing Him. They want to look upon Him in all His perfection and know Him completely. The Christian is not attached to the things of this world, the corrupt fleshly world, and grow more longing to take hold of what has been promised. The presence of God! These are not contradicting aspects that pull us between two realities, but rather the complexity of being a child of God who longs to see their Father where they are and to be with Him.

Hidden in Christ (v. 3)

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

Paul reminds the Christian that they are a new person. This is a continuation from what Paul writes in chapter two verses twelve and thirteen, where Paul writes that they once lived in sin and darkness, but Christ has worked on their hearts and now their old selves have been buried with him in baptism while also being raised with Him to walk in new life. The Christian exists in Christ. Apart from Him is death and wrath. In Christ is blessings, honor, glory, and strength. The reason the Christian is able to think about and seek after the things that are heavenly is because they have died to the flesh and are in Christ. The fleshly world has no real attraction or substance, and God fulfills, sustains, and deeply satisfies. The whole existence and life is in Christ!

Presented in Glory (v. 4)

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

Being "hidden with Christ" is where the Christian finds life. They are united in a way that protects, empowers, and gives life. Paul writes that being so intertwined with Christ in death and

life, that their life is fully dependent upon Him. As He died, we die. As He lives, we live. Therefore, when He returns and makes Himself known to the world with His glorious entrance to fully establish His kingdom, we will be with Him. All of creation will sing His praise and glorify Him and those who are in Him will be there. They will sing His praises and glorify Him perfectly. They will be there and glorify Christ while fully enjoying that Jesus Christ is being honored and glorified. They Christians' heart is excited for this, longs for this, is eager for this to happen (Christ being glorified)! There will be nothing that blinds, filters, or corrupts that Christians view and experience of Jesus Christ being glorified. To experience all of creations response to Christ being First Over All will be a great moment in history!

God's People Live With A Complex Worldview (SLIDE 6)

In Redeemed Flesh (SLIDE 7)

Sweeping Dirt Floors (Mundane Repetitive Chores)

Human Issues

Struggles

Celebrations

Everyday Things

Flesh and Blood

In The Spirit (SLIDE 8)

God's Kingdom Now and to Come

The Spiritual World is Present

Spiritual Beings

God's Presence and Work

Satan's Tactics

Desire for Heaven and Earth to be One

Setting Our Minds on Things Above is Loving God with All We Are

Heart, Soul, Mind, & Strength

We Will Live With Risen Vision (SLIDE 9)

Spiritually Engaged

God's Voice in God's Word

Prayer

Praising God

Serving Each Other

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Growing in a Complex Worldview

Christ View

He is 1st Over All

He is Truth

He did the Work

He Helps Dealing with Issues and Problems

Earth View

Heaven & Earth

They are both realities

This Earth will disappear

Heaven is Eternal

2 Corinthians 4:13-18 ESV

(SLIDE 10) **13** Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, **14** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. **15** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

(SLIDE 11) **16** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)