New Life With Christ Now Hidden, Then Revealed

Colossians 3:3, 4

by Bob DeWaay Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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Dead to Our Old Life

Colossians 3:3a (NASB)

For you have died . . .

- Col. 2:20 also tells us we have died to our old life of sin
- Col. 2:12 tells us we were buried (baptism)
- These are theological truths Christians must believe
- We are either dead in sin or dead to sin
- Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

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Hidden With Christ

Colossians 3:3b (NASB)

- ... and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- The reality is presently hidden just as Christ is
- We seek the things of heaven though they are now hidden
- We do not presently see Him but we believe in Him (1Peter 1:8)
- "With Christ" implies the security of the believer

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Christ and His People Will Be Revealed

Colossians 3:4 (NASB)

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

- "Revealed" is phaneroo_ which means "manifested"
- "When" is a temporal category, vss 1, 2 describe spatial categories (in heaven/on earth)
- The theme in this verse is "hidden/revealed"
- "Revealed" will display His eternal glory

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Implications and Applications

- We are to long for the revelation of Christ
- We are either dead to sin or dead in sin
- The future hope of all believers will be vindicated
- We must believe God's promise of future glory

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We Long for His Revelation

1John 3:2, 3 (NASB)

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- Our Hope is in His future appearing and our glorification
- Eschatological hope motivates sanctification
- Hope is a fruit of the Spirit and a Christian virtue

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We Are Either Dead to Sin or Dead in Sin

Romans 6:11-13 (NASB)

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

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Christ Bore Sins So We Can Have Hope

Hebrews 9:28 (NASB)

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

- Christ paid the penalty for sins, once for all
- His appearance will mean our eternal glorification
- Now we long for His soon return

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Believe the Promises of God

1Peter 1:4 (NASB)

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Peter 5:4 (NASB)

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

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2Corinthians 4:17, 18 (NASB)

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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