

Seeking Things Above
Colossians 3:1, 2
by Bob DeWaay
Gospel of Grace Fellowship
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We Are Raised With Christ

Colossians 3:1a (NET)
Therefore, **if you have been raised with Christ...**

- “If” is a 3rd class conditional: “if as is the case” or “since”
- “Therefore” refers to the command to avoid the false teachings from bad sources
- This truth was stated in Colossians 2:12
- This is a case of “already/not yet” eschatology

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Seek Heavenly Things

Colossians 3:1b (NET)
keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, **seated at the right hand of God**

- “Then” is implied and is a logical consequence of the “if” conditional
- “Seek” is a present imperative: a command from God
- The “right hand of God” alludes to Psalm 110:1 and teaches Christ’s place of preeminence and power

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Think According to Heavenly Truth

Colossians 3:2 (NET)

Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth

- “Keep thinking” is imperative in the Greek
- “Above” is in antithetical relationship to “on the earth”
- Ironically, the false teachers have a spirituality this is earthly!

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Implications and Applications

- Christ is truly transcendent, unlike the false cosmic Christ of the pagans
- Our thinking influences our attitudes and behavior
- To truly obey God, our minds must be renewed

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The Cross Points to the Resurrected Christ

Philippians 3:18-20 (NASB)

For many walk . . . [who] are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

- Christ is in heaven and we long for His return
- Looking to heaven for Christ will make us gospel-centric

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Beware the False Cosmic Christ

2Corinthians 11:4 (NASB)

For if one comes and preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive **a different spirit** which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

- The Cosmic Christ is earthly, sensual, and immanent only
- There is a dangerous “spirituality” that is of the earth
- Christ is the true Creator and transcends the creation

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Our Thinking Influences
Our Attitudes and Behavior

Philippians 2:5-7 (NASB)

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

- Christian thinking is centered on Christ
- Human wisdom will not change us into the image of Christ

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We Must Have a Renewed Mind

Romans 12:2. 3 (NASB)

And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself** than he ought to think; but to **think so as to have sound judgment**, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

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We Must Adopt a New Life
Grounded in The Truth

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NASB)

In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- We must know and believe God's Word
- We must believe that God will keep His promise to change us

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Sermon Discussion Questions

- Why are Paul's admonitions grounded in the resurrection of Christ and other truths of His finished work?
- Have you heard warnings against being "heavenly minded" and how do such warnings conflict with Paul's clear imperative?
- What is the difference between pagan spirituality that Paul calls "on the earth" and the true spirituality of the ascended Christ?

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