

Colossians 3

May 30, 2018----Pastor Larry Powell

THE RISEN LIFE (Colossians 3:1-4)

3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, set your hearts on the things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Have a mind all of whose thoughts are fixed on the things which are above, not upon the things on earth. For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Whenever Christ, your life, shall appear, then you too shall appear with him in glory.

1. In BAPTISM the Christian dies and rises again. As the waters close over him, it is as if he was buried in death; as he emerges from the waters, it is like being resurrected to a new life.
2. Paul is certainly not PLEADING for an other-worldliness in which the Christian withdraws himself from all the work and activities of this world and does nothing but contemplate eternity.
3. To accomplish this, the life of the CHRISTIAN is hid with Christ in God.
4. The life of the Christian is hidden with Christ in God. That which is hidden is concealed; the world cannot recognize the CHRISTIAN.

But Paul goes on: "The day is coming when Christ will return in glory and then the Christian, whom no one recognized, will share that glory and it will be plain for all to see." In a sense Paul is saying someday the verdicts of eternity will reverse the verdicts of time and the judgments of God will overturn the judgments of men.

CHRIST OUR LIFE

5. In [Colossians 3:4](#) Paul gives to Christ one of the great titles of DEVOTION. He calls him Christ our life. This is the kind of peak of devotion which we can only dimly understand and only haltingly and imperfectly express. Sometimes we say of a man, "Music is his life--Sport is his life--He lives for his work." Such a man finds life and all that it means in music, in sport, in work. For the Christian, Christ is his life.
6. The Christian sets his mind and heart on the things which are above and not on the things of this world. He judges everything in the light of the CROSS. In the light of that Cross the world's wealth and ambitions and activities are seen at their true value; and, the Christian is enabled to set his whole heart on the things which are above.

THE THINGS WHICH LIE BEHIND

7. Here this letter makes the change that Paul's letters always make; after the theology comes the ethical DEMAND.
8. Paul begins with a vivid demand. The New Testament never hesitates to demand the complete ELIMINATION of everything which is against God. It is exactly the same line of thought as that of Jesus when he demanded that a man should cut off a hand or a foot, or tear out an eye when it was leading him into sin ([Matthew 5:29-30](#)).
9. Paul goes on to LIST some of the things which the Colossians must cut right out of life.

10. Paul refers to the kind of person who is a slave to his PASSIONS and who is driven by the desire for the wrong things.
11. The essence of idolatry is the desire to get. A man sets up an idol and worships it because he desires to get SOMETHING from it.
12. The wrath of God is simply the rule of the universe that a man will sow what he reaps and that no one ever escapes the CONSEQUENCES of his sin. The wrath of God and the moral order of the universe are one and the same thing.
13. Paul says that there are certain things of which the Colossians must STRIP themselves.
14. The Christian must put off ANGER and temper.
15. There is MALICE which is that viciousness of mind from which all the individual vices spring. It is all-pervading evil.

Christian speech must be kind and pure and honest to all men and in all places.

THE UNIVERSALITY OF CHRISTIANITY (Colossians 3:9 b-13)

16. When a man becomes a Christian, there ought to be a complete CHANGE in his personality. He puts off his old self and puts on a new self, just as the candidate for baptism puts off his old clothes and puts on the new white robe.
17. Paul moves on to give his list of the great GRACES with which the Colossians must clothe themselves.

Paul begins by addressing the Colossians as chosen of God, dedicated and beloved. The significant thing is that every one of these three words originally belonged, as it were, to the Jews. They were the chosen people; they were the dedicated nation, they were the beloved of God. Paul takes these three precious words which had once been the possession of Israel and gives them to the Gentiles. Thereby he shows that God's love and grace have gone out to the ends of the earth, and that there is no "most favored nation" clause in God's economy.

There is the forbearing and the forgiving spirit. The Christian forbears and forgives; and he does so because a forgiven man must always be forgiving. As God forgave him, so he must forgive others, for only the forgiving can be forgiven.

THE PERFECT BOND (Colossians 3:14-17)

18. Finally, Paul gives the great PRINCIPLES for living that everything we do or say should be done and said in the name of Jesus.

Christ has done it all. We don't need more than what He has done. Praise be the Name of the Lord!