"Risen With Christ"

Colossians 3:1-4
4-21-2019

INTRODUCTION:

***If you are saved, remember this: You are one with Jesus Christ!**
(inseparably united to Him)

I. Remembering Your Oneness With Christ Will Change Your:
<u>PRIORITIES</u> IN THE PRESENT (v. 1-3a)

II. Remembering Your Oneness With Christ Will Change Your:
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"UNITED WITH CHRIST"

Colossians 3:1-4
8-21-2016

INTRODUCTION:

"If ye then be risen with Christ" -

Paul, writing to Christians at Colosse, speaks of them as being already resurrected with Christ.

"Risen with Christ" = co-raised; jointly resurrected.

How is it possible that believers are already risen?

Answer: Our future resurrection is so guaranteed; so sure to happen, that God speaks of it in the past tense.

How is the believer's resurrection so certain?

Answer: Because of our oneness with Jesus Christ. Because of our union with Him.

Christ and the believer have been married (Rom. 7:1ff) or merged.

ILLUS: Marriage united a man and woman together in such a way that what one has now belongs to the other.

Her bills are my bills; my checkbook is her checkbook (and vice-versa). The same is true for the house, car, food, property, talents, etc. We wear the same last name, share the same burdens, joys, and victories, etc.

**So it is with Christ and His bride. This mysterious union described in Ephesians 5:30-32 reveals the incomprehensible truth that the believer and Christ hold all things common.

God views Christ and the believer as being together; one; "joint heirs" (Rom. 8:16-17).

This union is called a mystery (Eph. 5:32) that is spiritual
(I Cor. 12:13), and living (John 15:4).

Note the emphasis on oneness with Christ in verses 1-4 -

"Risen with Christ" (v. 1)
"Dead (with Christ)" (v. 3; 2:20)
"Hid with Christ" (v. 3)
"Appear with Him" (v. 4)

We benefit in Christ's death and resurrection.

SEE previous context:

--Col. 2:6 (we received Him by faith, so we are to walk daily with Him by faith)

--Col. 2:9 - Christ lacks nothing (all power and blessing are His)

--Col. 2:10 - Therefore, those who belong to Christ lack nothing

We are complete in Him because of our union with Him (v. 12) (SEE: Ephes. 2:4-7)

2:12 - "Co-burial" (baptism = Spirit baptism [Rom. 6:4-5; I Cor. 12:13])

2:12 - "Co-resurrection"

2:13 - "Co-quickened"

***If you are saved, remember this: You are one with Jesus Christ!**
(inseparably united to Him)

I. Remembering Your Oneness With Christ Will Change Your: PRIORITIES IN THE PRESENT (v. 1-3a)

V. 1

Your oneness with the risen Christ is the greatest incentive to live a different lifestyle (cp. Rom. 7:6; I Cor. 15:45; II Cor. 3:6).

"Seek" - to live zealously for something. (present tense - to keep seeking, every day).

"Above" = the Heavenly, the spiritual, the eternal

"To seek those things which are above" means to center your life on your ascended (Eph. 4:10), glorified (Jn. 17:5; Phil. 2:9) Christ! (SEE: Walvoord, Bible Knowledge Commentary, Vol. II, p. 680)

"Things above" - our # 1 priority affection is to be toward God! (SEE: mark 12:29-30)

"Where Christ sitteth" - the fact that Christ is sitting (at the right hand of the Father) proves two things:

1) He is alive
2) His work is complete (cp. Heb. 1:3, 10:10-12)

The "right hand" is a position of power and authority (what the Father does, He does by the power of His "right hand" - Ex. 15:6, 23; Ps. 89:13, 118:16; Is. 48:13); and this is where Jesus is seated (Ps. 110:1; Mk. 16:19; Lk. 22:69; Acts 7:55; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2; I Pet. 3:22).

The point is: If you are one with Jesus and if you share His life (v. 4), then you should live for Him and seek to please Him.

We need to look at our values in light of our oneness with Christ.

What is important to us and what should be important are not always the same.

