

COLOSSIANS: Jesus Christ is our all in all! He is all we need.**Chapter 3 – The *Preeminence* of Jesus Christ is DISPLAYED. Colossians 3:1-4***IF ye then be risen with Christ...*

- Verse 1 **SEEK** those *things* which are **ABOVE**, where **Christ sitteth** on the right hand of God.

Numbers 15:39	<i>“and that ye SEEK NOT after your own heart and your own eyes”</i>
Deuteronomy 4:29	<i>“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”</i>
Deuteronomy 23:6	<i>“Thou shalt not SEEK their peace nor their prosperity”</i>
1 Chronicles 16:11	<i>“SEEK the LORD and his strength, SEEK his face continually.”</i>
1 Chronicles 28:9	<i>“if thou SEEK him, he will be found of thee; BUT if thou FORSAKE him, he will cast thee off for ever.”</i>
2 Chronicles 7:14	<i>“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and SEEK my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”</i>
2 Chronicles 12:14	<i>“And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to SEEK the LORD.”</i>
Psalms 4:2	<i>“O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and SEEK after leasing? Selah.”</i>
Psalms 10:4	<i>“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not SEEK after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”</i>
Psalms 27:4	<i>“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I SEEK after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”</i>
Psalms 119:2	<i>“BLESSED are they that keep his testimonies, and that SEEK him with the whole heart.”</i>
Proverbs 8:17	<i>“I love them that love me; and those that SEEK my early shall find me.”</i>
Jeremiah 29:13	<i>“And ye shall SEEK me, and FIND me, when ye shall SEARCH for me with all your heart.”</i>
Matthew 6:32	<i>“(For after all these things do the Gentiles SEEK;)”</i>
Matthew 6:33	<i>“But SEEK YE first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness”</i>
Matthew 7:7	<i>“ASK, and it shall be given you; SEEK, and ye SHALL FIND...”</i>

What are *things* that are **above**?

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| 1. The <u>PERSON</u> of God – love Him! | “O God” |
| 2. The <u>THRONE</u> of God – worship Him! | “Lord” |
| 3. The <u>WORD</u> of God – love His words! | Psalms 119 |
| 4. The <u>PEOPLE</u> of God – love one another! | Ephesians 1:3 |

NOTE What keeps us from SEEKING God daily? Why do we not SEEK FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness? The answer is found in our affections...

- Verse 2 **SET** your **AFFECTION** on *things ABOVE*, not on *things* on the earth.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: "Affection"

The state of being affected. Passion. A bent of mind towards a particular object, holding a middle place between disposition, which is natural, and passion, which is excited by the presence of its exciting object. In a particular sense, love or zealous attachment; as, the attachment of a parent for his child. Desire; inclination; propensity, good or evil.

1 Chronicles 29:3 *"Moreover, because I have set MY AFFECTION to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good..."*

Romans 1:26 *"For this cause God gave them up unto VILE AFFECTIONS"*

Romans 1:31 *"without NATURAL AFFECTION"*

2 Timothy 3:3 *"Without NATURAL AFFECTION"*

NOTE What AFFECTS us? It is important to note that our AFFECTIONS are SET on THINGS. We must beware, lest our AFFECTIONS get SET on the wrong things and, as a result, we FORSAKE GOD and HIS GLORY – and stumble.

- Verse 3 For ye are DEAD, and your life is HID WITH CHRIST in God.

Romans 6:7 *"For he that is DEAD is FREED from SIN."*

Galatians 5:24 *"And they that are Christ's have CRUCIFIED the FLESH with the AFFECTIONS and LUSTS."*

Colossians 3:5 *"Mortify therefore your members...INORDINATE AFFECTION"*
"Inordinate" – defined as "Irregular; disorderly; excessive; immoderate; not limited to rules prescribed, or to usual bounds."

2 Corinthians 5:15 *"And that he died for all, THAT THEY WHICH LIVE should **not henceforth** LIVE UNTO THEMSELVES, **but** UNTO HIM which DIED FOR THEM, and ROSE AGAIN."*

NOTE Are we prepared to KILL THESE ungodly AFFECTIONS AND LUSTS? The answer by all believers is to be **YES!** We are to STOP living for OURSELVES!

- Verse 4 When Christ, WHO IS OUR LIFE, shall appear, then shall YE also appear WITH HIM in glory.

Acts 9:6 *"And he trembling and astonished said, **LORD**, what wilt THOU HAVE ME TO DO?"*

1 John 3:2-3 *"BELOVED, **now** are we the sons of God..."*

NOTE The question then comes to this, "Is Christ your life?" If He is your Lord and Saviour, the answer MUST be YES! Will we truly prioritize CHRIST in 2017? His imminent return and love should constrain us to live for Him and not us!

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me." - Hudson Taylor (1832-1905; Missionary to China)