

Colossians Chapter 3:1-17 TODAY'S TITLE IS LOOK UP!

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 If then you were raised with Christ

Paul makes this a personal question. He says If then you were.

So, I'll ask the question. Are you saved?

Have you asked Jesus into your heart.

Has a change taken place in your life.

Because, if you did ask Him into your heart, then you should see a change. You will be a new creation in Christ!

2 Co 5:17 says, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

If we're all followers of Christ, you might ask yourself, why would I even ask you a question like that.

Are we all believers?

Well, first there may those here this morning who have never asked Jesus into their hearts. And then there is that person who always goes to church and even serves. but never ask Jesus into there life. I know of a such person like this.

Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Eph 1:20 says, which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places

Then in Eph 2:6 says, and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

We are seated in heavenly places and need to live like we are seated in heavenly places. We need to focus on the things above so LOOK UP!

How do we seek those things above. I have four things for us to focus on.

- **Reading His word - As Pastor Mark always says: read or bible.**
- **Pray - communicate with Him.**
- **Worshipping Him - do you ever just get alone and worship the Lord.**
- **Being in fellowship - We must fellowship together to be able to talk about the things above AND the awesome things God is doing in our lives.**

All four of these are very important in the life of a follower of Christ Jesus.

If we let them slip, then guess what, we will slip also...

Then comes the test AND what do you do when you slip up.

Well, here's the answer, start looking up, get right up and get going again, it's that easy.

But here's the thing, whatever you do, don't listen to the lie that you're not able to get up. Because that is from the pit of hell. Satan doesn't want you to draw close to the Lord, he wants you to stay in the pit.

Did you notice that I didn't use the word, Christian, I used the word, follower of Jesus. There are so many people today that are saying they are a Christian.

But what do they believe, is it the truth or is a lie?

See, their needs to be fruit in one's life as a follower of Jesus. Just because you go to church doesn't make you a follower of Jesus. Just like sleeping in the garage doesn't make you a car.

2. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

So change your course and keep to it. Keep looking up to see where our help comes from.

As it says in

Psalm 121:1-2 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—

From whence comes my help.

2 My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

So, Look up there is no stress, if you look down, you'll get depressed. x2

I think we focus way too much on the things of the earth.

If we are saved, then we are to be separated from the world and the things of it. Our minds should be focus on the things above where Jesus is. But the battle is in the mind. So set your mind on things above.

We need to remember what it says in Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

I like this verse from a song. This empty world will one day fade, only your truth will remain.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

In Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

It says for you died

For us to be able to walk with the Lord we must die to self.

The less of us, the more of Him, the better we are.

As it says in Luke 9:23

Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Daily take up his cross, Jesus gives us a reminder here.

That He die on that cross for us. That we are to start each and everyday at cross and follow Him.

Remember you can't kill a dead man! So just die to self and get over it. But it is not so easy, but we get in the way all the time don't we. So look up.

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

In John Chapter 11 Lazarus dies Jesus is now on His way to Bethany where Lazarus was in a tomb.

In John 11: 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

The question, Do you believe this? Do you know you're going to heaven when you die.

1 Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

COL 3:5:7 Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

When it says, sons of disobedience, This is the title given to non-believers who have disobeyed God and broken his law, it is possible for believers to also disobey God.

As I was reading THROUGH this list, it just speaks of the world we live in today and it's not getting any better is it. We need not TO get caught up in it.

V.7 which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them ONCE THIS WAS ME.

I was one of the sons of disobedience as it says in Eph 2:2-3

Eph 2:2-3 says, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

This should make us want to tell others about the wrath of God that is coming.

We need to put on spiritual eyes to see as Jesus sees.

To have His heart for the lost and dying world and then to tell others about Him. There is always hope as it says in

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

There is Hope for everyone, but you must believe in Jesus.

WE Need to surrender our lives to Him.

V 8-10 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Sc-y-thian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all. (Si-the-in)

Let me just say that we all are in the same boat here. We are all sinners saved by grace, none of us are different, it doesn't matter who you are. We are all in the same body.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these

Now a word to us that we should put off these. If we have these in our lives, we need to put them off. It is a personal decision we must make in our hearts.

You know, it is not a great witness if we are doing these things.

People watching us will say, “Oh look, he calls himself a follower of Jesus” but, he is living like the world and I don’t see a difference.

That is why we need to put these things off?

As it says in Heb 12:1:2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If you want people to come to Jesus, then be a good witness of who you are in Christ.

As we come, to our last verses of the study today.

This is how we are to act as a family in the church but sadly, we don't.

Col 12:17 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved,

Brother and Sister do you know how much you are loved by God; He calls us holy and beloved.

He goes on to say put-on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

As Christ forgave you, so you also must do, it's not an option.

In Ga 5:22:23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Do we love each other, as He loves us, are we willing to put our differences aside for each other to be one body and not tear down each other.

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

1Pe 4:8 says - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins.

1Co 13:13 says - And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

BECAUSE HIS LOVE ALWAYS WINS

16 says, Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

We are to minister to each other. We are to build one another up.

As it says in Ephesians 4:16 - for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

17 says - And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

I like this quote from Dave Guzik on this verse; The new man lives his life, all his life, for Jesus. He will only seek to do the things that he may do in the name of the Lord Jesus, and he will persevere in the difficulty of doing such things, knowing that he is doing them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

In Closing

Acts 7:54 ¶ When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!

Here we see Stephen in his time of need as he looked up to heaven where he saw the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! This is where his Help came from. It is also where our help comes from. We look up to the Lord in our times of need.

So maybe today is your day to stop looking down and start looking up and to say yes to Jesus.

Maybe you feel far away from God today, you can come back to Him as it says in:

2 Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Would you like a fresh start today?

If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, would you like to become a new creation in Christ?

Today, you can come back to Jesus by recommitting your heart to Him. If you've never accepted Christ, today can be the day

**of your salvation. You can become a new creation by
surrendering your life to Jesus Christ.**