"We seek those things which are above when in heart and spirit we are truly sojourners in this world and are not bound to it" (Calvin, cited by Vaughan, p. 90).

V. 2

The first word ("seek") suggested striving; the second word ("set affections") suggests concentrating (Walvoord, p. 680).

"Set your affection" - lit. Focus your thoughts; put your mind.

What you spend your time thinking about reveals where your priorities are.

"The sure safeguard against seeking things below, is not to set the mind upon them" (Eadie, Colossians, p. 91).

To set our thoughts on things above does not mean that we are to withdraw ourselves from all of the activities of this world and do nothing but contemplate eternity and heaven . . . But as Barclay explains, "There will be this difference-- from now on the Christian will see everything in the light and against the background of eternity. He will no longer live as if this world was all that mattered; he will see this world against the background of the larger world of eternity" (Vaughan, citing Barclay, p. 91).

--What people talk about reveals what they think about (where their affection is).
--Where people go reveals what they think about.
--What people do reveals what they think about.

What are some things that are upon the earth? (SEE: v. 5)

We are so united to Christ, that where we go, He goes; what we do, we in a spiritual sense Christ into the practice (I Cor. 6:15-17); when it is a sinful practice, we grieve the Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30).

"Not on things on the earth" -

SEE: Matthew 6:19-21, 33
Our # 1 goal in life is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and the temporal necessities will be added to us (Mt. 6:33).

SEE: I Tim. 6:6-12, 17-18.

Eternal vs. Temporal -
II Cor. 4:18 - "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."

When we keep in mind our oneness with Christ, we will have this attitude: "What is important to Jesus is important to me. What is on His heart is on mine. Where His focus is, there do I want mine to be."

When your affection is on things above, you will have time for God.

You will have time to read His Word; you will have time to do His work; You will have time to seek His face in prayer; you will have time to assemble with His people, etc.

(The reason why "Easter" is the only time many go to church is because during the other 51 Sundays of the year - they are busy seeking the things that are on the earth.")

V. 3

"For ye are dead" - cp. 2:20 - "dead with Christ."

How is the believer "dead"?

> He is dead to that which Christ is dead to. He is dead in relationship to the O.T. Law, dead in relationship to sin; dead in relationship to the world system (2:20).

The believer has already died and been raised to live a new life

II Cor. 5:14 - "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

Gal. 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, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

Cp. Rom. 6:3-11.

A story is told about two sisters who enjoyed attending dances and wild parties. Then they were converted and found new life in Christ. They received an invitation to a party and sent their RSVP in these words: "We regret that we cannot attending because we recently died." (Wiersbe, p. 133)

II. Remembering Your Oneness With Christ Will Change Your: OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE (v. 3b-4)

V. 3

"Hidden" implies both concealment and safety, both invisibility and security.

The believer is not yet visibly glorified, but he is secure and safe in Christ" (Walvoord, p. 680).

V. 4

The word "hid" (v. 3) is used in contrast to the word "appear" (v. 4).

Our profound oneness with Christ is hidden from our eyes; but one day this reality will be clearly revealed, openly displayed (manifested - Greek phaneroo).

In the mean time, we must accept this reality by faith!

"According to the Apostle Paul, we have already been glorified! (Rom. 8:30). This glory simply has not yet been revealed." (Wiersbe, p. 134).

"Christ . . . is our life" -

Our Savior does not merely give us life, He is our life. He is our eternal life. To have Him is to have life (I Jn. 5:12). To be united with Him is to be fused to the source and essence to life. He is "the life" (Jn. 14:6).

It is said of Jesus: "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (Jn. 1:4); Jesus Himself said, "I am the resurrection and the life ..." (Jn. 11:25). "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (Jn. 14:6)

I Jn. 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

This appearance is describing the Rapture (at which time the resurrection of God's saints also occurs - I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thes. 4:16-18, Rev. 20:4-6.

What is our outlook?

> Via our union with Christ, we look forward to a certain Resurrection. Cp. Job's testimony (Job 14:14-15; 19:23-27; (cp. Jn. 5:25).