

Hinge Moment...why book study is important | 1-2 (Doctrinal) / 3-4 (Practical)...order matters

⇒ Christ = Preeminence – Position – Purpose | Abandon world philosophy...Christ | **Now what? Live?**

**Demonstrating our Heavenly Home – Positionally Justified – Bound for Glory – Live like it now!**

Christianity is Beliefs and Behaviors | Doctrine = Resurrected with Christ | Practical = Live like it

**Biblical Doctrine is Being Compromised or Corrupted to Justify Unbiblical Behaviors...call Christians**

**Inerrancy & Infallibility | Roles & Responsibilities | Created Order = Attack | Threat isn't outside walls**

**Bears – Packers | Basketball Uni – Soccer – Punt – Award 1000 – Demand winner | Not how you play**

If you believe you're a football player...then you have to behave by football rules...Christianity...

Bible teaches us what to believe and how-to live-in accordance with our beliefs | **Let the Word win**  
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

As we get into practical & applicational we see imperatives telling us how to live...tempted to legalism

Legalism: Have to...stay on the right side of law | Freedom: I choose to because...right side of the law

**X2 Community Service | Afraid of punishment – Acting like a citizen | In Christ = Right side of the Law**

**Imperatives are not map to Heaven...imperatives/commands tell us What citizens of Heaven look like**

If You're a citizen of Heaven...**Big Idea – Redefine Your Ambition to Reflect Your Identity**

If then you have been raised with Christ - Big 'If' | That 'If' = Certainty...'If'...'Then' | If raised...then act

• Walk in the power of the new person | Act like who you are – Royal Priesthood in Christ

If we have new life...we should have new: Pursuits – Ambitions – Objections | Who we are in Christ

1. **In Christ: Our Ambition is Redeemed (1-2) | Two commands...seek and set...first is seek...**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above

Remember playing Hide & Seek? How many Christians 'seek' heavenly things | That's wandering...

• **Think and Move with Heavenly Purpose | Be single-minded in your purpose = God's Glory**

**Selfish Ambition is Spiritually Destructive – God's Glory as an Ambition is Spiritually Constructive**

**Successful Family...God's Glory | Successful Business...God's Glory | Successful Serving...God's Glory**

• If we compromise on how / why there is success...it's for our glory not God's

Will all of our ambitions be successful? No | God can be glorified when our best human efforts fail

**How do I know if I'm seeking the things that are above? Check Your:**

a) **Righteousness:** What's molding behaviors...Word or World? Struggling or Striving – Repentant

b) **Relationships:** Motivated by grace – truth – understanding – patience – their good or my gain

c) **Resources:** Time – Talent – Treasure | All for the advancement & ambitions of God's Kingdom

d) **Reverence:** Worship...is your life an ongoing commitment to worship | What we give attention to

**This isn't obedience for obedience sake...reason we seek the things that are above...Where Christ is!**

If then you've been raised w/ Christ seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God

When Christ arose & ascended into Heaven...He sat down at the right hand of the Father...powerful x3

a) His position is above all – He reigns over all other powers | Psalm 110 – Enemies are His footstool

b) His Work is Complete – Everything He had to do is done

c) He intercedes for us – He's continually blocking the full wrath of God...because He's purchased us

We seek things above b/c what's where Christ is...not just in action, but also mentally | Seek – Set (2)

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Preoccupation with Heaven & Heavenly things – Ever been so preoccupied restructure life around it?

Tried to get in shape? Not accident | Friend = Bench Press World Record...think about it...decisions

Your spiritual fitness will be defined by whether you are preoccupied w/ the things of Heaven or Earth

Why do we talk worldview so much? Not out-clever...because mentality matters!

• Things of earth = Sinful desires | Demanding – Destructive – Deadly – Damning

• Things above = Heavenly desires | Sustained devotion to God's Purposes – Plans – Promises

○ Focus on what God focuses on | Passionate about what God is passionate about

**His Glory – His Kingdom – His Word – His People – His Son – His Worship | Narrow your focus**

Cannot have one eye on the world...other on Heaven | Must be heavenly minded to do earthly good

**The Christian life is not a passive...It's an active pursuit of redeemed ambition**

**In Christ we have redeemed ambitions and a reserved identity – Could talk about this one forever...**

2. **In Christ: Our Identity is Reserved (3-4) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**What a weird phrase...you have died...and your life | Wait...I thought I was dead? You are!**

• Dead to sin and alive in Christ – Died to who you once were and born again into new life

○ Baptism illustrates (May 7<sup>th</sup>) – The new story can start now...Old man/woman is gone (Funny)

• 'Life is hidden with Christ in God' = Protected – Preserved – and kept safe for a future purpose

**What does this mean?** Your eternity is safe – it's secure – it's protected by God Himself

Look back at v.1 'If you have been raised with Christ...(then) your life is hidden with Christ in God'

• He possesses and protects you | Who can break in and steal? | Safe in the arms of Jesus

**'Because you have died' – Your identity is reserved | Christ reserved your identity...He claims it!**

• Restaurant – Reservation...no one else gets table | Christ made & keeps His reservation's – Lives

○ Hyphenated Christianity has to go | Alcoholic – Adulterous – Idolatrous – BLANK...Christian

Jesus isn't sharing a table w/ our sin...Christians are Christian & that doesn't need modifier

**Christ is our life isn't a metaphor...it's a reality**

**Nothing can separate you from the Love of God that is in Christ**

How long will Jesus keep your life hidden? **Until the end...**

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Second coming – His life...Death...Resurrection...Ascension...promise to come again

• There will be a sudden, personal, visible, and bodily return of Christ

○ We must eagerly long for the day...what will happen?

**Eternal Judgment and Eternal Rewards are the Final Result of Christ's Return**

Those in Christ will appear with Him in glory – Eternally in His presence – He will usher and escort

• If you knew when you arise tomorrow morning you'd see Jesus face to face that evening

○ How would that affect the way you conduct yourself during the day

▪ Here's what this text is teaching...Christians...it shouldn't alter it at all

**We live every day Demonstrating our Heavenly Home = Seek and Set is our Normative State**

Bible teaches us what to believe and how-to live-in accordance with our beliefs | **Let the Word win**

**Remember not 'if' but 'When' you will meet Christ face to face**