

The Book of Colossians

Lesson 9

Study Notes

The Christian Union with Christ

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Text: Colossians 3 :1-4.

Introduction: The first two chapters of this letter are _____, but now, with chapter three, we move into the _____ and experimental teaching of the epistle. Our belief must behave; our creed must be translated into conduct; what we are "in Christ" (our _____) must be influenced by and must affect what we are (our _____), wherever we are. In reality how we live will always be determined by what we believe. As we have examined chapters 1 and 2, we have seen that Paul has dealt with the doctrinal section of what we have in Christ; now in the remaining two chapters he will deal with the practical section and application of what our lives should be in Christ.

We have seen the preeminence of Christ in Chapters 1&2. We have seen Him as He is, a member of the Trinity. He is very man of very man, but He is very God of very God. He is preeminent in creation because He is the _____. He is preeminent in redemption for He is the _____. He is preeminent in the church because He is the One who gave Himself for the church.

So, as we begin this section of the Scripture we have come to the place where we learn He is to be preeminent in our lives; and the fruit that will be evident by our actions.

Previously Paul has been dealing with the _____ - in verse after verse. He has spelled out what Christianity is not; intellectualism, high sounding nonsense, worshipping angels, keeping all kinds of man-made rules, or performing feats of _____; Paul shows us what Christianity is. The Christian life is a shared life. The life of the all-victorious, risen, ascended Christ is shared with each believer by means of the indwelling _____.

My life's verse is Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I. Our Position in Christ.

Colossians 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

The word "If" means "_____." Paul delivers a message that if we have been risen our lives will show the evidences. If we are risen with Christ, then it is natural that we should seek the things above, where Christ now sits at the right hand of God the Father. It is natural for a sinner to seek the lusts of the flesh; but if the sinner be dead to sin and raised with Christ, the new life gives forth new _____.

A. The reality of the risen Christ.

The reality of the resurrection of Christ is a fact of sacred _____ that cannot be denied.

1Corinthians 15:1-8

The reality of the resurrection of Christ is a fact of _____ theology.

1Corinthians 15:17 *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

The reality of the resurrection of Christ is a fact of _____ victory.

Colossians 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

The word "risen" means to "_____ " to be risen with Christ means we have been roused or revived. The results of the resurrection proclaim that there has been a restoration; and since we have been made a live our lives should only produce good works. What we believe will determine our faith and _____.

Seek those things which are above - That is, seek them as the objects of pursuit and affection; strive to secure them. We gain confidence by pursuing the _____ of God.

Colossians 3:2 *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

The phrase "set your affections" means to "exercise the mind toward something; to entertain or interest one's self in a certain thing; especially in terms of obedience. This is inward active. Keep on thinking about and directing your mind toward heavenly things. We should seek everything in light of _____. The Christian must be heavenly-minded, not worrying about earthly things.

II. Our Protection in Christ.

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

For ye are dead; which signifies our _____ of the flesh. Union with Christ produces a moral and spiritual change in the believer that can be likened only to death, burial, and resurrection. We have already passed over the other side of death. _____, we are still here' spiritually, we are already over there.

Galatians 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

The term "hid" means that the believer is "concealed by a _____." We are locked together with Christ in security, and Satan cannot break the lock.

To be "hid with Christ in God" means we are protected from the judgment of God and the severity of _____.

Rom 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Christ hides the Saint in order to teach us and reveal His _____.

Philippians 3:8-10 *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

III. The Prospect We Have in Christ.

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

A. Christ, who is our life.

1. His life was a life of _____ to His Father. When Joseph and Mary sought him and found Him in the temple, he states He must be about the Father's business.

Luke 2:49 *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

Since we are in Him, we too can be about the Father's business and be obedient unto Him.

2. His life gives us an _____ to enjoy the works of the Father.

John 14:12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

3. His life gives us the power to _____ the world.

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

1John 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

B. Christ, who shall appear.

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

He came once in grace; He's coming back in glory. He came once to redeem; He's coming back to reign. He came once as Savior He is coming back as Sovereign. As we have shared in the benefits of His first coming, so we shall share in the bliss of His coming again. (John Phillips)

Titus 2:11-14.